

# Are All CHRISTIAN Denominations Christians ... ?

## PART I

# Is "Holier than thou" Christian Clergy A Necessary EVIL?

## PART II

(This study is jam packed with Bible quotations ...  
For the sake of flow, biblical passages are sometimes repeated for emphasis and convenience)

"And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spoke unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp. Moses said unto him: "Envy you for my sake? Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them" (Num 11:25-29).

"But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and said unto them: "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them: "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receives me: and whosoever shall receive me, receives not me, but him that sent me". And John answered him, saying: "Master, we saw one casting out devils in your name, and he follows not us: and we forbade him, because he follows not us. But Jesus said: "Forbid him not: for there is no man who shall do a miracle in my name that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because you belong to Christ, verily I say unto you: "He shall not lose his reward. And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that if a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea" (Mar 9:34-42).

## PRELUDE

"The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool", Says the Lord:  
Where is the house that you build unto me?  
Where is the place of my rest?" (Isa 66:1)...

"But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation" (Heb 9:11)...

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all people life and breath and all things" (Act 17:24-25)...

"Jesus said: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:18-20)...

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him" (1Pet 3:18-22)...

"We have such a High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of

necessity that this man has somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law” (Heb 8:1-4)...

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

“Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, And every city or household divided against itself will not stand”

(Matt 12:25; Mar 3:24-25; Luk 11:17)...

“...These also resist the truth: men/women of corrupt minds. Reprobate concerning the Faith” (2Tim 3:8)...

## THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY AN OVERVIEW OF “TODAY’S” CHRISTIANITY PART I – JESUS INTENDED “ONE” CHURCH PART II- THE SO-CALLED “CHRISTIAN CLERGY”

This study comprises two parts in order to fully explore its height, breadth and depth: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and unfathomable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became his counselor... Do you listen in on God’s council? Do you have a monopoly on wisdom? ... I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. **Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it**” (Rom 11:33-34; Job 15:8; Eccl 8:17).

### PART I – JESUS INTENDED “ONE” CHURCH ARE ALL CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS CHRISTIANS?

“Command and teach these things... Teach and preach these principles” (1Tim 4:11, 6:2)...

**THE CULPRIT “Dream” VERSES** for the supersonic disintegration of Christ “One Church” were and are the unfounded and unbiblical claims of 90% of the so-called Christian clergy and denominations (“For there are many called, but few chosen” (Matt 22:14)) using and abusing them repeatedly from the pulpits, podiums, altars, over the air be it Radio, Satellite, TV or Internet, through books and publications or any means available to them, while they rephrase the second passage to give the impression they are speaking and acting in conformity with God’s unadulterated word:

“Hear now my words: “If there be a <sup>(True)</sup> prophet among you, **I, the Lord, will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream**” (Num 12:6)... “For I did not speak on my own initiative, but the Father himself who sent me has given me **A COMMANDMENT AS TO WHAT TO SAY AND WHAT TO SPEAK**. I know that his commandment is eternal life; therefore the **THINGS I SPEAK, I SPEAK JUST AS THE FATHER HAS TOLD ME**” (John 12:49-50).

The same God said also: “Suffer not your mouth to cause your flesh to sin; neither say you before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at your voice, and destroy the work of your hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also diverse vanities. **Therefore fear God**” (Eccl 5:6-7) and: “Guard your steps as you go to the house of God (or minister or preach in the house of God) and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; **for they do not know they are doing evil**. Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter (manmade dispensations) in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few. **For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words**” (Eccl 5:1-3). How many can sincerely and virtually personalize this statement of Jesus? “That the world may know that I love the Father: **I do exactly as the Father commanded me**” (John 14:31).

Besides the papal primacy and infallibility, which was and remains to an extent a stumbling block in the reunification of the mainstream Christian denominations, many clergy preach that Jesus died to give us the “right doctrines”, thus overlapping the premises of “Law” and “Grace”, whereas the Bible tells us unambiguously that Jesus died to give us his “LIFE” and to live his “LIFE” through us (John 10:10), no “ifs ands or buts” about it: “I did not come to abolish but to fulfill (the law)” (Matt 5:17) on our behalf.

This study is to deal with the cause and effect of the great divide and schism that led to the metastasizing of the intended “*One Church*” of Christ, where Christian denominations were greatly created by the caprices of the Christian Clergy who has gone astray as I am detailing in this twin study in the ensuing two parts:

By reviewing the other heavenly religions of the world, we realize that Judaism and Islam splintered into a maximum of ten creedal mainstream and heretic sects each, while Christianity is boasting of thousands of sects, from those who consider themselves mainstream, mainline and protesting reformers to the remotely confessing Jesus as another “*E Pluribus Unum*” historical phenomenon, a human guru, a genius and/or the archangel Michael, or better yet completely inexistent like with Jehovah’s Witnesses. Our divisions and easily accomplished schisms are unprecedented in history where the breaking up is amazingly faster than the bang and disintegration of an atom.

Christianity has misinterpreted and misapplied Jesus’ words: “*Suppose you that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you: “Nay; but rather **division**”* (Luk 12:51), and: “*In my Father’s house are **many mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you**”* (John 14:2) to mean that they should splinter and splinter, better yet disintegrate, claiming to be the one and only true Church of God with fancy names, *being the one and only way, truth and life where no one comes to Jesus except through their ministries* (John 14:6) because they are the only church: “*approved by God*” (1Cor 11:19), having monopoly on the gates of Heaven, and all will have their ministries transplanted into one of the mansions in Heaven spoken of by Jesus in accordance with the parable of entrusted talents (Matt 25) as well as to the ultimate fate of the earthly Jerusalem at the end of times (Rev 21:2).

### **The staggering Numbers of CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS**

Every word in the entire Bible speaks against and sanctions any kind of divisions or schism, including but not limited to “interdenominationalism and sectarianism”, and I am citing in this two parts study over 90% of these biblical injunctions, to name few of the so-called neo-orthodoxy Christian denominations and fellowships, which since the reformation have changed, altered, distorted and defaced the plan and purpose of God for his “*One Holy Church*” because of their successive coups d’état and secessions: whether they call themselves mainstream, mainline, Churches of God, Catholic, Orthodox, Eastern, Western, African, Protestant, denominational, nondenominational, transdenominational, Unitarian, Trinitarian, evangelical, apostolic, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Anglican, Modalist, independent, congregational, Adventist, reformationist, restorationist, revivalist, fundamental, Nazarene, latitudinarian, the Emerging Church, the Good Fight Ministries, each with octopus offshoots, etc., not to forget the heretic, cultic and Satanist, and whatever organizational name the 33,000 or 43,000 disillusioned Christian sects and apostasies chose for themselves by themselves locally, regionally, continentally, inter-continentially and worldwide, with their intent to reinvent Christianity.

According to Mr. David A. Barrett as reported in the World Christian Encyclopedia, of which I quote an excerpt: “*The updated World Christian Encyclopedia estimated at least 33,000 Christian denominations... And a “Denomination” is defined as “an organized Christian group within a country”*. He further says: “*The estimated number of the 33,000 is the result of adding: Independents (about 22000), Protestants (about 9000), Marginals (about 1600), Orthodox (781), Roman Catholics (242), and Anglicans (168)*”. And these “denominations” are defined in terms of *being separate organizations, not necessarily separate beliefs*” (Barrett, Kurian, Johnson; Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2001: <http://www.philvaz.com/apologetics/a106.htm>... and <https://theway21stcentury.wordpress.com/2012/11/23/how-many-christian-denominations-worldwide/>).

And according to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary: “*There exist roughly 43,000 Christian denominations worldwide in 2012. That is up from 500 in 1800 and 39,000 in 2008 and this number is expected to grow to 55,000 by 2025. Currently, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary estimates that a new Christian denomination is formed every 10.5 hours, or 2.3 denominations a day*”... “*For Protestant churches, asking “What denomination are you?” seems increasingly irrelevant as more churches own their own unique theological DNA. The real question is: “What does your specific church believe?” Since denominations are losing their consistency, some suggest that multi-site churches are the denominations of the future. What do you think is the future of denominations?*” (The End of Protestant Denominational Identity?” (<http://churchrelevance.com/qa-list-of-all-christian-denominations-and-their-beliefs/>).



While the Encyclopedia of American Religions lists 1,588 Christian denominations in the USA alone. ([http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr\\_true5.htm](http://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_true5.htm)). If you care about finding out the names of these 33,000 or 43,000 denominations and affiliations, they are listed with demographic explanation on the Internet on this Wikipedia's link: ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Christian\\_denominations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations)).

Ms. Lillian Kwon of Christian Post reported in 2008: "...*Other bodies in the newly published top 25 largest churches list that reported membership increases include The Catholic Church with a 0.87 percent increase; the Southern Baptist Convention with a 0.22 percent increase; the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church with a 0.21 percent rise; and the Assemblies of God with a 0.19 percent growth. The greatest losses in membership were reported by The Episcopal Church, which dropped 4.15 percent in members, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which decreased by 2.36 percent. Both denominations are currently wracked by theological differences and the issue of homosexuality. American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America also experienced large losses in membership, dropping 1.82 percent and 1.58 percent, respectively*" This is just a sample, you can find updates from many other sources. ([https://www.google.com/?gws\\_rd=ssl#q=lillian+kwon+christian+post](https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=lillian+kwon+christian+post)).

If they were 10 or 33,000 or 43,000 denominations claiming to be Christians, then we should question the roots of the cause for these many schisms, many denominations, many beliefs, many blunders as well as the many circulated translations and versions, together with the many writings of Fathers of the Church, theological authorities and schools, the biblical sexplorists inundating the Internet, in addition to those advocating the "half full/half empty" concepts. It is like trying to convince a man that he is a woman and vice-versa, because one cannot tackle the subject based on oranges and apples, both being fruits.

We are not better than our infatuated patronizing father Adam who was blinded by the spell charms of his beloved Eve in joining her in choosing the devil over God hiding behind: "*The devil and my conspiring Eve made me do it*", hence Jesus' statement: "*Why do you not understand my speech? Even, because you cannot hear my word... You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it*" (John 8:43-44).

The fact that Eve and Adam ate from the tree of knowledge of "good" and "evil" does not confer on them and their descendants the ability to precisely distinguish between the two. It is wise to know right from wrong, but the ability to discriminate between them is wiser. The power struggle is manifest in the roles of each category depending to great extent on the time, space and circumstance their relevance in that power struggle is exercised, emphasized and dramatized. Because we tend to treat issues positionally and appositionally to each other rather than juxtapositionally of each other, thus we failed repeatedly to create an adequate basis to our enlightened knowledge to be properly streamed.

The Christians' unity was only practiced to certain extent by the 12 Apostles, Paul, and few disciples while the phenomena of dissensions, insubordination, divisions, mutiny, sedition and even heresies crept in much before the expiration of the 12 Apostles and Paul: "*And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; **and they were all with one accord***" (Act 5:12)...

The opposition to and persecution of Jesus and his followers started with the Jews, spear headed after Jesus' death by Saul, who after conversion became Paul: "*For you have heard of my conversation in time past **in the Jews' religion**, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, **and wasted it**... **For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God***" (Gal 1:13; 1Cor 15:9; Act 8:3).

The fact remains that divisions in Christ's Church started well over 2000 years ago, and became the norm causing "*The sun to be darkened, and the veil of the temple (of Jesus intended Church) to be rent in the midst*" (paraphrased Luk 23:45). No wonder Jesus anticipated and warned against all of that before his eminent death. Here below few examples to digest:

✘ The non fasting issue of the disciples of Jesus vs. those of John the Baptist: "*Then the disciples of John came to him, asking: "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?"*" (Matt 9:14).

- ✘ The contentions and bickering among the apostles concerning who will be greater in heaven: “*And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be great*” (Luk 9:46; 22:24).
- ✘ John intimates us with this dissention and defiance: “*We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth. I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loved to have the preeminence among them, received us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he did, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither did he himself receive the brethren, and forbade them that would, and did cast them out of the church*” (3John 1:8-10).
- ✘ The beggar Lazarus who was most probably not even allowed to enter the temple to pray: “*And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom*” (Luk 16:19-31; cf. Lev 13:1-5)...
- ✘ Paul writing to the Corinthians: “That you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment... that there are contentions among you. that every one of you says, “I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. “Is Christ divided?” Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1Cor 10-13), in line with Isaiah’s statement: “*This one will say: “I am the Lord’s”; and that one will call on the name of Jacob*” (44:5); and by extension by the name of this saint, or this pope, or this patriarch or this Christian leader.
- ✘ Paul who exhorted all Christians repeatedly and incessantly to be of “*the same mind*” and of “*the same judgment*” (1Cor 1:10, 12:16; 2Cor 8:19, 13:11; Rom 15:5; Phi 2:2, 5, 20 & 4:21) found himself obliged to re-commission Peter and Barnabas to the right path: “*When Cephas (Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned... And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord*” (Gal 2:11-14; Act 15:33-40)...
- ✘ “*Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews*” (Act 6:1)...
- ✘ It is a conjecture on my part that the predictions concerning the seven Churches mentioned in Revelation (2:1, 8, 12, 18 & 3:1, 7, 14) infer divisions and dissensions?

Jesus wanted for his church to be ‘**ONE**’ united ecumenically and universally with no division whatsoever. No denominations hiding behind banners of misleading, capricious and manmade divinations and sorceries. His golden formula, besides being one with the Father, is summarized within these guidelines: “*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. “As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them (the true clergy and believers) into the world. For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word; that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me” (John 17:16:21).*

Many denominations disseminate their blunders citing this statement of Paul: “*All the **CHURCHES OF CHRIST** greet you*” (Rom 16:16) where they claim that it refers to “*E pluribus Unum*” Christian denominations. Are they referring to the same Paul who said: “*Is Christ divided?*” (1Cor 1:13). When one read the whole chapter, one realizes that Paul is naming many preachers, believers and co-workers from multiple locations for the one and only church of Christ, be it a physical church building, or their houses or their hearts and bodies. There is no mention that the deacon Phoebe is Catholic, Priscilla and Aquila are Orthodox, Epenetus is Protestant, Andronicus is Evangelical, etc...The Bible assures us several times that the “*Churches of Christ*” were **ALL** of “**One Accord**”, no divisions, schisms or denominations. (cf: Phi 2:2; Act 1:14, 2:1, 46, 4:24, 5:12, 8:6, 12:20, 15:25, 18:12, 19:29).

### **The Biblical Body of Christ (The Church)**

**“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?  
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”** (1Cor 10:16).

This is a short list of Christ's "*One True Church*" requirements understood as **GLORY** in absolute **TRUTH** coupled with unblemished **HONOR** and selfless loving **FREE SERVICE**.

- ✘ "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing (as divisions, scandals, unrighteousness, immorality, indignation, persecutions); but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:27)...
- ✘ "And he is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Col 1:18)...
- ✘ "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph 3:21)...
- ✘ "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church" (Eph 5:29)...
- ✘ "For the husband is the head of the wife (two as one=unity-no separation), even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body (the Church). Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Eph 5:23-24).

How can we conquer the world for Jesus, even today, when all we did and still do is ignoring the fundamental prayer of Jesus, summarizing the bases of the "Our Father", the prayer Jesus taught us: "My prayer is not for them alone; I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:20-23).

From Jews who still await the coming of Elijah to be followed by the Messiah to the Muslims who invented Issa as another Messiah ranking him lower than Prophet Muhammad, Christians have proved that there will always be: "A **division among the people because of Jesus**" (John 7:43) not only among Jews and Muslims but more importantly among the so-called Christians world communities and congregations, oscillating and vacillating between: "Therefore said some of the Pharisees: "This man is not of God, because he keeps not the Sabbath day"; others said: "How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?" **And there was a division among them**" (John 9:16), while true and genuine Christians believe: "For he has made him to be sin for us, who **knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2Cor 5:21).

Christians learned about the many signs and wonders performed by Jesus, his apostles and disciples, and some of us witnessed or heard of signs and wonders performed by God and the saints of God all over the world and centuries, but we still do not genuinely believe waiting most probably for a sign and miracle to take place in our personal lives, which prompted Jesus to say: "Except you see signs and wonders, you will not believe" (John 4:48), and: "If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12). Nevertheless, Jesus intimated us with his heavenly mysteries within the pages of his Gospels, mirroring what was prophesized in the Old Testament, when he said: "It is given unto YOU (those who biblically, doctrinally, practically and factually) confess with their mouths the Lord Jesus, and believe in their hearts that God has raised him from the dead) to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven... For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Matt 13:11; Rom 10:9).

The doctrinal schisms of all these groups that are or claim to be Christians emanate from the discrepancies between what they believe, question, manipulate and/or deny. The discrepancy could be one or more of the essentials of the Christian faith according to each group's beliefs and the number of books of the Bible they recognize 66 or 73; without forgetting, the invented and added books, such as: the "Mere Christianity", the "Didache", the "Book of Mormons", the authoritative Jehovah Witnesses publications of the Watchtower, the Catholics' "Deuterocanon" and the "Catechism", the writings of "Ellen White" of the Seventh Day Adventists, etc., as well as the reliance on apocryphal books, traditions or the writings of any founder of these denominations, and not to forget those who rely on the rabbinic Judaic "Masoretic Text" of the Tanakh and those who swear by the "Septuagint".



Yet God tells us: “*But beyond this, my son/daughter, be warned: “**The writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body**”. The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: “**Fear God and keep his commandments**, because **this applies to every person**. For God will bring every act to judgment; everything which is hidden, **whether it is good or evil**... **Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you**... I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it **so that people will fear him**” (Ecc1 12:12-14; Deut 4:2; Ecc1 3:14)...*

To find the answers to these questions and many more, we have first to define “**truth**” to be able to achieve that exhortation for the “**The same mind**” being the “**unification/union**” in Christ’s “**One Church**” and that call for the “**The same judgment**” being its “**connectivity/kinship**” to achieve “**The one accord**” being the “**Unity in the Spirit**” demanded by Christ, Paul and the apostles. Whether Christian denominations are 10 or 33,000, 43,000 or more, how anyone with his right mind find such one and only “**truth**”, which every mainstream, mainline, protesting reformer and cultist denomination claim having exclusivity on the one and only “**truth**” of Jesus Christ, whereas the others are all intruders, fake, pretenders, lost, apostate and in great error? “*Keep your foot when you go to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, **than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil**. Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven and you upon earth: therefore let your words be few*” (Ecc1 5:1-2).

All the major denominations of Christianity, without exception, preach: “*By grace you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast” ... and ... “*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him... and Jesus’ saying: “**I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me** (not through any denominations or person)” (Eph 2:8-9; John 3:16-17, 14:6). “**Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep... I am the door; if anyone enters through me, he will be saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:7, 9). “**If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord**” (1Cor 14:37)...**

**Then comes the thundering “BUT”, and the gates of hell open wide causing the metastasizing divisions. That evil malignant “BUT” represents the premises of the understanding of their own teachings, interpretations, intentions, caprices and lust for power more than the real teachings of Jesus Christ.**

Until the 16<sup>th</sup> century AD, Christianity was comprised demographically of about 10-20 diversities of Eastern and Western denominations spread unevenly between **Jewish Christianity** (those converts baptized by John), **Pauline Christianity** (Which is what the real Christianity supposedly to be for the last 2000 years), and the heretic **Gnostic Christianity** (Act chpt 8; Jude chpt 1), (which contradicts Christianity and Christian knowledge and beliefs). Many church fathers believed that the Pauline Christianity was biblically accurate in beliefs, doctrines, rituals and practices until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, then divergences, disagreements and conflicts crept in where heresies such as: (mostly questioning and dismissing the concept of Trinity/dual nature of Christ) Gnosticism, Montanism, Monarchianism, Arianism (Socianism), Apollinarianism, Nestorianism, Eutychianism (Monophysitism), Pelagianism, Sabellianism (Modalism), Donatism (church must have only saints no sinners), Manicheanism, the Bulgarian Heresy, etc. emerged departing in aberration from the traditional Christian sound beliefs, which appeared to them to be vague, ambiguous and no more than a vulnerable sitting duck worth attacking and speculating about. They continue to metastasize until they culminated, exploded and fully surfaced in 1054, in particular with regard to the papal primacy and infallibility, the trinity debacle; the natures of Jesus; was he really the son of God or God adopted him after his birth? Or denying the virgin birth, etc. Few more secessions, defections, disaffiliations and rifts took place.

Then from the Reformation era of 1520’s till our days, that thundering capricious multifaceted “**BUT**” generated 32,980 or 42,980 new disunity denominations and they are rising. About 10 denominations, no matter how imperfect they are, were the ones that carried Christianity until the reformation and beyond and till today. Yes, they had and still have dogmatically and doctrinally very limited disagreements and divergences, but in many ways, they are the closest

to God's teachings to survive 2000 years and spread God's good news and salvation, as outlined below.

A part of the pursuit for the genuine "**Truth**" is to bring to light the major tenets and beliefs outlined in the Bible as basis for the "**The Bride, the One Church, of Jesus Christ**", which are largely adopted, one way or another, by the major denominations of Christianity with nuances, and are summarized within these broad lines: "**See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in him you have been made complete, and he is the head over all rule and authority...** Men and brethren, you know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, who knows the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith (with baptism)" (Col 2:8-10; Act 15:7-9), not in any particular order:

### **Part I:**

1) The *inerrancy* of the inspired Bible; 2) Christianity is a *monotheistic* faith (oneness & uniqueness of God); 3) The *Concept* of the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in essence (the multiplied three not added); 4) The literal *Creation* Story and Narratives; 5) The *Incarnation* and the *Virgin Birth* of Jesus Christ; 6) The *Dual Natures* and *Wills* of Christ, 7) The *Deity* and the *Lordship* of Jesus Christ; 8) The *Passion* and the actual *Death* of Jesus Christ on the Cross: the "*just for the unjust*" (1Pet 3:18); 9) A- The "*once for all*" propitiation by Christ's sacrificial death; because B- "*There is no distinction: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Rom 3:23); 10) The bodily *Resurrection* of Jesus after 3 days; 11) The bodily *Ascension* of Jesus Christ into Heaven; 12) The *Sitting* of Jesus Christ at the right hand of the Father, "*perpetually interceding for us*" (Rom 8:34); 13) Jesus: the One and only *Mediator/Intercessor*, 14) The *Sending* of the comforter, the Holy Spirit, 15) The *Baptism* of fire by the Holy Spirit and the concept of the need to be "*Born Again and regeneration*" (John 3:7; 1Pet 1:23); 16) *Salvation* is achieved by *Grace* and *justification* by *Faith* as an absolutely free gift of God sealed by *baptism* that "*Leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins*" (paraphrased Rom 5:16); 17) Christianity is based on the meaning of the sacrifice on the two-piece cross, which translates vertically "*Love God*" and as a result horizontally "*Love your neighbor/enemy as yourself*" because "*All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments*" (Matt 22:40); 18) The *Rapture*: the second coming of Jesus Christ; and 19) The 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth; 20) The *Resurrection* of the dead; and 21) The *Judgment Day*: Eternal life or eternal damnation; 22) Jesus will be the Judge of the living and the dead...

To believe all of these is predicated on: "**No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit**" (1Cor 12:3)... provided that: "**He/she who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved... If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation**" (Mar 16:14-16; Rom 10:9-10).

**Part II:** The following questions are just a partial list of the cause and effect by being extremely fertile grounds to heated and futile debates fueling further the disunity and the alienation:

1) Does the *Holy Spirit* proceed from the Father and the Son or the Father only? 2) Is it the *Cross* or the *Crucifix*? 3) Does Original Sin include every human or just many as Paul suggests? 4) *Free Will*: are we endowed with free will or are we randomly predestined to choose good or evil? 5) Which "*Creed*" is correct: is it the Apostle's Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the Nicene Creed or the definition of Chalcedon? 6) Sources of doctrines: is it from "*Sola Scriptura*" or from a combination of the biblical texts and the writings of Church Fathers and Councils, progressive revelations, apostolic and church traditions, laced with pagan practices? 7) *Creation* vs. *Evolution*: did God evolve from nothing and did he throne himself God? 8) *Creation*: was it literally in six days? 9) Sacraments: are baptism, confession/penance, first communion, confirmation, matrimony, holy orders and anointing of the sick as practiced by any number of denominations necessary for justification and salvation, or just Baptism and confession that Jesus Christ is Lord? 10) *Baptism*: is baptism to be performed by *Affusion/Pouring*, *Aspersion/Sprinkling*, whole *Submersion/Dunking* or just partial *Immersion/Splashing*; 11)



*Eucharist/the Lord's Supper*: is it to be celebrated daily, weekly, monthly or on religious holidays? Is it to be made of unleavened dough? Is it to be served with wine? Is the presence of Jesus symbolic or real? **11) Purgatory**: is there such a place? **13) Confession**: Binding and Loosing: Is it a biblical mandate or figment of some denomination's over-reaching? **14) The Virgin Mary**: Are the subjects of Immaculate Conception, the Mother of God, the perpetual virginity, Mary's intercession and mediation between Jesus and man, etc. biblically based? **15) Veneration of Mary and the Saints**: Are there any biblical support? **16) Is the office of papacy** (succession of Peter) biblical? Etc.

**"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: **and he will show you things to come**... therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you" (John 16:12-13,15).

In line with: **"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. Now they have come to know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words which you gave me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from you, and they believed that you sent me. I ask on their behalf (the true disciples and believers); **I do not ask on behalf of the world** (all the charlatan Christian denominations), **but of those whom you have given me; for they are yours**" (John 17:6-9). This biblical illustration shows us clearly who is enlightened being with Jesus and following Jesus' teachings only and who is speculating following the defunct teachings of their denominations that preach another Jesus and another Gospel devoid of the Holy Spirit: "Jesus was asking his disciples: **"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"** And they said: "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets". But what about you?" He asked: "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered: "You are the **Messiah, the Son of the living God**". Jesus replied: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, **but by my Father in heaven**" (Matt 16:13-17). Jesus' question was about his human dimension **"The Son of Man"** yet Peter's answer completed the equation by uttering the divine dimension: "(Besides being the Son of Man), **You are The Messiah, the Son of the living God**". Being the arch-apostle, I believe Peter spoke also on behalf of his colleagues as evidenced in John 16:29-30 cited in this study.**

With 33,000 or 43,000 Christian denominations, the list had a brighter beginning but an obscure end. Just to expand on one of these issues of contention to digest while heeding this statement of Paul: **"Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter (method) kills, but the Spirit (new covenant seal) gives life" (2Cor 3:5-6):**

## Baptism

**"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"** (Act 2:38)...

**"WE HAVE NOT (even) HEARD WHETHER THERE IS A HOLY SPIRIT"** (Act 19:2)...

**"Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River"** (Matt 3:6)...

"He said to them: **"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"** And they said to him: **"No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit"**. And he said: "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said: "Into John's baptism". Paul said: "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus" (Act 19:2-4)...

How tragic that even until today, many Christians know their clergy and denomination more intimately and maybe idolize them but do not know there is a Holy Spirit, the **comforter, the consoler and the guide that alone, not the clergy, makes us confess the Lordship of Jesus and follow him**. Many are still living in Good Friday and never enjoyed the festivities, joys, victories and rewards of the Resurrection Sunday. Many are still under John's "WATER" Baptism (and by extension their denomination's counterfeit dispensations), as they never, knowingly or unknowingly, passed into the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to be **"born again"** to inherit eternal life through the sacrificial death and the triumphant resurrection of Jesus Christ. All those members of denominations that dismiss the need for baptism for salvation are exactly like the people Paul dialogued with above. They and their clergy are still under "John's Baptism" with no Holy Spirit to be had.

While God has bound salvation to “*Faith*”, the “*Confession of the Lordship of Jesus*” and the “*Belief in heart that God has raised him from the dead*”: “*You who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God... You have been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions” (1Pet 1:21; Col 2:12-13; cf Rom 10:9; Act 13:30, 34; Gal 1:1; Eph 1:20) to be sealed by the sacrament of “*baptism*”: “*do not grieve the **Holy Spirit** of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*” (Eph 4:30), which is the replacement of the requirement of the Jewish circumcision and a prerequisite to becoming a Christian based on the dialog between Jesus and Nicodemus (John chpt 3).*

This passage of Paul speaks volume of the similarities of the “*spiritual baptism*”, which existed since the time of **Moses**: “*Moreover, brethren, I would not that you should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud (Jesus’ baptism and transfiguration: “Heaven opened...A bright cloud covered them” (Matt 3:17; 17:5)... parallel to the connotation used in the Annunciation: “*The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you*” (Luk 1:35), and all passed through the sea (both symbolism of the baptism of Jesus); and were all **BAPTIZED UNTO MOSES IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA**; and did all eat the same *spiritual meat*; And did all drink the *same spiritual drink*: **FOR THEY DRANK OF THAT SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST**” (1Cor 10:1-4)... “**“SPIRITUAL BAPTISM” IS SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE FIRE CLEANSING POWER OF THE giver of life: The “HOLY SPIRIT”, past, present and in the future, WATER IS JUST A SYMBOL OF THE RITUAL OF REPENTANCE:**  
**FIRE = JUDGMENT: “EITHER A BELIEVER OR NOT A BELIEVER”**  
**“NO BAPTISM MEANS NO HOLY SPIRIT”**” (Act 1:5)*

Many so-called Christian denominations totally dismiss the need and the practice of baptism contrary to Jesus command. Many disobey Jesus’ command to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and substitute it with these attributes: “*The Creator, the Redeemer and the Sanctifier*”.

For those denominations hoisting the banner of “No-Need” for baptism, let us review the main components and requirements in the N.T.:

Did Jesus need to be *baptized* or *sanctified*? The answer is “*Yes*” and “*No*”:

1) “*Yes*” **Baptism**: although “*He knew no sin*” (2Cor 5:21) and John hesitated to baptize him, Jesus insisted so that: “*Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness (=synonym to the meaning of Melchizedek)” (Matt 3:15) and by extension: “*By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous... to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel” (Heb 11:4; 12:24): “*Whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in his blood through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because in the forbearance of God he passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say: “Of his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus” (Rom 3:25-26).***

“*Yes*” **Sanctification**: Jesus said: “*For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified*” (John 17: 6-19).

With his baptism, Jesus received instantly the Holy Spirit and caused the shut heavens to re-open its gates for all believers by his appearance announced by God himself introducing him: “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased*” (Matt 3:17). He needed to be baptized:

a. To be inducted and ordained by God, by the hands of the filled with the Holy Spirit two testaments bridging priest and forerunner John the Baptist: “*The law and the prophets were until John: from that time the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and every man/woman enters violently into it*” (Luk 16:16), in the exclusive order of priesthood of Melchizedek,

This part is also a symbolism of our induction into the “*Body of Christ*” (Rom 6:23; 1Cor 5:17) in the “*priesthood of believers*”

- b. To prepare himself for the baptism of the Cross: by being: “*The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29) offering himself as the one and only acceptable sacrifice to the Father for our sin and sins: “*Such a high priest truly meets our need; one who is **holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens**... But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. **And in him is no sin**” (Heb 7:26; 1John 3:5). (cf. Act 10:37-38; 1Kgs 19:16; Exo 28:41; 1Sam 10:1).*

Jesus is asking us today what he asked his apostles John and James: “*Can you drink of the cup that I drink of? **And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**” If we say yes through baptism, we should regard ourselves blessed like John and James to hear: “*You shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall you be baptized*” (Mar 10:38-39)*

- 2) “**No**”: Baptism was instituted by God “*For repentance and for the remission of sins*” (Matt 3:11, 26:28; Luk 3:3; Mar 1:4; Act 2:38; etc) “**Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**” (Rom 3:22-24), but Jesus did not need baptism because he was a sinner, as evidenced by the entire Bible and this: “**He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth... He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him**... God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh... It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us **WISDOM** from God; that is, our **RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS** and **REDEMPTION**... **Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole”** (1Pet 2:22; 2Cor 5:21; Rom 8:3; 1Cor 1:30; Gal 3:13).

Jesus thus “**fulfilled all righteousness**” and “**He did exactly what his Father has commanded him**” (John 14:31), and he set for us an example to imitate him in receiving baptism to receive the Holy Spirit and become renewed to seek after and live in righteousness because: “**Today salvation has come to the believers**” (Luk 19:9), in line with: “**Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should do**” (John 13:14) by: “**Seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**... and because “**He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**” (Matt 6:33; Tit 3:5).

Christian denominations found more fertile grounds to disagree and diverge on the methods and formulas of administering “*Believer’s Baptism*”, because the Greek verb “*Baptizo*” means “*dip*” or “*immerse*”. They all forgot the symbolism of the requirements and wrote thousands of thesis and dissertations to support their methods, rituals and formulas. Some went to the extent of finding 101 N.T. reasons refuting Jesus’ teachings that baptism is necessary for salvation. So which method is correct: is it partially to “*dip*” or to wholly “*dip and immerse*”?

As a result, we now have these methods adopted by the different denominations while claiming each other’s method invalid and unorthodox:

- 1) **Affusion/Pouring**: where water is poured on the head of the person being baptized;
- 2) **Aspersion/Sprinkling**: where water is sprinkled or sprayed simultaneously on crowds: “*Those who had received his word were baptized; and **that day** there were added about **three thousand souls**... But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be **about five thousand** ... “And the Lord added to their number **daily** those who were being saved” (Does anyone know which method of the four the apostles and the disciples used to baptize these crowds?) (Act 2:41, 47; 4:4);*
- 3) **Submersion/Dunking**: dunk the whole body beneath the surface of the water, not necessarily because of the Greek meaning of “*Baptizo*” but because of this passage: “*In him you were also **circumcised** with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ. Buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead... Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized **into his death**? Therefore **we were buried** with him **through baptism into death**” (Col 2:11-12; Rom 6:3-4); and*
- 4) **Partial Immersion/Splashing**: either the person being baptized: a) Is standing in the water, or b) Is on his/her knees in the water; and finally:



5) **Baptism of Desire** (Catholic teaching): where no clergy available to perform baptism for those who are born dead, or die right after birth, or non-believers who are bedridden, gravely ill or dying.

When God ordered the: “*Baptism with water*” to start with John as a forerunner for Jesus, he was signaling the abolishment of circumcision of the male body and the atonement by the blood of goats and bulls for the remissions of sins. He elevated “*Baptism*” to higher levels and dimensions adding:

- 1) The inclusive factor of unisex;
- 2) The spiritual aspect of complete regeneration and wholesomeness;
- 3) The descent of the Holy Spirit on the person being baptized: “*The Spirit is poured on us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest*” (Isa 32:15); resulting in:
- 4) The receiving of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Act 2:38) for a godly and righteous walk with Jesus and our fellow humans: “*I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God... I will put my Spirit in you and you will live*” (Eze 11:19-20; 37:14)...

Certain denominations still argue that immersion should be used to encompass:

- 1) The willingness of the adult person to humble him/herself by the lowering of the body and the physical immersion: “*He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit*” (Tit 3:5)...
- 2) The intention to repent by confessing his/her sins: “*They were being baptized by him (John) in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins*” (Matt 3:6); and,
- 3) To be buried with Christ dead to sin and free from sin (Rom 6:4-7); and finally:
- 4) To be raised regenerated and elevated in justification by faith to salvation and life.

In summary, “***Peter said to them: “Repent; and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”***” (Act 2:38).

**“Progressive REVELATION ... Inspiration”**  
**Development Of Doctrine????!!**

***“Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples”*** (Isa 8:16)... (Accomplished by Jesus)

***“BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST”*** (2Cor 4:3)...

***“I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets***

***and the commandment of the Lord and Savior SPOKEN BY YOUR APOSTLES***

***Know this first of all, that in the last days, mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts”*** (2Pet 3:1-3)...

***“For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it”*** (Matt 13:17)...

This is another thorn infested with oozing sores, which caused and still is causing further disunity and alienation in the body of Christ and hindering any possibility of coming together to glorify God with “***one gospel, one mind and one judgment***”: “*Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses*” (Act 13:39). “*Progressive revelation*” was an integral spiritual, theological and historical part of O.T. leading to the 1<sup>st</sup> coming of Jesus; and it was within these lines to avoid contradictions in the narratives:

***“The prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow; unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, **which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven**; which things the angels desire to look into”*** (1Pet 1:10-12):

“For of his fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized (once for all) through Jesus Christ” (John 1:16-17)... Consequently, just as one trespass (charlatanism after the expiration of all the apostles, disciples and Paul) resulted in condemnation for all people (the many schisms), so also one righteous act (abiding in the truths of Jesus Christ) resulted in justification and life for all people” (paraphrased Rom 4:25, 5:18)...

The conservative Jews as well as all Jews in a sense, in spite of the absence of any prophet or messenger before and after John the Baptist, believed and still believe in “Progressive Revelations” because they are still waiting for their version of Messiah to come, and since Christianity is an extension of Judaism: “Their anointing shall surely be an **everlasting priesthood** throughout their generations” (Exo 40:15), and while Christians believe that the Messiah of the O.T. has come, nevertheless, certain Christian and so-called Christian denominations adopted the concept to create unbiblical manmade dispensations and instituted implausible doctrines and labeled them “*biblically, dogmatically and ecclesiastically binding*”.

It is a matter of fact that the early Christians did not have what is now known as the N. T. in writing until after three quarters of the first century or early second century, yet Christianity moved on by faith in the “**Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say: Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world**” (Rom 10:17-18) and sharing it spreading the good news as taught to them orally and liturgically by the apostles, the disciples and Paul in person, then passed down from generation to generation. The original autographs were written by hand on scrolls (cf. parchments of Dead Sea and Qumran and other locations) by the writers of the N.T. and might have been copied and reproduced by the help of contemporary eyewitnesses disciples, but in a very limited numbers. They were the integral part of the shared and proclaimed “*faith*” in the “*New Way/the Good News*”. Then the canons scholars, the Fathers of the Church, came and became big and powerful guns with conflicting opinions establishing canons and doctrines, in which they voiced their interpretations and understanding, and the gates of hell open wide to devour Christianity through speculations resulting in conflicts of interests, doctrines and diatribes. Councils were later convened to deal with the mambo jumbo of interpretations and conflicting doctrines.

Those Christian and so-called Christian denominations use John 16:12-15 as well as 10:35 to justify their beliefs and doctrines. In 16:12-15 John records Jesus’ statement: “***I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own initiative, but whatever he hears, he will speak; and HE WILL DISCLOSE TO YOU WHAT IS TO COME.*** He will glorify me, for he will take of mine and will disclose it to you. “All things that the Father has are mine; therefore I said that ***he takes of mine and will disclose it to you***”.

The above passage, especially the last parts of verses 13 and 15 became grounds for disputes over doctrines pregnant with unfounded and extra biblical speculations and dispensations prefixed with biblical themes such as: “*visions, dreams, prophecies and/or inspirations*”, because they were grossly misinterpreted, the least that can be said they are taken out of context to become a lethal weapon in the arsenal of a handful of Christian denominations be it mainstream, mainline, Protestantism and cultism.

The entire Chapter of John 16 is a prelude to before and after Jesus’ death and resurrection, a temporary “*farewell*” and a comforting and promising “*so long*” speech with his assurances for them not to grief because he will be raised, they will see him again and then he will send the Holy Spirit ***to remind them of his very own specific teachings***: “***The Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you***” (v15), which the apostles and disciples confirmed for the first time that they began to comprehend as stated in (v29). All this took place on Pentecost, where, although the majority was somehow “*illiterate*”, they instantly became “*polyglot*” and spoke with such an eloquence, clarity and boldness with full knowledge of scriptures and Jesus’ teachings that made people wonder and marvel; they joined and get baptized, glorifying God.

On the other hand, these passages of John also became ammunition to many with vivid imagination and dreaming as a back up to John chpt 16: “***Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not recorded in this book, but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name... This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things which***

**Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written”** (John 20:30-31; 21:24-25).

When I read and re-read this part of John 20:31: “*But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name*”, I believe it clearly states that God in the pages of his written, recorded and recognized N.T. every denomination and believer can find the fullness of scriptures. If God wanted us to have “*Progressive Revelations*”, he would have mentioned it. It is in conformity with: “*And there are also many other things which Jesus did* (John 21:25)... **To you** (apostles, disciples and Paul only) **it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them** (all of us, denominations and believers alike living in the Kingdom of God on earth) **it has not been granted** (not then and not ever until after the second coming of Christ: “*Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near*” (Rev 22:10)”) (Matt 13:10-11)... definitely together with Daniel: “*Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. **Keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase***” (12:3-4).

While the Greek word (euangélion-evangel) for “*Gospel*” is translated “*Good News/Tidings*”, it refers also to the whole package of “*written accounts of the life and the exclusive teachings of Jesus Christ*”. In the four Gospels, besides his incarnation, virgin birth, debating, teaching and lecturing at 12 years of age, his baptism, temptation, mission, passion, death on the cross, resurrection and ascension to sit at the right hand of the Father, securing salvation to every creature and restoring human dignity in re-connecting and reconciling the creature with the Creator earning for them to be called “*Children of God*” and “*heirs*”: “*For Christ also died for sins **once for all**, the just for the unjust, so that **he might bring us to God**, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit... and **might reconcile** them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity... See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God**... Now if we are children, then we are **heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ***” (1Pet 3:18; Eph 2:16; 1John 3:1; Rom 8:17).

We read what Jesus said and did; what he preached and taught; what he instructed and commanded; what he warned against and what he corrected from the practices in the O.T.; we ascertain of him dismissing traditions on the expense of scriptures; we witnessed his frequent squabbles and wrangles with the Pharisees and the Sadducees; we accompanied him in his journeys listening to his parables, marveling at his compassionate healing of all kind of handicap even raising the dead, etc.; from all that and more, we may digest these essentials:

1. **Jesus’ Mission**: “*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing... “It is finished”*” (Luk 23:34; John 19:30). The first quote symbolizes our abject ignorance and our audacity and insolence in proclaiming, promulgating and asserting manmade “authoritative” precepts, dogmas, doctrines; whereas the second quote confirms that whatever was demanded by God the Father for atonement for salvation under the “*Law*” was completely and befittingly fulfilled by Christ and Christ alone **once for all past, present and future** under “*Grace*”: “*For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ... For truly I tell you: “Until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law **until all is accomplished**... I glorified you on the earth, **having accomplished the work which you have given me to do**. Now, Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was”* (John 1:17; Matt 5:18; John 17:4-5)...

In a nutshell, nothing is left for anyone to do except **TO ACCEPT THAT FREE GIFT, THAT AWESOME UNMERITED LIFE GIVING SALVATION PAID IN FULL** to include any and all compounded interests, exacted back and future taxes, deferred fees and charges, bad debts, etc.: “***Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross***” (Col 2:14).

2. **Jesus’ Teachings**: “*The Holy Spirit will disclose to you **what is to come***” (John 16:13, 15). In the four Gospels, Jesus gave us the “***Blue Print and the Instruction Manual***”: “*Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father... With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, **as much as they could understand**. But without a parable spoke he not unto them: and **when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples***” (John 16:25; Mar 4:33-34), and he promised that his entrusted apostles after they receive and be quickened by



the Holy Spirit will expand and expound on the practical “**Application and Assimilation**” of that “**Blue Print and the Instruction Manual**” in the same way Jesus was explaining to them the parables, until finally as I said earlier: “*Jesus’ disciples said: “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God”* (John 16:29-30).

Jesus said to his apostles: “**Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**” (Matt 28:20). **Then he called Saul/Paul to be an apostle too, and they all became disciples, teachers and prophets**, in line with Paul’s statement: “**For unto us was the gospel preached**, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” (Heb 4:2). Before the process for the apostles and Paul to introduce us to the application of the teachings of Jesus; Jesus said this prayer before his passion on behalf of his apostles:

The prayer itself negates the “*Progressive Revelation*” concept.

“*Father, I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. **They were yours**; you gave them to me and **they have obeyed your word**. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. **And glory has come to me through them**. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, **protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one**. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe **by that name you gave me** (Jesus=who saves). None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. **I have given them your word** and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified**” (John 17: 6-19).*

The following biblical passages are two-edged sword because of the purposed misinterpretation and mutilation of passages to concoct a far-fetched theological doctrine; they prove that certain knowledge is to be withheld until the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus and that after the expiration of all the apostles and Paul, no more revelations to be had: “*I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children*” (Matt 11:25), but unfortunately, claimants of “*Progressive Revelations*” hang to this statement of John too: “*Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I said: “You are gods?” “If he called them gods, **to whom the word of God came** (and the Scripture cannot be broken)”* (John 10:34-35), so they did throne themselves “gods”:

“**All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness (You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it**” (Deut 4:2) (cf Matt 5:18; Num 23:19; Psa 119:89; Pro 30:5-6; Rev 22:19); **so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work**” (2Tim 3:16-17)...

## **The Old Testament:**

In addition to the quote from Daniel’s Book above, here are other relevant passages:

1. “**Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God’s instruction among my disciples** (Elohim=Trinity’s prophets, messengers and disciples of O.T. and N.T)” (Isa 8:16)... (cf with Daniel above),
2. “**For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say: “Read this, please”, they will answer: “I can’t; it is sealed... In that day (2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ) the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see**” (Isa 29:11, 18)...
3. “**Son of man**”, he said to me: “**Understand that the vision concerns the time of the end... The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future**” (Dan 8:17, 26)...

## The New Testament:

1. “And the disciples came and said to him: “Why do you speak to them in parables?” Jesus answered them: “To you (apostles and disciples only) it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted... As soon as he was alone, **his followers** (disciples), **along with the twelve**... he was explaining everything privately to his own disciples” (Matt 13:10-11; Mar 4:10-11, 34), not then and not later on to no one else,
2. “I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith **that was once** for all **entrusted to God’s holy people** (the prophets and the apostles)... Dear friends, remember what the **apostles** of our Lord Jesus Christ **foretold**” (Jud 1:3, 17)...
3. “We (apostles) ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have **the prophetic word made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, **that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation**” (2Pet 1:18-20).
4. “When the holy apostles were assembled in the upper chamber waiting for the promise of our Lord... and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages**... Now (Jesus was) raised to the heights by God’s right hand, **he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised**, and what you see and hear is **the outpouring of that Spirit**... Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles: “What are we to do, brothers?” “You must repent”, Peter answered, “and every one of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God is calling to himself. **He spoke to them for a long time using many other arguments**, and he urged them: “Save yourselves from this perverse generation”. **They accepted what he said and were baptized**. That very day about three thousand were added to their number. **These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles**, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And everyone was filled with awe; the apostles worked many signs and miracles... Each day, **with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread**... they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community **those destined to be saved**” (Act 2:2-4, 33, 37-43, 46-47).

## The Pauline Writings:

Let us turn now to Paul, who was admitted with Barnabas as an apostle, a disciple, a deacon, a servant and a prophet, to clear for us this issue. First he confirms that his writings are also to be considered a written and recorded “**Gospel**” because he specifically refers to it as “**My Gospel**” while referring to the other 4 Gospels as “**Proclamations of Jesus Christ**”, yet Paul specifically said: “**By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no man, can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ**” (1Cor 3:10-11). Paul is referring to the other apostles and disciples not any denomination whatsoever:

1. “Now to the One who is able to strengthen you according to **my gospel** and the **proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings** is made known to all the Gentiles, **according to the command of the eternal God**, to bring about the obedience of faith” (Rom 16:25-26)...
2. “For we, which have believed do enter into rest... **His works were finished from the foundation of the world**” (Heb 4:3)...
3. “But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away... Nevertheless, when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away” (2Cor 3:14, 16)...
4. “**The mystery made known to me by revelation**. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ. It has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy **apostles and prophets**” (Eph 3:3-5).
5. “God, who at various times and in different ways spoke **in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by his Son**, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds” (Heb 1:1-2)...

6. “But I certify to you, brethren, that the **gospel which was preached of me** is not after man. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ**” (Gal 1:11-12), this statement is in equal footage with the other apostles for them to teach what they receive from Jesus directly through the Holy Spirit,
7. “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man/woman, all that god has prepared for those who love him. **God revealed them through the Spirit**; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God” (1Cor 2:9-10)...
8. “So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you **received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God**, which also performs its work in you who believe” (1The 2:12-13)...

Last but not least: “For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and **every violation and disobedience received its just punishment**. How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? **This salvation, which was FIRST ANNOUNCED BY THE LORD, WAS CONFIRMED TO US BY THOSE WHO HEARD HIM**, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? (his apostles and disciples)” (Heb 2:2-4)...

Unless we revert back to the dreamers and the diviners together with those claimants of seeing visions and receiving prophecies, no one heard Jesus, beside the crowds, except Paul, the apostles and the disciples who said: “**The witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him**” (Act 5:32) (cf. 2:32, 3:15, 10:39-41; 1Cor 15:15; John 3:11)... “**For we did not follow cleverly devised tales** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty**. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to him by the Majestic Glory: “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” (2Pet 1:16-17)...

God is omnipotent and no one knows his counsel or his plans. After the expiration of all the apostles and Paul, did God appear to people in dreams, in visions and in person? I am sure he did in his sole discretion and purpose: “Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me, **declaring the end from the beginning**, and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying: “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all my good pleasure. Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executes my counsel from a far country: yea: **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it**” (Isa 46:9-11).

If the word of God is immutable and the scriptures fulfilled in Jesus, how could a charlatan claim to have received in a vision or a dream new dispensations eliminating and supplanting what God gave to all his real prophets and messengers? According to the Bible, revelations and prophecies ended with Jesus Christ and his apostles and Paul. If not, the Judeo-Christian believers, since Abraham until now, were tricked into believing in a changeable God, who is moody and does not know what he wants. All these charlatan claimants of another Jesus, another Gospel and another Spirit with new and improved doctrines and tenets are from the world and the truth is not in them: “**Because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son**... (They) are of (their) father the devil, and (they) want to do the desires of (their) father. He does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (1John 2:21-22; John 8:44).

The Book of Revelation is speaking of one specific antichrist with number 666 referred to in the above verse, but he and his demons, since Adam and Eve time, are roaming the world looking for someone to recruit to help mislead the flocks: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and **Satan came also among them**. The Lord said to Satan: “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord: “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it” (Job 1:6-7)... “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert; your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1Pet 5:8)... “But I fear, lest by any means (dreams, visions, lust), as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2Cor 11:3).

In spite of the many “progressive revelations” that were enacted and promulgated over the centuries by many churches, this statement from Vatican II makes me wonder what is meant by



“public”?: “No new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord, Jesus Christ”. The notion of progressive or continuing revelation is not held by the Roman Catholic Church or by Eastern Orthodoxy, who instead favor the idea of tradition and development of doctrine, while progressivist and continuationist approaches are specifically condemned in the declaration “Dominus Iesus”.

### The Woes and Calamities of the “Reformation” (Martin Luther)

*“Where is the wise person?  
Where is the teacher of the law?  
Where is the debater of this age?  
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ...  
We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature,  
but not the wisdom of this age  
or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing”* (1Cor 1:20; 2:6)...

Jesus said: “Do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men/women who live in Jerusalem?” I tell you: “No, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luk 13:4-5), while James writes: “But if you show partiality (claiming to belong to one of the thousands over thousands of so-called true Christian denominations), **you are committing sin** and are convicted by the law as transgressors (“The **PRIESTS** did not say: “Where is the Lord? And those who handle the law did not know me: the **PASTORS** also transgressed against me, and the **prophets** prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit” (Jer 2:8)). For whoever keeps the whole law (denominational defunct nonconforming beliefs and practices) and yet stumbles in one point (one of the truths of Jesus vs. all the denominational manmade and erroneous teachings), he/she has become guilty of all (losing the privilege/right to be considered Christian or a true disciple/follower of Christ)” (Jam 2:9-10).

I cannot intone with Samson: “Let me die with the Philistines” (Jdg 16:30), because what I am about to say may seem that I am defending the Christian denominations before the “Reformation” and criticizing the ones after it. Bear with me and you will ascertain of the validity of my approach, I have no intention to do either. My sole intent is to question the liberty and the disregard for the strict rules of correctness by the “Reformation” movement from within the context of Jude’s statement: “For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness” (1:4). The “Reformation” movement advocated and emphasized the “Sola Scriptura” jingle and refrain hiding behind the misapplied “grace” and “faith” alone factor for salvation, and this passage: “**All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify...** thus ignoring the remainder of the verse: “**Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor**” (1Cor 10:23-24), to the extent it became **an open ended license** to sin, to disintegrate, to blunder, to distort, to manipulate, to improvise, to dream dreams and to see visions, to concoct prophecies, etc.

In 2014, it is a proven fact and not a figment of imagination, the statistics show that the Orthodox (Eastern, Greek & Russian) and the Catholic (with its offshoots and affiliations) churches that the reformers seceded from, especially the Catholic Church, and viciously attacked, criticized, and derogated, still exist and on the increase having the same number of affiliations each without individually splintering for the last 2000 years: “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, **GOD WAS WELL-PLEASSED THROUGH THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE MESSAGE** (of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches) **PREACHED** to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength” (1Cor 1:21-25). It seems that the “Reformation” movement wanted and still wants the Catholic and Orthodox Churches to rephrase and proclaim publicly this statement of Paul: “**We** (Catholic and Orthodox) **are fools for Christ, but you** (“Reformation” movement) **are so wise in Christ! We** (Catholic and Orthodox) **are weak, but you** (“Reformation” movement) **are strong! You are honored you** (“Reformation” movement), **we are dishonored** (Catholic and Orthodox)” (1Cor 4:10)...

The Catholics and their offshoot affiliations have few esoteric creedal nuances but not conflicts; the same applies to the Orthodox Church. The total number of the adherents of the Catholic and Orthodox churches combined (90% Catholic and 10% Orthodox) are more than **double** the total number of all

the adherents and the followers of the 32,990 or 42,990 so-called Christian denominations of the “**Reformation**” movement. To ascertain of these statistics, check the different sources on the Internet.

Can anyone explain the trail of destruction of the coup d'état the “*Reformation*” movement generated and still generate to the Church of Christ? All statistics show that Christian denominations were about a maximum of 30 including heresies and cults up to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and even until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, then in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the splintered “*Reformation*” movement became 500 and from then 32,500 or 42,500 new denominations emerge in 200 years period until today. (Refer to the data and statistics in the beginning of this study and the many website that can confirm these figures).

The key inspiration passage for the “*Reformation*” movement was: “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: “**But the righteous man/woman shall live by faith**”. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men/women who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them*” (Rom 1:16-19).

The 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Huss among others who apparently launched campaigns to set right the allegedly distorted teachings of the then Christian denominations in general and the Catholic Church in particular based mainly among others, namely the 95 theses of Martin, on the above key inspiration passage of Romans. The “*Reformation*” Day of Martin Luther is commemorated on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The majority of USA population who emigrated from Ireland over 300 years ago, be it Protestants or Catholics, celebrate Halloween as a 2000 years Celtic tradition on October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Was Martin Luther aware so he timed his “*Reformation*” on the same date or was it a coincidence? The major symbol of Halloween is the carved “jack-o’-lantern” representing the souls of the dead. Children are taught to say the traditional “*Trick or Treat*”. The “*Trick*” part means if you do not “*Treat*”, a threat of mischief will fall on the homeowners if they do not treat the kids with candy.

Was the alleged “**Reformation**” a “*trick*” or a “*treat*”? The above statistics prove it was definitely a trick with no treat to be had for Jesus. Did the “**Reformation**” revive the allegedly dysfunctional dead Catholic and Orthodox Churches they criticized and ridiculed? Did the “**Reformation**” weaken or eliminate the Catholic and Orthodox Churches? History proves that both churches are increasing and stronger than ever. All the “**Reformation**” did is start a mayhem for Satan in the person of claimants to be Christian, namely the 32,990 or 42,990 new denominations in about 200 years span. Today, even with the good but misplaced intentions of the fathers of “**Reformation**”, seeing the supersonic disintegration of Christianity since the “*Reformation*”, which gave birth to these thousands of zombie churches and denominations in the image of the dragon with 32,990 or 42,990 horns, not with ten horns, described in the Book of Revelation attacking and destroying the Church of the Lamb.

When one reads the lives of the three main players, one discovers how disgruntled, frustrated and bias they were, like their respective countries’ monarchs who seceded from Rome because of marriage, divorce and polygamy and not because of Catholic Church doctrines and dogmas. It seems that Martin, a monk bound by vows, had his feud with the Catholic Church more because of his own agenda, self-serving interest and desire to get married than refuting the allegedly distorted and overlapping “*Law/Grace*” and traditions hermaphrodite teachings of the Catholic Church and by extension the Orthodox Church and their offshoots and affiliations. It seems that the “*Reformation*” instead of attacking the heresies and the cults, they encouraged them and added to their numbers.

Whether we deem it religiously, theologically, morally and politically correct or not, the fact remains that if the alleged so-called Christian denominations are 100 or 33,000 or 43,000 denominations, they all are splinters of the “*Reformation*” of the three musketeers’ era and movement, the allegedly defenders of the Christian faith, hoisting the banner of the grossly misinterpreted, misleading and misapplied trinity of “**Scriptures alone**” - “**Faith alone** (Sola Fide)” - “**Grace alone**” detailed in this study. 32,990 or 42,990 in 400 years are the result of the compounding with interests and repercussions of one or multiple errors over errors, where Jesus

is somehow on the lips of the clergy and believers only and no more than a Halloween shadow in these denominational zombie churches.

That same Martin Luther decided to derogatorily equate animals with humans to get back at the Catholic Church after he was excommunicated: *“Apart of disbelief, there are no more sins: all the rest are trinkets... When my little Johnny goes to poop in the corner; we laugh and it is over”*... where Martin Luther said: *“Fides facit ut stercus non feteat”* (=Latin for: *Faith makes that feces not to stink*)” (Sermon of 1532 & Werke: v.36, p.187)... *Be thou comforted, little dog. Thou too in Resurrection shall have a little golden tail”*.

These are few of Martin Luther’s doctrine and beliefs; in his letter to the monk Melanchthon, he wrote: *“... God does not save those who are only imaginary sinners. Be a sinner and let your sins be strong... No sin can separate us from him, **even if we were to kill or commit adultery thousands of times each day**”* (Letter # 99 -Aug 1, 1521)... *“It is befitting that we become unjust and sinful so that God might be justified in his words”* (Werke, v. IV, p.343)... (Bolding and coloring are mine).

This is an excerpt of his pamphlet entitled: *“Babylonian Captivity of the Church”*: *“How rich therefore is a Christian, the one who is baptized! Even if he wants to, he cannot lose his salvation, however much he sins, unless he will not believe. For no sin can condemn him save unbelief alone. All other sins... so long as the faith in God’s promise made in baptism returns or remains... all other sins, I say, are immediately blotted out through that same faith, or rather through the truth of God, because he cannot deny himself”* (A 1520 Prelude: 3.8)...

I believe this erroneous doctrine seems plausible on the surface as if based on the misinterpreted saying of Paul: *“**The LAW was given so that the trespass would increase; but where sin increased, GRACE increased all the more**”* (Rom 5:20)... For Martin Luther to say above: *“...No sin can separate us from him, even if we were to kill or commit adultery **thousands of times each day**”* is a direct and dire contradiction of: *“All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. We know that **anyone born of God does not continue to sin**”*... And ... *“For he that said: “Do not commit adultery”, said also: “Do not kill”. Now if you commit no adultery, yet if you kill, you are become a transgressor of the law. So speak you, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty”* (1John 5:17-18; Jam 2:11-12... cf. Matt 5:19; Jam 2:10; 1John 2:1, 3:4, 5:16)...

The question that imposes itself is what happened to: *“But if our unrighteousness highlights the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unjust to inflict His wrath on us? ... Why not say, as some slanderously claim that we say: “Let us do evil that good may result?” Their condemnation is deserved ...What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ... It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their actions”* (Rom 3:5, 8; 6:1-2, 15; 2Cor 11:15)... among many other contexts.

Clergy of the different denominations, whether mainstream, mainline, protestant and/or cultist are either too strict or too liberal, nothing in between. The mainstream and the cultists ignore the simplicity of Christ and put believers on a guilt trip after another suffocating the believers, while mainline and Protestantism grant believers too much liberty under the supposedly lawless “grace” and the “social Gospel” as long as they open their wallets and bank account to enrich the clergy of these denominations. Both sides are forbidding believers from going directly to Jesus who said: *“Suffer little children (we all are God’s Children) to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God... Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”* (Luk 18:16; Matt11:28-29).

I believe these verses can shed some light on the three musketeers: *“**These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage... For which cause both you and all your company are gathered together against the Lord**”* (Jude 1:16; Num 16:11).

Are there true believers in these 32,990 or 42,990? I am positive beyond any shadow of doubt that there are many and God knows the hearts, but I still place a colossal question mark on the innovations and extra biblical teachings of their denominations.



## Criteria for DISCERNING Biblical Truth

*“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another”* (Pro 27:17)...

God gave us many pointers in his Holy Book how to discern our spiritual leaders and their teachings by testing them against the criteria of the doctrines of the **biblical Truths**:

- 1) **Sola Scriptura - BIBLICAL**: Is it documented explicitly *IN* the Bible? Are there a consensus of passages and a support of themes? In line with: *“The prophet that has a dream, let him/her tell a dream; and he/she that has my word, **let him/her speak my word faithfully**. What is the chaff to the wheat? Says the Lord”* (Jer 23:28)...
- 2) **Soteriology - Marginally BIBLICAL**: Is it biblically based or is it a conjecture, personal opinion and judgment call on the part of the claimer? We have a good example in Paul’s many statements in this regard: *“To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord)... I say this as a concession, not as a command... Now concerning virgins **I have no command of the Lord, but I give an opinion as one who by the mercy of the Lord is trustworthy**”* (1Cor 7:6, 25). If it is so, then that same Paul qualifies his statements: *“**In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool**... I, who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: **I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief**”* (1Cor 7:6, 12; 2Cor 11:17; 1Tim 1:13).
- 3) **Divination/Mysticism - UNBIBLICAL**: teachings and mandates foreign to the teachings of the Bible. Manmade teachings contrary to the doctrines outlined in the Bible, or doctrines and practices distilled and borrowed from the apocryphal narratives and traditions, or teachings camouflaged under *“progressive revelations”*: *“I have heard what the prophets have said, who prophesy lies in my name, saying: “I had a **dream**, I had a **dream**... **Don't let your prophets who are in the midst of you, and your diviners deceive you; neither listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed”**”* (Jer 23:25; 29:8)...
- 4) **Syncretism - (EXTRA BIBLICAL)**: completely unrelated in shape and form to any teachings in the Bible. They are no more than other religions and cults teachings, edited and mandated under the *“Social Gospel”* camouflaged with the Eastern Mysticism philosophies and teachings. The Unitarians consider themselves to be Christian but reject both Jesus as God and Jesus as the only means to God and regard Jesus as a good teacher but nothing more. No wonder Shirley Maclean said: *“Jesus is no more than a great guru”*: *“And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth... (The so-called Christian denominations) turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god”* (Jdg 3:7, 8:33).

So, where is the Holy Spirit in these 32,990 or 42,990 so-called Christian denominations? I am sure it is not God or his Holy Spirit because Paul said: *“Do not quench the Spirit; **do not despise prophetic utterances but test them all**; hold on to what is good, **reject every kind of evil**”* (1The 5:19-22). Since *“**God is not the author of confusion**... and he: “Can do all things and **that no purpose of his can be thwarted**”* (1Cor 14:33; Job 42:2), then, where did all the divisions in his intended *“one Church”* come from?

The answer is found within these motives and personal agendas warned against often in the Bible: *“their own appetites... their natural instincts... their own lust... their mere manmade dispensations, inventions and additions... their blindness... attributing other gods’ teachings to God...their disillusioned dreams and visions... in addition to their own manipulated translations and interpretations, especially in the English language (+/- 49 Major translated versions; all claiming to be the mirrored Hebrew and Greek original texts)... and **their rhetoric that Christianity has to be socially progressive and worldly relevant**”* etc.:

- Because: *“Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ **even from envy and strife**, but some also from **good will**”* (Phi 1:15)... based on: *“The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart”* (Luk 6:45)...
- Because: *“There is a generation that is **pure in their own eyes**, and yet is **not washed from their filthiness**”* (Prov 30:12)...
- Because: *“For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after **their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears**; and **they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables**. But watch you in all things, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of your ministry**”* (2Tim 4:3-5)...

- Because: *“I know your works, and your labor, and your patience, and how you cannot bear them which are evil: and you have tried them which say **they are apostles, and are not, and have found them liars**”* (Rev 2:2).

To have a better picture of the subject matter, I believe it is imperative to expound on 1) the origin of “*Evil*”, and 2) on why God does not stop the “*abominations, disarray, ungodliness and degeneration in his church*”?

### 1) “Evil”?

*“God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself does not tempt anyone”* (Jam 1:13)...

*“I form the light, and create darkness:*

*I make peace, and create evil (sorrow, calamity, disaster, illness);  
I the Lord do all these things”* (Isa 45:7)...

*“The Lord Almighty has sworn:*

*“Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will happen”* (Isa 14:24)...

*“This is how you talk, but you do all the evil you can”* (Jer 3:5). I can understand when atheists, skeptics and non Christians who do not even believe in the existence of God accuse God of creating “*evil*” citing the above mistranslated and misconstrued passage of Isaiah as well as: *“Shall there be evil (calamity/catastrophe) in a city, and the Lord has not done it?... When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other... Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other”* (Amos 3:6; Eccl 7:14; Gen 11:7), but what I do not understand how leaders of the different so-called Christian denominations can, not only misconstrue the passages, but dare to implement it in misleading the flocks, cementing the idea that God is evil thus providing these leaders and the non-believers with a lethal weapon to help destroy the Church of Jesus. It is unprecedented in history the number of apostates rushing to embrace atheism or deism nowadays because of the claims and counterclaims of the 32,990 or 42,990 so-called Christian denominations.

When we read the pertinent chapters of Isaiah, Amos and Ecclesiastics, they describes the antithesis and the contrasting of the dual nature of things in our life, such as: man proposes and God disposes, day and night, love and hate, man and woman, hope and despair, life and death, earthly and heavenly, small and big, righteous and unrighteous, etc. predicated on these passages in Genesis: God grew “...Every tree that is pleasant to the sight... The tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil... But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die... For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Gen 2:9, 17; 3:5)...

One of the two titles of this study: “*Is Christian Clergy a Necessary EVIL?*” and I believe it embodies that understanding of evil, because if a certain percentage is evil, still we have the remainder who are saintly and good. When we say: “*Money is the root of all evils: poverty is the fruit of all goodness*”, we know this is not totally true because all we are saying is confirming the inseparable existence of both, where when one exists, the other is absent. When we review the seven deadly sins, we realize that money is not totally the root of evil but it represents a factor of cause and effect in some.

Did God create “*evil*”? In a sense: Yes, he did as a part of the antithesis of twin in the creation process but not as a part of our lives: “*Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them... created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness... You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made him to have dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet”* (Gen 1:26-27; Eph 4:24; Psa 8:5-6) and that: “*God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes*” (Eccl 7:29). Based on (Gen 2:9, 17; 3:5) above, we were warned ahead of time and we were given the full freedom to shy away from the knowledge of “*good*” and “*evil*”, but the god Adam and the goddess Eve dared to disobey like Lucifer and his demons and our eyes became wide open to fall in love with “*evil*”, which was then added to our lives: “*The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil”* (Gen 3:22). The distilled wisdom: “*In this meaningless life of mine; I have*

seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, **and the wicked living long in their wickedness**" (Ecl 7:15).

True believers know that whatever God has created, he labeled "good... very good" (Gen chpt 1)... and that "His eyes are too pure to approve evil, and he cannot look on wickedness with favor: wherefore look you upon them that deal treacherously, and hold your tongue when the wicked devours the man that is more righteous than he?" (Hab 1:13)... "His work is perfect, for all his ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is he" (Deut. 32:4).

To sum it up, "**When your eye is evil, your body also is full of darkness... And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil**" (Luk 11:34; John 3:19)... and because of Adam's fall, God declared, "See, I have set before you this day **life and good, and death and evil**. In that I command you this day to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, **that you may live and multiply**: and the Lord your God shall bless you..." (Deut 30:15-16)... And because, "A good tree cannot bring forth **evil** fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Matt 7:18)... didn't Jesus say? "A good man/woman out of the **good treasure** of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man/woman out of the **evil treasure** brings forth evil things" (Matt 12:35)... "All these evil things come **from within**, and defile the man/woman" (Mar 7:23)... So let us earnestly pray, "**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**" (Luk 11:4)...

Remember that:

**"The Lord has made all things for himself:  
Yea, even the wicked for the day of evil"** (Prov 16:4)...

## 2) The Abominations \* Disarray \* Ungodliness and Degeneration In God's CHURCH?

The best illustration I can give for the despicable status of the outer appearance of the 32,990 or 42,990 Christian denominations is gleaned from what we read in the Gospel of John: "The devil had already prompted Judas (symbolic of 95% of the leaders and founders of the so-called Christian denominations), the son of Simon Iscariot, **to betray Jesus**" (13:2). That Judas, who lived with Jesus, day and night for three full years, was seemingly following publicly, with no commotion whatsoever, contrary to Peter as well as John and James, sons of Zebedee, what Jesus was advocating and teaching. Yet, **behind closed doors** (inside denominations' boardrooms, churches, temples, sanctuaries), he concocted and conspired with Jesus' arch enemies, the **feuding** Pharisees and Sadducees, united together (the integration of the teachings and beliefs of other religions of the world and the inventing of new more modern relevant Jesus), to kill Jesus and his "way".

Peter denied Jesus three times while the rest of the apostles and disciples, except John, fled and may be some joined the crowds shouting: "Crucify him... Crucify him" (Mar 15:13; Luk 23:21; John 19:15) (which leaders of 39,990/42,990 today shout from their pulpit). Confused and disappointed recalling their dialog with Jesus: "We have left everything and followed you" (Mar 10:28), in spite of his assurance he will not leave them nor forsake them. They hid themselves for three days, like "Elizabeth who hid herself for five/six months" (Luk 1:24), which seemed to them like eternity, afraid to be apprehended and executed (like many denominations that meet in secret): "Behold, the hour comes, yea, is now come, that you shall be scattered, every man/woman to his/her own, and shall leave me alone" (John 16:32) (as many clergy & believers do deserting their first love: Jesus).

Judas betrayed and delivered Jesus and Saul/Paul executed his followers. Judas committed suicide, emulated by the followers of Marshall Applegate of "Heaven's Gate" and the followers of Jim Jones, while Saul/Paul received mercy and was converted to become the greatest teacher and evangelizer of the one and only true Gospel of Christianity.

On the outside (like the majority of the followers of so-called Christian denominations), Judas was not different from the other apostles and disciples (denomination vs. denomination), where Jesus allowed him to participate eating from the bread and drinking from the cup, and even called him: "Friend" (Matt 26:50), but on the inside, only God and Jesus knew the truth about him. The question worth asking is, being a follower of one denomination or another, how many of us (clergy and believers alike) are Judas and how many of us are Paul, Peter, John and James?

With 32,990 or 42,990 so-called Christian denominations, it seems that Jesus is being delivered daily for slaughter by the 95% followers of Judas, who look like Christians. The ungodly characteristics of the teachings of the great many denominations make us wonder why God did



not send yet his judgment on these charlatan clergy, who “*hardened their hearts and minds*” like Pharaoh and who think they can escape judgment (Exo 8:15).

Why God does not expose them and render to them what he did to Uzza? “*Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset it. The anger of the Lord burned against Uzza, so he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. Then David became angry because of the Lord’s outburst against Uzza*” (1Chr 13:10-11). Or what he did to Nadab and Abihu, sons of Aaron, for offering unauthorized fire before the Lord: “*So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord*” (Lev 10:2)... Or this one: “*On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted: “This is the voice of a god, not of a man” Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died*” (Act 12:21-23)...

Or like many leaders of great many denominations who lie in the name of the Holy Spirit, Peter said: “*Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?... What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God. When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died*” (Act 5:3-5).

However, the answer may be found in: “*How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out... The Lord works out everything to its proper end; even the wicked for a day of disaster... I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it... He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end*” (Rom 11:33; Prov 16:4; Eccl 8:17, 3:11).

“*Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons/daughters of men among them are given fully to do evil. Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear him openly. But it will not be well for the evil man/woman and he/she will not lengthen his/her days like a shadow, because he/she does not fear God*” (Eccl 8:11-13).

“*When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice: “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer*” (Rev 6:9-11). Isaiah wrote: “*You will see those arrogant people no more, people whose speech is obscure, whose language is strange and incomprehensible*” (Isa 33:19).

When will it be? Peter sheds some light: “*With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day... Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation*” (2Pet 3:8, 15) whereas Jesus warns: “*Truly I say to you: “I do not know you. Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes*” (Matt 25:12-13). Like in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, God sends his real prophets and elects to warn and warn until the time comes in his sole discretion:

“*Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because he has fixed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom he has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead*” (Act 17:30-31)...

These questions are better answered with: “*I have not come to condemn the world, but to save it... Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more*” (John 3:17; 8:11), and with what happened in the past where God waited about 7,000 years to send his only Begotten Son to redeem the fallen humanity; he will also redeem his true disciples, be it clergy or believers, at the second coming of his Christ: “*Hope in the Lord and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it... I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord*” (Psa 37:34; 27:13-14).

## An Overview of the Supersonic Disintegration

It seems to me that the schisms and divisions are mainly the results of the deist and agnostic mentality that opposes this calling: “*Unto **the church of God** which is at Corinth (and everywhere else), to them that are **sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place** (every mountain, valley, river, sea, village, town, city, country and continent all over the world) **call upon the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours**” (1Cor 1:2):*

- 1) “***The Lord sees us not; the Lord has forsaken the earth***” (Eze 8:12) and,
- 2) Integrating Eastern, Western or Protestant chameleon philosophy as aspects of Christianity be it locally, regionally or globally,
- 3) Many divisions came about because the leaders at the helm diverged about the scriptures’ interpretations, fought and disagreed about how to lead and/or mislead their congregations, or how to implement their personal agendas, or finally how to divide the spoils collected from the blinded believers; and they seceded and splintered under new name with fancy prefixes and suffixes,
- 4) The capricious distortion and multiplication of doctrinal errors; although deep down, we recognize that we are all sinners, yet because of pride and the mentality of: “*Don’t come near me, I am holier than thou*” (Isa 65:5), and in spite of us looking good on the outside, we are rotten in the inside like tombs, still dead in our trespasses: “*For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness*” (Matt 23:27-28); we pretend piety and righteousness in our distorted denomination while we failed to even live according to the will of God in Jesus Christ,
- 5) The founded and unfounded claims and counterclaims of denominations,
- 6) Because of the countless purposed and/or manipulated, distorted and bad translations. In this regard Peter sheds some light: “*His letters (referring to Paul) contain some things that **are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction***” (2Pet 3:16),
- 7) Often because of the number of Bible Books each denomination recognizes (73/ 66).

I dare you to tell a preacher or follower from any denomination, especially the cultic ones, who you meet or knock on your door trying to make you join their denomination: “*Your so-called Christian denomination has nothing to do with the real Christianity*”, and you may recall the narratives of this scenario or similar verses: “*Why do your disciples **break the tradition of the elders**? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread*”. And he answered and said to them: “***WHY DO YOU YOURSELVES TRANSGRESS THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION?*** For God said: “Honor your father and mother”, and: “He/she who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death. But you say: “Whoever says to his/her father or mother: “Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God”; he/she is not to honor his father or his mother. And ***BY THIS YOU INVALIDATED THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR TRADITION.*** You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: “These people worship me in vain; ***their teachings are merely human rules***”. Jesus called the crowd to him and said: “***Listen and understand.*** What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth that is what defiles them”. Then the disciples came and said to him: “***Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?***” But he answered and said: “Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. “Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. ***And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit***” (Matt 15:2-14).

As I said in this study, Jesus never asked us to be doormats while standing for his truth even in persecution as many a time, because of our incertitude and lack of the knowledge of God’s wisdom and teachings, we misinterpret passages such as these few: “*Why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat...Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister ...Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day...Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in*

order to bring praise to God” (Rom 14:10, 13; Col 2:16; Rom 15:7). To clap, one needs two hands. These and other similar passages are one hand.

The other hand is the twin of the antithesis: “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, **so that I may win more**. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak... My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him/her back, let him/her know that he/she who turns a sinner from the error of his/her way will save his/her soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins...in the hope that one may somehow arouse his neighbor, be it brother or sister, **to envy and save some of them**” (1Cor 9:20-22; Jam 5:19-20; paraphrased Rom 11:14).

I heard repeatedly this passage of Paul being used and abused by clergy and believers and brandished by truly Bible abiding steadfast folks in all the truths of Jesus Christ as well as by the counterfeit and the misled. This passage is an overreaching on both sides of the aisle, it represents a slippery slope claim set with two-edged sword: “For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; **but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts” coupled with these pretentious claims: “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless indeed you fail the test? **But I trust that you will realize that we ourselves do not fail the test**” (1The 2:3-4; 2Cor 13:5-6).

One of the reasons of Christian disintegration is caused by the multiplication of doctrinal errors, where a clergy/believer from certain denomination tried to correct another clergy/believer from another or rival denomination. To determine if we are faithful stewards, servants of Jesus Christ: “I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave **so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified**” (1Cor 9:27), we should examine our heart and scrutinize our own denomination’s tenets comparing them with the absolute truths of Jesus Christ before correcting another believer; otherwise, we are no more than a blind guiding the blind, “If a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit” (Luk 6:39).

Are you intimidated or hesitant to tell any of these leaders and followers that they are in error and not Christians, because you are afraid to offend them? Are you afraid to face him/her in a meek Christian way because you lack knowledge of the scriptures? “Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned” (Tit 3:10-11). **Have courage and remember what God said above and here:** “What have I here, says the Lord, that my people is taken away for naught? Those who rule (the Clergy) over you howl, and **my name is continually blasphemed all day long**. Therefore my people (not the rebellious clergy) shall know my name; **THEREFORE IN THAT DAY I AM (GOD) THE ONE WHO IS SPEAKING: “HERE I AM”** (Isa 52:5-6).

Having mega churches with hundreds and thousands of people attending filling the pews and rows of cathedrals, basilicas, halls, theaters and sport arenas is not an indication of being approved of God as the one and only church: “Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven” (Luk 10:20) and “(Even him the wicked), whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders. And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2The 2:9-12).

Biblically and righteously based “Diversity” in “the simplicity and godliness of Christ” is healthy and welcomed, but disunity, blunders and preaching another Jesus, another Spirit and another Gospel are Satanism and cultism: “Your first father has sinned, and your teachers have transgressed against me...There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (Isa 43:27; 2Pet



Why is it so difficult to achieve Christian unity? Why no healing or reunification is taking place among these warring factions? Can all the prodigal so-called Christian denominations with their shameful divisions who refuse to heed God's reproach, come together? *"How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and **fools hate knowledge**? Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; **I will make my words known to you**"* (Pro 1:22-23), and repeat with Job: *"Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know"*. Can they achieve unity by uttering what Job uttered? *"Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes"* (Job 42:3, 6), or boast of: *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and **a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith**"* (Act 6:7).

For the Catholic and Orthodox churches as well as many semis associated protestant denominations: Jesus is officially the one and only savior, but he comes unofficially and practically with an entourage of Virgin Mary, the saints and elaborate hierarchy and rituals. For the reformation and restoration Protestants of: *"Sola Scriptura"*, Jesus is officially the one and only savior, but unofficially and practically that *"Sola Scriptura"* is distorted to the extent that many of Jesus' teachings are unfulfilled or even ignored under the banner and pretense that for Christianity to be universal it should be relevant, all encompassing and effective, such as allowing divorce and remarriage, ordaining females and homosexuals to the priesthood, imposing the giving of the abolished *"ten"* percent, speaking in tongues as a prerequisite to being true Christian, etc., manipulating the translated texts inventing the *"Social Gospel"* to allow *"dating"*, *"premarital sex"*, *"anal sex"*, *"masturbations"* before marriage, *ménage a trois*, as well as the *"Christian Yoga concept"*, and the list has a beginning but no end. You may read in details on this site the study about *"Sex is Good"* to ascertain of the blunders of those so-called Christian sexplorists clergy.

To ascertain of these assertions, you may check also the dozen a dime web sites of mega and small so-called Christian churches advertising and advocating such liberties. Just type *"Sex in Christ"* in any browser and you will be amazed and shocked: *"Has a nation changed gods when they were not gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, and shudder, be very desolate", declares the Lord: "For my people have committed two evils: "They have forsaken me, **the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water**"* in contrast to: *"Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life"* (Jer 2:11-13; John 4:14).

The rest of the Christian denominations oscillate between being Unitarian, Monophysite, miaphysite, followers of Jehovah Witnesses, Seven Day Adventists, Mormons together with the thousands of cults and heresies. If one searches *"Christian Denominations' Belief"* on the Internet, one will be appalled by how many of them consider themselves Christians when their core belief is far away from Jesus but use Jesus as crutches to gain proselytes.

### A Sample of so-called Christian Denomination

*"They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices"* (Eze 6:9)...

One such belief of the 32,990 or 42,990 denominations is that of the Mormons whose religion is a potpourri compilation from Judaism, Christianity, Islam and God only knows what else, starting with their unbiblical declaration: *"God himself was once as we are now, and is **an exalted man**, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens. We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. **I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see**"* (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345), thus Joseph Smith was the pioneer of God and humans evolving from apes (about 20 years before Charles Darwin *"Origin of Species"*); and: *"Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; **each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones**"* (Articles of Faith by James Talmage, p. 38). (Bolding is mine).

All Heavenly Religion believes that God always existed as a Spirit, but if, according to Mormons, that Jesus had truly a tangible body of *"flesh and bones"* like us, one should conclude that he did not need to be **incarnated** and **be born**. This is no more than a concocted and

distorted notion taken from the teachings of the Noble Qur'an that claims that Issa (supposedly Jesus) was “**created**” like Adam.

When one reads Joseph Smith biography and that of Prophet Muhammad, the similarities are astoundingly staggering being short of a carbon copy. The Book of Mormons transcends many of the belief of Muslims about Jesus Christ, making the Prophet Joseph Smith superior to him by portraying Jesus as the archangel Michael. The Noble Qur'an allows Muslims up to four wives, yet Joseph Smith allowed his male followers as many as they can get, a “*harem*” from one to infinity, including allowing one person to marry simultaneously a woman and her daughter, practically promoting incest.

After about 176 years, in November 2014, the Mormon Church broadcasted: “*The Mormon leaders have acknowledged for the first time, for the sake of transparency, that the church's founder and prophet, Joseph Smith, portrayed in church materials as a loyal partner to his loving spouse Emma, took as many as 40 wives, some already married and one only 14 years old*” (Mormons' website).

Prophet Muhammad married 9 wives including one already married (the wife of Zaid, his adopted son) and Aisha who was 9 years old.

What will be the next disclosure from the Mormon Leaders about their founder? Will it be that Joseph Smith had hundreds of concubines and slaves as bed partners? Was Joseph Smith another Solomon? Once again, we see the similarity between Prophet Muhammad and Prophet Joseph Smith, who picked and chose whatever suited him from Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and most probably other religions to write his masterpiece: the “*Book of Mormon*”, the revealed book that God gave him to replace God's Book: the over 5000 years O.T. and the 1800 years N.T., which is the same claim of Prophet Muhammad. At least the Noble Qur'an still recognizes Jews and Christians as the “*People of the Book*”. Mormons have the boldness to call themselves Christians on the expense of all real Christians. What is Christian about them when they eliminated the core of the teachings of the most essential books of Christianity and demoted Jesus Christ? More and more of such distorted teachings and improved dispensations copied from the Qur'an, the Torah, the Tanakh, the Gospels, the Apocryphal Books and other sources.

### Christian Unity & Division

As I said earlier, even Paul had to confront Peter blaming him for misspeaking. Unfortunately, the following scenario applies to 90% of Christian and so-called Christian clergy who changed and continually alter God's plan and purpose for cheap lucre, personal agendas and lust for power and preeminence: “*Jesus said to Peter: “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, **but man's**”* (Matt 16:23).

Unity and reunification of the prodigal Christian denominations based on: “*My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and **united in love**, so that they may have **the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ**”* (Col 2:2). can only be achieved if and when all Christian denominations sincerely and genuinely listens to Jesus through the mouth of Paul: “*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment**... **Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are but slaves, not of our Lord Christ, but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting... Since we have heard that some of our number to whom we gave no instruction have disturbed you with their words, unsettling your souls, it seemed good to us, **having become of one mind**, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul**”* (1Cor 1:10; Rom 16:17-18; Act 15:24-25).

And if we heed and abide in: “*You have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but **because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?** This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son... and if we do, we will hear what Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him: “**If you continue in my word, then you are***

*truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free*” (1John 2:20-22; John 8:31-32).

We miserably and ashamedly failed to win the world for Jesus because we never had the intention to implement his ardent prayer for his one and only unified church: “**His Bride and Pride**”: “*That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them that they may be one even as we are one*” (John 17:21-22). In this context, his word applies to all the denominations: “*Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?*” (Matt 12:25-26).

This is why the two thirds of the world are still not Christians, including but not limited to the claimants to be Christians: “*If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. In whom, the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*” (2Cor 4:3-4).

## PETER & THE PAPACY

**Everything that you will be reading is from the very Book of God as you will ascertain I will not use any outside source.**

Before to delve and tackle this highly controversial dividing topic of Christianity, I would like to expand on a very appropriate subject gleaned from this statement by Jesus, where John reporting in all chapter 10 about the real shepherd for the sheep in contrast to the charlatans as well as the discourse between Jesus and the Jews who accused him of blasphemy, as a proof to those who would like to zealously read between the lines and distort scriptures, mixing proper and figurative. No wonder Jesus taught using parables.

Although Jesus is alluding to deception and destruction among others, Jesus emphatically still said with no ifs ands or buts: “*Verily, verily, I say unto you: “I am the door of the sheep.*

**ALL THAT EVER CAME BEFORE ME ARE THIEVES AND ROBBERS.** *but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man/woman enters in, he/she shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture*” (John 10:7-9).

This is an extremely loaded and explosive statement, as C.S. Lewis said: “*Either Jesus is a lunatic or he is who he says he is*” (“*I am what/who I am*” John 4:26, 13:19; Exo 3:14; Isa 48:12):

1. If that is correct, in any shape and/or form, based on Jesus using three key words: **ALL...EVER...BEFORE**, then all the O.T. prophets and messengers with no exception were **thieves** and **robbers**, then it automatically invalidate all the N.T. statements of Jesus, his apostles and Paul within these lines: “*For God is not a God of confusion... You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about me? ... After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers...How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken... The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath...*” etc., etc., etc. (1Cor 14:33; John 5:39; Luk 2:46-47, 24:25; Act 13:27),

And this compelling account by Luke: “**Many** (probably including charlatans) *have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus (by extension believers), so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught*” (Luk 1:1-4)...

2. “**But the sheep did not hear them**”: Shall we to conclude that no one was saved before Jesus, even with the clear cut requirements of God for atonement? What happened to all the righteous in Abraham’s bosom? Was not John the Baptist’s birth as a forerunner to: “*Bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God*”? (Luk 1:16).



I beg you to join me, being “*co-heirs with Christ*” and “*clothed in Christ in his death and resurrection in baptism*” (Rom 8:17; Gal 3:27), **to the wonderful and rewarding haven of the Bible where Paul and Job shed light** on its contents and contexts:

**Paul:** “*But now has he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. Behold, the days come, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel (through Levite Priesthood) and with the house of Judah (& David) (through JESUS Priesthood)*” (Heb 8:6-8), (more about priesthood under clergy’s part).

**Job:** “*And show you the secrets of wisdom! Sound wisdom has two sides. Know then that God forgets a part of your iniquity. Can you discover the depths of God? Can you discover the limits of the Almighty? They are high as the heavens, what can you do?*” (Job 11:6-8).

Let us see now what the bible asserts about the subject at hand. Apart of Roman Catholics and their offshoot, many Eastern and Western Orthodoxies including Russian and all Protestant denominations including heresies, consider this passage to be of doubtful authenticity, and if proven authentic, it is misinterpreted and misapplied: “*That you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” (Matt 16:18) and “*Feed my sheep*” (John 21:14-18).

All what the verse says that Jesus elevated Peter to be the arch apostle and disciple, head of the group of his apostles and disciples, the first core of his first church; nowhere has it been said that Jesus conferred or bestowed on Peter, besides the questionable preeminence any biblical “*Primacy or infallibility*” per se. Yet that head of the church has confused the premises of “*Law/Grace*” and forgot about the many wrangles between Jesus and the Jews because of the Sabbath, the fasting issue, etc..., even after he received the Holy Spirit.

He taught and did behave inaccurately and was withstood and re-commissioned by Paul (Gal 2:11) to reflect the teachings of Jesus in preaching and instructing accurately and more adequately (Act 18:24-28). That same Peter advised believers to follow Paul’s writings, in according him the preeminence per se, equating what Paul wrote with sacred “*scriptures*” (2Pet 3:16), which is the same Greek word used in all the N.T. (cf Matt 22:42; Mar 15:28; Luk 4:21; John 5:37): “*In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel*” (Rom 2:16), why not according to Peter’s gospel?

- So ***what will Peter be binding and loosening*** in accordance with the narratives of the N.T.? Was this authority given to him only or to all the apostles, the disciples and the clergy? If it was given to him only, this authority ended definitely with his expiration. Let us see what the N.T. intimates us with. This verse gave birth to the papacy concept adopted by the Latin and Catholic Church with an open ended “*binding and loosening*” authority. Was it a coincidence that in few instances, one pope’s ex cathedra “*infallible encyclical*” was completely rescinded or amended by another pope’s ex cathedra “*infallible encyclical*”? Is it also a coincidence that “*infallibility*” through “*progressive revelation*” surfaced only in 1870 AD, causing some churches in Germany to secede and form the “*The Old Catholic Church*”. Was “*infallibility*” necessary to counter the “*Reformation*”? All these questions among other doctrinal differences and divergences remain as fundamental obstacles thus furthering the schizoid alienation.

Jesus and the scripture qualify what is meant exclusively by “*bind and loose*”, which is another short version of: “*For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He/she who believes in him is not judged; he/she who does not believe has been judged already, because he/she has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil*” (John 3:17-19).

“*For John baptized with water (another form of atonement for repentance and remission of sins instead of animal offerings), but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit (complete forgiveness free of charge because of the atonement of Christ)*” (Act 1:5)... The first such statement was exclusively for Peter, after he spoke well about who is Jesus, we read: “*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you (Peter) bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven*” (Matt 16:19), then right after, in verse (22) of the same chapter, after Jesus informed the apostles of his eminent death, Peter rebuked Jesus for saying what he said, and in verse (23), Jesus retorted telling Peter:

**“Get behind me, Satan. You are a stumbling block to me** (and to the flocks he was supposed to lead and feed); *you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns* (his actions warranted also the condemnation by Paul)”. In other words, in the same chapter and setting: **HE WAS PROMOTED AND SUPERPERSONALLY DEMOTED TO THE 2 EXTREMES: HEAVEN** (having the keys) **AND HELL** (being in the image of Satan).

On a side note, since the word “keys” symbolizes the *full power* and *authority* of the owner and holder to “*open*” and “*shut*”; then “*keys*” gave birth to *three main theories* because Jesus used the plural not singular. **First** premise: one key of the “*keys*” is for to “*Bind* and *Loosen*” for the remission of sins, but the rest of the countless keys became incentive to concoct all kinds of doctrines whether from the Bible or not, by many Christian denominations and the claimants to be Christian; the **second** premise: all Christian denominations claim to have the real and only “*keys*” to heaven for all the countless castles, palaces, abodes and mansions promised by Jesus (cf. John 14:2); while the **third** premise: certain denominations claim and use the word “*keys*” to explain the multiplicity of denominations, where God gave each denomination a key but with different combinations. I am sure there are other theories if one decides to search.

Now, the second such statement was for all the apostles and disciples together while Jesus instructed them on the subject of the “*Wandering Sheep, the sin in the church and the counseling of brothers/sisters*” and above all to show “*Mercy*” in granting “**FORGIVENESS**” (cf. Luk 17:3; Matt 18:15), among others; **where we realize that the exclusivity of Peter is totally absent**: “*Truly I say to you: “Whatever you (All apostles, disciples and future clergy) bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven”*, (Matt 18:18), not as blank signed check for all kinds of new doctrines and dispensations, but specifically and only for the “*purpose of the confession of sins*”, as a pre-requisite to belief and baptism: “**If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven**” (John 20:23).

“*In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (being forgiven), unto the praise of his glory. Wherefore I also after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints...*” (Eph 1:13-15).

The above is tied to “*baptism*” based on these biblical passages: “*By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified... And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them: “Receive the Holy Spirit”. “If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained”* (John 7:39, 20:22-23; etc.), which correspond to: “*The spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life... Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Job 33:4; Act 2:38).*

The plain essentials for the above are: “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness... For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (1John 1:9; Rom 10:9) and on: “*I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire... They were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins” (Mar 1:5; Matt 3:6, 11).*

Nowhere in the N.T. or says that “*Binding and Loosening*” for the purpose of confession is an ongoing process for the person who confessed his/her sins and believed in Jesus Christ and received baptism and the Holy Spirit. A gamut of N.T. passages exhorts us to forgive each other repeatedly, starting with the “*Our Father*” and this: “*Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR SINS**” (Heb 10:24-26).*

Let us bear in mind that confession is to God and not to a priest in spite of the “*Binding and Loosening*” harangue. Accordingly, Jesus asking his apostles, disciples and all believers

to live like him in obedience and spread his Good News, the only two delegated authorities in the N.T. are:

1) “**Bind and Loosen**” of sins only to be carried out by his apostles, disciples and future clergy, which Jesus delegated his own authority: “**So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**” (Luk 5:24), is evident in all the instances where Jesus used for example the phrases (Without verbally confessing to ): “*Son/daughter, your sins are forgiven... or ... when he saw his/her or their faith... having forgiven you all trespasses*” (Matt 9:5; Luk 7:48; 1John 2:12; Col 2:13; Act 2:38; etc.)... And not to forget “*the thief on the cross*” (Luk 23:43)... Above all: “**I have not come to condemn the world, but to save it... NEITHER DO I CONDEMN YOU..** Neither do I condemn you: **GO AND SIN NO MORE**” (John 3:17; 8:11), “*For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his loving-kindness toward those who fear him. As far as the East is from the West, so far has he removed our transgressions from us*” (Psa 103:11-12).

2) Jesus delegated the authority to every true Christian (clergy and believers alike) to **a) Live** applying and complying with his Gospel, **b) Preach** his Gospel to the world, and **c) “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain: “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you”** (Matt 17:20), he/she, with and in faith, will perform all kinds of miracles including exorcism and raising the dead with “*prayer and fasting*” (Matt 17:20-21; Act 14:23; Dan 9:3, etc.).

Besides these, no other authority is bestowed or granted by Jesus: “*Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one*” (5:15-16).

In Paul re-commissioning and redressing Peter and Barnabas among others, he showed commanding authority and full scriptural enlightened knowledge, which makes Paul the number one of Christianity after Jesus, validated by the visions and experiences gained on the road to Damascus and the greater commission Jesus placed on his shoulders, as taught directly by Jesus, not hearsay: “*But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ... “According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust”* (Gal 1:11; 1Tim 1:11),

Peter reiterated: “*In all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand*” (2Pet 3:16), as if Paul is speaking in parables like his Master, Jesus. He himself expounds: “*For this, I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles... Seeing that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised, and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas (Peter) and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised*” (2Tim 1:11; Gal 2:7-9)... **Yet some believe that the Pauline writings based on what Peter wrote above represent some of the causes for the many schisms and the discrepancies in the interpretation of the scriptures.**

As I said earlier, Peter was promoted and demoted by Jesus in the same one setting, and in (Gal 2:7-9) above, we see him, beyond any shadow of doubt or ambiguity, in equal footage with James and John as pillars of the church, not the head of the church, in line with Paul’s statement: “**I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles** (plural)” (2Cor 11:5), and also in line with: “*For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me did not prove vain; **BUT I LABORED EVEN MORE THAN ALL OF THEM**, yet not I, but the grace of God with me. Whether then, it was I or they, so we preached and so you believed*” (1Cor 15:9-11).

Peter unintentionally misled the uncircumcised Gentiles because of ignorance not malice. Then, how could he be the rock on which Christ will build his Church for him to lead when he was reduced to preach only **to the circumcised**? After Jesus, 75% of Christ Church was built on the shoulders of Paul and his shuttling companions (Barnabas, Titus, Timothy, Mark, etc.): “*That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost*” (Rom 15:16), and 25% by



Peter and the other apostles and their companions: ***“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God”*** (Rom 1:1). He was **separately** destined to be a pioneer and leader to lead in preaching Gospel to the world; it cannot be clearer than.

Humanly speaking and without questioning the Power of God to raise laborers from stones: *“And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him: “Master, rebuke your disciples”. And he answered and said unto them: “I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, **the stones would immediately cry out**”* (Luk 19:39-40); it does not matter if one believes the papacy is mandated by Jesus for the succession of Peter promulgated by the Roman Catholics, the truth of the matter remains that without Peter, together with Paul and their companions, their shuttling all over and evangelizing, their sufferings and hardships, and finally their executions, Christianity would not have had the exposure and the survivability. After all, even if Peter, Paul and the disciples were to live like Adam 930 years, they are mortal, born with an expiration date; papacy or no papacy, succession of Jesus, Peter, Paul and the other apostles and disciples, was a necessity for: *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field”* (Luke 10:2)... ***“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”*** (Eph 4:12).

I do not see a problem whatsoever with any denomination having an organizational hierarchy, whether the head is called a pope, a patriarch, a bishop, a prophet, an apostle, leader, etc. because Jesus gave his original clergy offices from deacon to elder/presbyter to bishop, etc.: ***“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe; as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that plants anything, neither he that waters; but God that gives the increase”*** (1Cor 3:5-7), but to claim the papacy is biblically mandated for the succession of Peter based on the declaration of Jesus to Peter is unbiblical. I hope those who disagree with me will read and re-read the biblical passages above. On the other hand, even of the claim is plausible; the *“preeminence”, “primacy”, “progressive revelations”, “development of doctrine”* and *“traditions”* should not be an integral part of it; then unity and unification of the God fearing and abiding denominations may see the light at the end of the tunnel in conformity with: ***“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the Corner Stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing*** (in numbers: *“More and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number”* (Act 5:14), and not in doctrines and dispensations) ***into a holy temple (One Church) in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit”*** (Eph 2:19-22).



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## **PART II- THE SO-CALLED “CHRISTIAN CLERGY”**

While my intention is to comply with: *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged”* (Matt 7:1-2), and *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned”* (Luk 6:36-37), and I am not. I will be stating the facts as per God’s words and condemnation, not: *“... laying anything to the charge of God’s (real) elect?”* (Rom 8:33-34), yet armed with: *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect... Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. **Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time.** After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; **they are self-condemned**”* (Matt 24:24; Tit 3:9-11); I found myself, as unqualified as I can be, encouraged by: *“Them that sin rebuke **before all**, that others also may fear...This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith”* ((1Tim 5:20+Tit 1:13), as well as by how Paul withstood Peter (Gal 2:11), and finally guided by: *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, **exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine**”* (2Tim 4:2). That is exactly what I intend to do.

The following haphazard yet factual, heartrending and pertinent passages of Jeremiah speak volume of what the Almighty God accuses his O.T. clergy and by extension his N. T. ones of doing in his name:

***“This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have”*** (Jer 29:8)... ***“My inheritance you made an abomination: “The priests did not say: “Where is the Lord?” And those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal and walked after things that did not profit...An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: “THE PROPHETS PROPHECY FALSELY, AND THE PRIESTS RULE ON THEIR OWN AUTHORITY; AND MY PEOPLE LOVE IT SO. But what will you do at the end of it?” For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the Lord: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered... Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland... If you do not listen, I will weep in secret because of your pride; my eyes will weep bitterly, overflowing with tears, because the Lord’s flock will be taken captive... Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture”, declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending my people: “You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds” declares the Lord... How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds?... My people have been lost sheep; their shepherds have led them astray and caused them to roam on the mountains. They wandered over mountain and hill and forgot their own resting place”*** (Jer 2:7-8; 5:30-31; 10:21; 12:10; 13:17; 23:1-2, 26; 50:6).

Mike Bickle who started IHOP (The International House of Prayer) in 1999, an alleged evangelical charismatic Pentecostal Christian Church in Grandview in the vicinity of Kansas City, Missouri, famous for prophecies that never materialize, is a pertinent and perfect example of: ***“Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have*** (by becoming their follower)” (Jer 29:8)... Mr. Bickle claims he heard an audible voice speaking to him while on a trip in Cairo, Egypt. The voice told him: ***“I am inviting you to raise up a work that will touch the ends of the earth. I have invited many people to do this thing and many people have said yes, but very few have done my will”*** (Source: <http://carm.org/ihop>). He is just one of the thousands so-called Christian heretic leaders who lured disillusioned and double-minded never read the bible people to follow him. He is just one out of the 99% of the founders of the 32,980 or 42,980 so-called Christian denominations, better known as Christian cult and heresy, claim to have had a dream/vision/prophecy/inspiration to start their respective denominations and churches. After one reads their extra biblical teachings and tenets on their website, one will see that IHOP should better stand for “The International House of **Pandemonium**”.

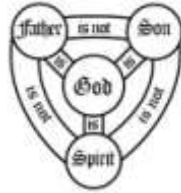
The other side of the coin for clergy and believers alike: ***“All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man/woman rules over another to his/her own hurt, and: “My people (the true believers) are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, that you shall be **NO PRIEST TO ME**: seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children”*** together with: ***“Now therefore, what have I here, says the Lord, that my people (the true believers) is taken away for naught? They that rule over them make them to howl, says the Lord; and my Name continually every day is blasphemed”*** (Ecc1 8:9; Hos 4:6; Isa 52:5).

So I will only use God’s Book to cover all what the Bible prescribed for Christian clergy to be, perform and comply with: ***“That (they) may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom (they should) shine as lights in the world”*** (Phi 2:15), in order to be ***“One, as the Father and the Son are one”*** (John 10:30; 17:20-23), to achieve and win the world for Jesus by being: ***“Many, (yet) are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another”*** (Rom 12:5) in total godly unity: ***“Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”*** (Rom 12:16; 15:5-6), and not in frenzy divisions, shameless schisms and anarchic disarray.

I can't help but to paint this study with discriminating broad brush as a condemnation of the farce and harlotry of Christianity as a whole by the word of God because had we carefully listened and observed Jesus' words, commandments and warnings, lived individually and collectively like him while nourishing the love he gave us on the Cross for him and each other, we would have long ago conquered the world for Jesus.

## Biblical Definitions of PRIESTHOOD

Before to delve in this part of the study, it is imperative to define what is meant by the office of priesthood as outlined by the word of God. The entire Bible gives us a triangle encompassing three dimensions of priesthood parallel to this illustration:



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Although, the triune Father, Son and Holy Spirit form in essence one **GOD**, they are distinguishably different phenomenon from each other. The same can be said about priesthood. There is in essence one **PRIESTHOOD**, yet in three distinct offices:

- 1) **The Priesthood of Jesus after the order of Melchizedek,**
- 2) **A) The O.T. Priesthood of the high priests and priests of Aaronic/Levite order,**  
**B) The entire N.T. order of Christian Clergy,**
- 3) **The Priesthood of Believers.**

The chief purpose of the instituted offices of priesthood is to devoutly and truthfully glorify, exalt and praise God in worshipping him and in serving his followers by:

- 1) Clergy dedicating themselves dutifully to the service of God, and being vested as such, to act and minister in God's name, and to offer prescribed sacrifices at the altar of the Lord: *"To bring you near to himself, to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them... They may serve in my sanctuary, having charge of the gates of the temple and serving in it; they may slaughter the burnt offerings and sacrifices for the people and stand before the people and serve them"* (Num 16:9; Eze 44:11),
- 2) To spread God's ordinances, to proselyte, to set an example in holiness and wholesomeness, to lead the believers, to serve in love and meekness: *"Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; **and he reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen him after he had risen.** And he said to them: **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He/she who has **believed and has been baptized shall be saved;** but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned"** (Mar 16:14-16)...*

Let us read what the Bible says about the three priesthoods:

### 1) The Priesthood of Jesus Christ

***"You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek"*** (Psa 110:4)...

***"Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood** (for under it the people received the law), **what further need would there have been for another Priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron...***

***For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood...***

***A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man"*** (Heb 7:11, 14; 8:2)...

The O.T. is somehow silent about Melchizedek, who is mentioned in Genesis chpt 14 and Psalm 110:4; and while Paul reconfirming Genesis 14, gives us a historical background: *"This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi... To whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a Priest perpetually. Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the*



patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils... But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the **promises**" (Heb 7:2-4, 6).

Paul in Hebrews relates and equates Jesus' priesthood to that of Melchizedek:

*"You are a **Priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek**... Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful **High Priest in the service of God**, to make propitiation for the sins of the people... but **he holds his PRIESTHOOD permanently**, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that **we should have such a High Priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens**. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people... he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption... Since then we have a great **High Priest** who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a **High Priest** who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin... **But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises**" (Heb 5:6; 2:17; 7:24-27; 9:12; 4:14-15; 8:6).*

## 2) O.T. & N.T. Clergy

A) **The O.T. Priesthood of the high priests and priests of Aaronic/Levite order,**

B) **The entire N.T order of Christian clergy**

### A- The (O.T.) Levitical & Aaronic Priesthood

*"God said to Moses: "And you shall put upon Aaron the holy garments, and anoint him, and sanctify him; that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them; and you shall anoint them even as you have anointed their father that they **may minister as priests** to me; and **their anointing will qualify them for a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations**" (Exo 40:13-15)...*

*"Every **priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins**" (Heb 10:11).*

The Levitical Priesthood is named after Levi, the third son of Jacob, who was chastised by his father for his anger (Gen 49:6-7), and whose tribe God has chosen as trusted servants to be his tribe for priesthood (Num 4:1-15; 1Cor 12:1-30). Levi means to "accompany", which translated in them accompanying the Divine Presence as honor guard and serving in the Temples. Their high priest has to be anointed (Lev 4:3-16; Psa 133:1). They were educated and literate individuals communicating God's laws and statutes to the people (Neh 8:1-8): "The Levites shall be for me, says the Lord" (Num 8:14). Aaron and his sons were descendants of Levi and were priests (Exo 28:1; Num 18:1-7): "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him" (num 3:6). The descendants of Aaron would always be priests so every priest was required to prove his descent from Aaron (Gen 46:8, 46:11; Exo 6:17-19). Besides the prayers and the offerings, they lead God's people through dedicated and ritualized services and intercessory works; they perform until today sacrificial and mediatory duties. Their dress (Exo chpt 28; 39) is prescribed by God himself.

*"Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins" (Heb 5:1).*

### B- The (N.T.) Christian Priesthood: Shepherdship/Stewardship

*"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (1Tim 1:12)...*

*"Let a man/woman so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

*Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found **faithful**" (1Cor 4:1-2).*

*"Therefore, holy brethren, **partakers of the heavenly calling**, consider the **Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus**, who was faithful to him who appointed him, as Moses*

also was faithful in his entire house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who has built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by some man; **but he that built all things is God.** And Moses verily was faithful in his entire house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; but Christ as a son over his own house; **whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end**" (Heb 3:1-6).

**All** applicable titles and offices, related to the Judeo-Christian ministries and priesthoods, are first found in Jesus Christ himself, where he is, besides Lord and Savior: the "**Head of the Church**" (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23, 4:15; etc.); the real "**Bread and Wine**" (John 6:56); the "**Apostle and High Priest**" (Heb 3:1; etc); the "**Priest**" (Heb 8:4, etc.); the "**Preacher/Evangelist**" (Matt 4:23; Mar 1:14; Luk 8:1; Rom 16:25); the "**Teacher/Rabbi**" (Matt 23:7-8; etc.); the "**Prophet**" (Matt 11:9; etc.); the "**Shepherd ...the Chief Shepherd**" (1Pet 5:4; etc.); the "**Servant**" (Luk 22:27; etc.); the "**Deacon**" (Rom 15:8; etc.); the "**Miracle Worker**" (all N.T.); the "**Intercessor and Mediator**" (1Tim 2:5; etc.). He came "**to lay down his life for us**" (1John 3:16; etc.), offering to the Father his body on the cross "**ONCE FOR ALL**" for our sins (Heb 7:26, 10:10; etc.). According to his patriarchal genealogy as a descendent of Abraham and David (Rev 22:16), he is the "**Patriarch**" (Matt 1:1; etc.). And the "**bishop**": "**For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls**" (1Pet 2:25), among others.

According to Paul, these are the different offices of the Christian clergy as per Christ's command: "**And he gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ** (the One Church)... **if any man aspires to the office of overseer (Bishop), it is a fine work he desires to do**" (Eph 4:11-12; 1Tim 3:1, 5:19-22; 2Tim 4:5; Tit 1:5)...

The above, together with the *Elders/Presbyters* (called also *Priests/Ministers/pastors*) (1Tim. 5:17; Jam 5:14-15), and the *Deacons* (Acts 6:1-6; 1Cor 12:12-28) are called to "**Fellowship with Christ**" (1Cor 1:9) and to "**Service**" (Heb 6:10; 1Pet 1:12; etc), in "**holiness**" (1The 4:7), in "**virtue**" (2Pet 1:3), in "**peace**" (1Cor 7:15), and in "**liberty**" (Gal. 5:13), so that they "**walk worthy**" of the *calling* (Eph. 4:1; 1The 2:12; Col 1:10).

When we review the three priesthoods of *Christ, Clergy* and *Corps of Believers*, we realize that the N.T., by narrowing the titles/functions to *1) bishop, 2) priest/presbyter/minister/pastor* and *3) deacon* to embody all the titles and functions described in Eph 4:1 here above and to reflect that trinity of Christian priesthood to symbolize the trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in their essence, function and communion in leading God's people to genuinely proclaim Jesus Christ's Lordship being the Lord of Life and Death and the rewarder of those who believe in him to inherit eternal life.

Besides the twelve apostles and Paul, Timothy and Titus were among the first *bishops* of Christianity: "**Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians... Titus, ordained the first bishop of the church of the Cretians**". We see that the apostle Paul calls himself also *Deacon/Servant* in (2Cor 3:6, 6:4, 11:23; Eph 3:7): "**Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops and deacons****" (Phi 1:1).

Matthew tells us that the apostles were also called disciples: "**Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Now the names of the twelve apostles are...**" (Mat 10:1-2). "**Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain **prophets and teachers**; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul** (Paul)" (Act 13:1).

Then man improvised and added the offices of pope, vicar, cardinals, prelates, monsignors, archimandrite and a hierarchy of titles on both sides of the two aisles: Mainstream, Mainline, Protestantism and heretics.

John the Baptist, being of priestly descent through both parents, was the last prophet of the Old Testament, yet he was also the messianic forerunner who ushered Baptism for the forgiveness of sins in the N.T. By being the last prophet/priest of the O.T. and the first prophet/priest of the N.T., he bridged the two Testaments' periods. Jesus, as creator, legislator and Lord, has upheld certain pertinent features from the old priesthood and re-introduced them into his new order of priesthood, such as the number "**Twelve**" (Num 1:4, 44; Ezr 8:24-30; cf Matt 19:28; 26:20) together with the number "**Seventy**" (like in 70 disciples) (Exo 24:1-11; cf Luk 10:1, 17).

In Matt 27:51, we read that when Jesus gave up the ghost, God caused the veil of the doorway of the temple of the Holy of Holies to be torn in two signaling that the Old Testament priesthood and atonement were no longer required and/or needed, because three days later, he gave us the risen Lord of Lords Jesus Christ as our one and only “**High Priest**” forever (Heb 4:14-16; 6:20; 7:21, 24; cf 1Kgs 13:3) the one and only sacrifice acceptable to God: “***But when Christ appeared as a High Priest of the good things to come, he entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through his own blood, he entered the Holy Place “once for all”, having obtained eternal redemption***” (Heb 9:11-12). These are further passages about bishops and priests:

### **Bishops:**

Many bishops who were to comply with the commandments are far off these virtues: “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach... ***For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre***” (1Tim 3:2; Tit 1:7)... “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers (Bishops)**. Be **shepherds** of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood” (Act 20:28-29)...

**Teachers/Apostles/Prophets/Heralds:** “A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher... Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him... for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher... I was appointed a herald and an apostle; I am telling the truth, I am not lying, and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles” (Luk 6:40; John 13:16; 2Tim 1:11; 1Tim 2:7)... “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14).

**Presbyter/Pastors/Preachers/Ministers/Priest:** “Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ” (Eph 3:7-8)... “Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers/servants of the word” (Luk 1:1-2)... “To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God” (Rom 15:16)...

### **3) Priesthood of the Corps of Believers** (The Christlike disciples & Missionaries):

***“You are the salt of the earth;  
You are the light of the world”*** (Matt 5:13)...

***“To him who loves us and released us from our sins by his blood, and he has made us to be a kingdom, **priests to his God and Father** ... Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ**”*** (Rev 1:5-6; 20:6)...

***“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a **spiritual house for a holy priesthood**... But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now **the people of God**, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”*** (1Pet 2:5; 9-10)...

***“**Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body (actions, words, thoughts and dealings)... **whatever you do** (say, think, endeavor), **do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God**”*** (1Cor 6:19-20; 10:31-32)...

***“Truly I say to you (apostles, disciples and believers alike): “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain: “Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting”*** (Matt 17:20-21).

Besides Jesus being the one and only “way”, all the beatitudes of Jesus’ sermon found in Matt chpt 5 are the roadmap Gospel of the priesthood of clergy and more importantly the priesthood of the believers summarized in: “Love God and your neighbor unconditionally”.

Adam was supposed to be the first human priest/shepherd to his descendents, the people of God, but he failed miserably because when there were only few people on earth, his son Cain killed his son Abel. Even after what happened in Paradise, he and Eve did not learn from their fall and their followers are inclined to believe in the Devil’s lies.



During his ministry, besides the apostles, Jesus relied on the disciples to carry many tasks and to preach and heal in his name. Being neither ordained priests nor had an office, they were ready, willing and able missionaries and volunteers with zeal for the works of God and his Kingdom, and served as conduits living for Christ and sharing Christ with the people and the world (Matt 10:1; Mar 3:14-15; 6:7, 13; 16:20; Luk 9:1, 6; 10:1-9; Acts 3:1-16; 4:16, 30; 5:12, 16): ***“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps”*** (1Pet 2:21)... ***“The true worshippers shall worship the Father in SPIRIT and in TRUTH: for the Father seeks such to worship him”*** (John 4:23).

The core message of Jesus Christ, beside redemption: ***“I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance... I am the door... I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”*** (Luk 5:32; John 10:10-11)... is based on ALL his sheep to be priests, missionaries and evangelists: ***“Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life... **God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us . . .”***** (2Cor 3:5-6; 5:19-20).

***“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch”*** (Act 11:26). Paul exhorts us, as children of God and co-heirs with Christ, to be proud of our name: ***“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name”*** (Eph 3:15). To be called a true Christian means you ought to be a disciple of Christ and live Christlike imitating everything Jesus did to win souls and inherit eternal life. In other words, all genuine Christians are priests spreading the good news in their lives, conducts, talents, attitudes, capacities and love: ***“As each one has received a gift, to use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s manifold Grace”*** (1Pet. 4:10).

In the service of God, there is no distinction between an ordained priest, regardless of ranks, and a layman or woman, based on Paul’s declaration: ***“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man/woman to profit withal.... For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise”*** (1Cor 12:4-7; Gal 3:27-29);

However, the punishment is greater for ordained clergy: ***“My brethren, be not many masters (teachers), knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation”*** (Jam 3:1), where it would be ***“more tolerable”*** for Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom than for them (Matt 11:20-24; 10:15; Luk 12:47-48) at the Judgment Day... yet both clergy and believers are judged. These are but few premises of the recommendations and sanctions, on which this **priesthood of the believer** is predicated on:

- 1) ***“For we (all clergy and believers) are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them”*** (Eph 2:10)...
- 2) ***“You shall love the lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind”; “This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor/enemy as yourself”*** (Matt 22:37-39; 5:43)...
- 3) ***“If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died”*** (Rom 14:15)...
- 4) ***“Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak... So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ”*** (1Cor 8:9, 11-12)...
- 5) ***“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted”*** (Tit 1:15)...
- 6) ***“For it was fitting for him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons/daughters to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through***

sufferings. For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified **are all from one Father**; for which reason he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: “I will proclaim your name to my brethren, **in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise**” (Heb 2:10-12)...

- 7) “Truly I tell you: **“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”**” (Matt 25:40)...
- 8) **“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets”**” (Matt 7:12; Luk 6:31)...
- 9) **“Love does no harm to a neighbor**. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law... For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself... If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture: “Love your neighbor as yourself”, **you are doing right**” (Rom 13:10; Gal 5:14; Jam 2:8)...
- 10) “Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with **an undying love**” (Eph 6:24)...
- 11) “To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, **which are written in heaven**, and to God the judge of all, and to **the spirits of just men made perfect**” (Heb 12:23)...
- 12) **“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant**, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matt 20:26-28; Mar 10:43-44). “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, **and the servant of all**” (Mar 9:34).

### Overview of The Christian Clergy

**“For the lips of a PRIEST ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the MESSENGER of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth”** (Mal 2:7).

After this needed introduction, I want to assure the readers that if it were not for genuine Christians and a handful of Christian denominations over the centuries being bible abiding, honest and God-fearing and loving Christians who “freely received and freely gave” (Matt 10:8) by following and still follow closely the teaching of Jesus in spite of their imperfections, there would have been no Christianity today: **“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding”** (Jer 3:15) in line with Jesus’ saying to Peter three times: **“If you love me... Feed my sheep”** (John 21:14-18), assuring us that his one perennial living, loving and serving Church: **“The gates of hell shall not prevail against”** (Matt 16:18).

Christ ushered Christianity, not as a religion but “**New Doctrine**” (Mar 1:27) and a new “**Way**” and as confirmed by Paul: “Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged **to the Way**, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem” (Act 9:1-2), and a personal and intimate relationship between the Creator and the Creature through Christ and Christ alone. No one Christian can boast of any favor and/or deed inventing the real and true Christianity, intended by Jesus. Over the centuries, many Christians invented heresies, practices, doctrines and dogmas and labeled them “*Christianity this*” and “*Christianity that*” and hoisted the banner: “*We are the one and only true church of Jesus Christ and heaven is exclusively through us*”.

There is no account that Paul knew or encounter with Jesus during Jesus’ life on earth, except in the vision on the road to Damascus. It might explain why Paul, from all the narratives of the four Gospels, only alludes to the last supper and the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross as backgrounds to his many teachings. I hope you admit with me, as I stated earlier, that the apostle Paul was one of the greatest Christian men who ever lived? But Paul didn’t have the intention or the power to change even one tiny iota of what Christ had commanded. Notice the proof: **“But I speak this by permission, not of commandment... I give my judgment, as one that has obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful”** (1Cor 7:6, 25), in line with Jesus’ word: **“Teaching them to observe all that I commanded you”** (Matt 28:20).

What can we make of this statement of Paul? **“In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval... When you come together therefore into one place, is this not to eat the Lord’s supper? ...**

**Despise you the church of God? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter . . .**” (1Cor 11:17-22).

Paul is clarifying the gone astray aspects: **“We have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”** (2Cor 4:1-4).

The very dynamics of this study of presumably God’s clergies, the self-proclaimed, the self-serving authoritative presumptuous invasive Christian deists and elitists, whose stories and histories are not better than the Pharisees and Sadducees, described by our Lord as a generation of vipers, full of pride and self-righteousness in parallel to what John the Baptist told them: **“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them: “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”** (Matt 3:7; 9:11; Luk 7:39; 18:11-12) and who befittingly personify: **“Then said he unto me: “... have you seen what the ancients of the house of Israel (and the ancient and present Christian Churches) do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?” for they say: “The Lord sees us not; the Lord has forsaken the earth... The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil”** (Eze 8:12; Zeph 1:12), and left it to them to manage, manipulate and improvise, instead of: **“and: “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men... But Peter and John answered and said unto them: “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge you?”** (Act 4:19+ Act 5:29).

Christian clergy have crowned themselves gods, yet Job questions them and us: **“Shall mortal man/woman be more just than God? Shall a man/woman be more pure than his Maker?”** (Job 4:17), and because of that, we have no excuse (Rom 1:20; 1Tim 5:14) and our guilt is greater: **“For the time that judgment must begin at the house of God (Christian clergy and those claiming to be Christians): and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”** (1Pet 4:17), and who are responsible for about 32,980 or 42,980 continually metastasizing, disintegrating, differing and warring Christian sects, whose practices, claims and counter-claims resulted in: **“Many were and are offended, where Christians betraying one another and the world as well as hating and persecuting one another and the world because many false prophets had risen, and already deceived many, even the elect”** (Paraphrased Matt 24:10-11, 24).

### **The Cause and the Effect**

When reviewing the tenets of Christian sects in the world, we deductively find a combination of three main culprits causing the many schisms perpetrated by Christian clergies over the centuries. Instead of: **“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever... and Jesus: “must increase and (WE) must decrease”** (Heb 13:8; John 3:30), his so-called shepherds have changed who Jesus is, to the extent he is nowhere to be found, in spite of Paul’s warning in the ensuing verse #9 **“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines”**. They can be summarized loosely within the following dynamics:

- 1) Preeminence/Powers,
- 2) Eloquence/Argumentation/Persuasion skills, and
- 3) Deified Idols /Sanctified Humans.

#### **1) Preeminence/Powers**

**“He is the head of the body, the Church:  
who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;**

**THAT IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE THE PREEMINENCE”** (Col 1:18)...

It is more about the chair/seat of power and less about doctrines and dogmas. Catholics, with the slogan of our **“Mother the Church”**, claim the primacy, papal infallibility, preeminence, honor, jurisdiction, universality and authority of the pope over all who call themselves Christians. They emphasize traditions and word of mouth: **“So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us”** (2The 2:15). Patriarchs of Eastern, Western and Russian Orthodoxies, although autonomous, with their slogan of the **“Church Fathers”**, agree to disagree on leading their sheep and reconciling



with Catholics and each other. All branches of Protestantism and their offshoots, hoisting the banner of the slogan: “*Sola Scriptura*”... All the three categories brandish this lethal weapon against each other: God created us and broke the mold so: “*Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am holier than you*” (Isa 65:5).

Catholics and Orthodox regard Protestant sects as heretics and abhor their octopus denominations and teachings, while Protestants like a two-edged sword consider Catholics and Orthodox with their elaborate ceremonies, endless hierarchies, Mariology, Mariolatry and hyperdulia of saints, incorporated pagan rituals and traditions as heretics and cultists. That leaves us with the “*Pick and Choose*”. The Catholic Greek Melkite Eastern Church and the Protestant denominations, such as the Lutherans, Episcopalians, Anglicans, etc. stride the two banks of the conflicting doctrines, dogmas and rituals of the Catholics and/or the Orthodox and/or the Protestants.

This is what Jesus said about the seat and the seeking of honors: “***The scribes and the Pharisees*** (By extension many of the Christian Clergy on Jesus’ seat) ***have seated themselves in the chair of Moses*** (and Jesus, even God the Father); ***therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them. They tie up heavy burdens (guilt trips) and lay them on men/women’s shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger***” (Matt 23:2-4), as well as his explanation about “*When you are bidden of any man to a wedding (or any occasion), sit not down in the highest room...*” (Luk 14:7-9, 20:46; Prov 25:6-7; Matt 23:6; Mar 12:38-39, etc.).

I believe Christian unity can be closer to be achieved if we eliminate the warring over power and authority, which is usually a problematic pre-condition to any negotiation, rapprochement and reconciliation. It was and still is a no win situation because Christian denominations have ridden the winds and waves cementing the endless cycle of *East chasing East*. If and when we polarize our efforts eliminating the seat of power, we might see a *North seat* (God) having one *South seat* (One unified Church/One Body of Believers) alliances and harmony for a biblical unity: “***By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles*** (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant), ***whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit***” (1Cor 12:13).

“*When you see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway you say: “There comes a shower”; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say: “There will be heat”; and it comes to pass. (You clergy) hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; how is it that you do not discern this time?”* (Luk 12:54-56)

## 2) Eloquence/Argumentation/Persuasion skills”

“***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart***” (Heb 4:12).

“***Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, or learning***” (Frederick W. Faber), totally in line with Jesus’ statement: “*Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart*” (Matt 11:29) and “*Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth*” (Num 12:3), to that I would like to add that eloquence was and is and always will be the primary cause of deception because its other name is “*brainwashing*”; and because “*Eloquence, at its highest pitch, leaves little room for reason or reflection, but addresses itself entirely to the desires and affections, captivating the willing hearers, and subduing their understanding*” (David Hume)... “*The only difference between preaching and teaching is how loud you talk*” (Saying). Last but not least: “*In making a speech one must study three points: first, the means of producing persuasion; second, the language; third the proper arrangement of the various parts of the speech*” (Aristotle).

The many schisms, and by extension the many religions, seem to prove that the above verse is not exclusively applicable to the word of God only as many have mastered it like their father the devil, who in his encounter with Jesus, quoted him the Scriptures: “***Blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men/women in their deceitful scheming***” (Eph 4:11-16)... “***He takes the wise in their own craftiness***” (1Cor 3:19)... “*For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; but just as we have been*

*approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts”* (1The 2:3-4).

The story of Moses, in Exodus 4:10, gives us a glimpse of the subject matter. Moses said to God: “*I am not eloquent... I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue*”, in other words, I am not a good speaker, I stutter and I am not good in the skills of speech, negotiation, argumentation, debating, persuasion, selling and preaching, so God offered him first to be his mouth: “*I will help you speak and will teach you what to say*” (4:12), and when Moses insisted, God appointed a spokesman for him in the person of his brother Aaron, who “*spoke well*” as in mastering the art of speech, oracles and persuasion: “*You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth*” (4:15). Accordingly, “*He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him*” (4:16). In short, Moses became a conduit of God’s commands and Aaron the deliverer.

We also have the great apostle Paul, who gained a multitude of believers to Christ and helped build Christ Church with the other apostles and disciples, stating: “***Even if I am unskilled in speech***” (2Cor 11:6). While in Isaiah 3:3-4, we read about another instance of eloquence: “*The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator*” in parallel to the narrative of Act 18:24 speaking of the Jew Apollos: “***...an eloquent man*** (well spoken learned man), ***and mighty in the scriptures...***”.

As Apollos, many of our scholar theologians and leaders over the centuries were and are pure deists versed in the scriptures but many took the liberty to manipulate the scriptures subjecting them to serve their purposes and justify their defunct teachings, prying on the ignorance of their respective Christian adherents and followers of the real tenets of their faith.

Anyone who wishes to ascertain of the power of speech, especially destructive and divisive kind, can research, rehearse and review the stories of the founders of the many religions and their metastasizing offshoots; like the masses flocking from Caesar to Brutus’ quarters, the crusades, the inquisition, the Christian persecutions of Christians and non-Christians till today like the slaughtering between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland, the million men and women marching on Washington, the Jim Jones’ Guyana Jonestown Massacre, Marshall Applegate’ heaven’s gate, the World’s largest cult mass suicide, the riots and rallies of Muslims all over the world, and finally the dozen a dime schisms taking place daily in Christendom causing havocs, while brushing aside Jesus and his Apostles’ many warnings not to discriminate and to evangelize with love and mercy, such as “***Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles*** (including Muslims and Heathens), ***nor to the Church of God***” (1Cor 10:32).

The other side of eloquence is evidenced by all the writers of the entire Bible, who were mostly like David whom God: “*Took from the pasture, from tending the sheep, and appointed him ruler and prophet*” (2Sam 7:8) as well as the apostles Peter and John: “*Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that **they were uneducated and untrained men**, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as **having been with Jesus**” (Act 4:13). At the absence of any of today’s PHD degrees, many of them were illiterates, few of them were versed in scriptures and in speaking other languages than their native tongues, yet when we read what they wrote, regardless of style, we see a common denominator, namely: inspiration; because the real writer is God who dictated to them, and they were the scribes who wrote it as we may glean from these passages:*

- “**The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue** ... How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him “Lord”? ... Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, **spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit**” (2Sam 23:2; Matt 22:43; 2Pet 1:20-21).
- “**All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work... The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but **the things revealed belong to us** and to our children forever... For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (2Tim 3:16-17; Deut 29:29; Rom 15:4).

- **“I will help you speak and will teach you what to say... for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say... But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him/her ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him/her... Do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. “For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you” (Exo 4:12; Luk 12:12; Jam 1:5; Matt 10:19-20).**

### **3) Deified Idols/Sanctified Humans**

**“Exalts him/herself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he/she, as God, sits in the temple of God, showing him/herself that he/she is God”** (2The 2:4)

**“Your attitude must be that of Christ: though he was in the form of GOD, he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of slaves, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate...”** (Phi 2:5-8).

**“For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”** (Gen. 3:5).

**“Says the Lord God: “Because your heart is lifted up, and you have said: “I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet you are a man/woman, and not God, though you set your heart as the heart of God” (Eze 28:2).**

In this regard, we have these instances from the Bible concerning how our **self-deified** perverted hearts and minds work: **“On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. They shouted, “THIS IS THE VOICE OF A GOD, NOT OF A MAN”. Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died” “Moses returned to the Lord, and said: “Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and THEY HAVE MADE A GOD OF GOLD FOR THEMSELVES”... “You cannot serve God and mammon” (Act 12: 21-23; Exo 32:31; Luk 16:13)... The Hebrew word **μαμωνᾶς** *mamōnas* translated “Mammon” means among others: (=confidence in riches, idols of heart treasures and pleasures whether humans, family, worldly objects) which Jesus concluded his parable about the unjust and distrustful steward (many Christian clergy): **“And I say unto you: “Make to yourselves friends of THE MAMMON OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS; that, when you fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations... If therefore you have not been faithful in the UNRIGHTEOUS MAMMON; who will commit to your trust the true riches (God’s people)?”** This word was used in the entire Bible only in four verses: Matt 6:24; Luk 16:9, 11, 13.**

Our actions and reactions can always generate a gamut of heated arguments and mindsets, for some chooses to categorize the nagging questions whether we call them contradictions, inconsistencies, discrepancies as mere challenges, while others use them as basis for criticizing other Christian sects, denominations, faiths and practices or for defending their respective beliefs, claims and religious values. It is a Christian based theme and creed that: **“God took a “Human” form to elevate humans to be “Gods”**.

Paul tells us that we throne ourselves as gods: **“For though there is that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth”** (1Cor 8:5) while Jesus gives us a wakeup call: **“Jesus answered them: “Is it not written in your law, I said: “You are gods?” If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken)”** (John 10:34-35).

After all, the never ending feud raging over the millennia and the process has caused distancing and alienation among the warring groups resulting in wrongly and unscripturally deifying the humans and humanizing the Almighty by presenting him no more than a chaotic and powerless God of Christians, barely existing.

In their constant quest for tangible manifestations and embodiment of their deities, many clergy have elevated themselves to the rank of God, believing Satan’s lies to Eve in the Garden of Eden, which prompted Paul to warn: **“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”** (2Cor 11:3), which already happened by the guile of our religious leaders: **“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is**



*blessed forever*” (Rom 1:25) and who supplanted Jesus’ teachings with their defunct manmade teachings, obscuring if not eliminating and complicating the simplicity that is in Jesus Christ.

“That you be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by *spirit*, nor by *word*, nor by *letter* **as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand**. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**; who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he **as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God**” (2The 2:2-4).

## God, The Father and Jesus’ 1) Warnings & 2) Guidelines 3) Roadmap for Christian Clergy & Believers

“You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am” (John 13:13).

### 1) The Warnings

“Consult God’s instruction and the testimony of warning.

If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn” (Isa 8:20)...

“Hear this, O priests... For the judgment applies to you, for you have been a snare Mizpah and a net spread out on Tabor (in the whole world). **The revolters have gone deep in depravity; but I will chastise all of them**” (Hos 5:1-2)...

“Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble;

Such things must come, **but woe to the person through whom they come**” (Matt 18:7)...

“For such men/women are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (2Cor 11:13-14).

“Many will come preaching another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or another spirit, which you have not received, or another gospel, which you have not accepted... Such wisdom does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, and demonic” (2Cor 11:4; Jam 3:15).

“Son/daughter of man, you dwell in the midst of a rebellious house, which **HAVE EYES TO SEE, AND SEE NOT; THEY HAVE EARS, AND HEAR NOT**; for they are a rebellious house...**Son of man/daughter, eat your bread with quaking, and drink your water with trembling**” (Eze 12:2+18)...

“But the **prophet**, which shall presume to speak a word in my Name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that **prophet** shall die... When a **prophet** speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the **prophet** has spoken it presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him” (Deut 18:20, 22).

“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions” (1Tim 6:3-4).

Let us now together review the data of the full dynamics of what laws, doctrines and guidelines, including caveats, injunctions, admonitions and warnings God the Father and Jesus instituted in the Bible for their intended and purposed **one Church, one Clergy** and **one Congregation** to survive and win the world for them. These are but few warnings, starting with what Jesus and Paul said:

“Grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock” (Act 20:29)... “Knowing he/she that is subverted and sins is being condemned of him/herself” (Tit 3:11)... “O faithless and perverse generation... O full of all subtlety and all mischief, you child of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?” (Matt 17:17; Act 13:10)... “Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake” (Tit 1:11)... “Perverse disputing of men/women of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw yourself” (1Tim 6:5).

## 2) The Guidelines

“**Sacrifice thanks offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High**” (Psa 50:14)...

“**I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one**”  
(Messiah) **always**” (1Sam 2:35)...

“**Having a good conscience... Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience**”  
(1Pet 3:15-16; 1Tim 3:9)...

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...  
For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness...”

**But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;**

**for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy” ... and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity... for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable**” (Eph 1:4; 1The 4:7; 1Pet 1:15-16; 2Tim 1:9; Rom 11:29)...

“**For God is not the author of confusion, but of (unity and holiness) and peace in all the churches of God**” (1Cor 14:33).

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with **my eye upon you**... “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and **many enter through it**. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and **only a few find it**... **And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defiles neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life**” (Psa 32:8; Matt 7:13-14; Rev 21:27)...

“**Not many of you should become teachers**, my brothers; for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body” (Jam 3:1-2).

## 3) The Roadmap

“**A blind man/woman cannot guide a blind man, can he/she? Will they not both fall into a pit?**” (Luk 6:39)...

“Thomas said to him: “Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way?”  
Jesus said to him: “**I AM THE WAY, AND THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE**”.  
No one comes to the Father but through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; from now on you know him, and have seen him” (John 14:5-7)...

“**The highway of the upright avoids evil.**

**Those who guard their ways preserve their lives**” (Pro 16:17)...

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying: “**This is the way; walk in it**”... A highway will be there, a roadway, and **it will be called the Highway of Holiness**. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it... **But the redeemed will walk there**” (Isa 30:21; 35:8-9)...

“**I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus**” (Phi 3:14)...

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.  
He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit” (Tit 3:5)...

“**For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside**” (1Cor 1:18-19)...

“**I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him/her be accursed**” (Gal 1:6-8).

Paul raises a great point in the above verse, where he makes a distinction between **different** and **another** gospel, as if he is drawing our attention that the false clergy will be holding and carrying the real Bible of Jesus Christ while preaching different messages, like the Mormons and the Jehovah’s Witnesses who knock on your door.

## Christian Clergy Gone Astray

**“Watch out that no one deceives you”** (Matt 24:4).

**“Run you to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem (the world), and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth... So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God”. But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds... Because their transgressions are many, their apostasies are numerous”** (Jer 5:1, 5-6)...

**“I am the Lord your God... do not worship other gods... but you have not listened to me”** (Jdg 6:10; 2kgs 17:38).

**“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah said: “Lord, who has believed our report?”** (Rom 10:14-15), what is missing in those being sent in the above passage is: **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings”** (Heb 13:8-9).

**“There is an evil, which I have seen under the sun, as an error, which proceeds from the ruler** (The states, the church, the clergy, the theologians, the scholars, the spiritual leaders and counselors, etc.)” but: **“God will bring about in his own time (the correction): God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords”** (Eccl. 10:5; 1Tim 6:15).

**“But woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men/women: for you neither go in yourselves, neither suffer you them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore you shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he/she is made, you make him/her twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Woe unto you, you blind guides (and Christian Clergy), which say: “Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor”... “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought you to have done and not to leave the other undone: You blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel”... Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess”... “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees (and Christian Clergy), hypocrites! For you are like unto white sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead bones, and of all uncleanness”... Even so you also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity”** (Matt 23:13-38)...

**“He said to them: “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: “This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me; but in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men. Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men... The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught”** (Mar 7:6-8; Isa 29:13).

**“You (Clergy) have said: “It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept his charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the Lord of hosts? So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape... But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron”** (Mal 3:14-15; 1Tim 4:1-2).

**“Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come”** (Isa 41:22).

With this tiny list of biblical passages and many more, above and below, one realizes the unethical behavior of many clergies from all walks of life and ranks as well as denominations



and affiliations who are gods above the one and only God they are supposed to serve and fear. Their hypocritical attitudes of self-righteousness and superior virtue surpassed that of the devil, their father, as highlighted and emphasized by Jesus above: ***“For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God? Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil”*** (1Tim 3:5-6); and wonder with Paul saying: ***“I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel”*** (Gal 1:6).

Unfortunately, many clergy are still babes in dire need of being re-taught and rehabilitated: ***“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God”*** (Heb 5:12), and naively quote this passage of Matthew chpt 5 (The chapter of Beatitudes & the fulfillment of the Law): ***“Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you that: “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven”*** (Matt 5:19-20), to mean **no matter what**, they and their followers will end up in the Kingdom of Heaven (no hell), whether they are called least or great, and for support they cite: ***“In my Father’s house are many mansions”*** (John 14:2). Once again, not all roads lead to heaven, **only Jesus and his teachings are the one and only road**. There is no biblical truth in: **“Almost saved and almost lost”**; only either or.

The ensuing multiple repetitions in this part of: ***“What happened to...?”*** are in line with the spirit of the beatitudes; so what happened to? ***“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all”*** (Jam 2:10)...

What happened to? ***“Give therefore your servant an understanding heart to judge your people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge your so great a people?... and that: “You may know how you ought to behave yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”... and affirming: “I will declare your Name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto you”*** (1Kgs 3:9; 1Tim 3:15; Heb 2:12).

What happened to? ***“Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel (The Church at large), for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem (The “ONE” Church)”*** OR ***“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation”*** (Isa 8:13-14; Rom 15:20).

***“It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin, neither say you before the angel, that it was an error... When a man makes a vow to the Lord or takes an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word but must do everything he said”*** (Eccl 5:5-6; Num 30:2). So what happened to: vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and the oaths of simplicity and service in Christ attending to God’s people: ***“We are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it*** (the same applies to the Christian Clergy)” (Neh 9:38), in which they openly and subliminally pledge: ***“What I have vowed I will make good”*** (Jonah 2:9)...

As a part of the vows, what happened to: ***“But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God”?*** (2Cor 4:2). The pledges of genuine and sincere Christian Clergy and Believers are within these lines: ***“This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. “You have today declared the Lord to be your God, and that you would walk in his ways and keep his statutes, his commandments and his ordinances, and listen to his voice”*** (not the voice of many charlatan clergy). ***“The Lord has today declared you to be (his clergy and) his people, a treasured possession, as he promised you, and that you should keep all his commandments”*** (Deut 26:16-18). Only genuine clergy can report to the Lord like Moses did: ***“The people all responded TOGETHER: “We will do everything the Lord has said”. So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord”*** (Exo 19:8).

What happened to? ***“Forasmuch as you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church*** (not destroying)... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is

right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things” (1Cor 14:12; Phi 4:8).

What happened to the solemn vows, oaths, pledges and promises of so-called Christian clergy to be faithful stewards to give God alone the glory and praise due to him and righteously lead his flocks? How many of Christian clergy can say with David? “From you, comes the theme of my praise **in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows** (total godly submission and unwavering and unconditional compliance coupled with devoted service in righteousness and godliness teaching only the sound biblical doctrines of all the truths of Jesus Christ” (Psa 22:25).

To our chagrin, many have proved to be: “**Immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers... fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, swindler, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching... You who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?**” (1Tim 1:10; 1Cor 6:9-10; Rom 2:21-22),

And by extension, the pedophiles, the sexual offenders, the womanizers, the adulterers, the embezzlers and even the criminals: “For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2Tim 3:6-7), because of the liberties dared by clergy; which corresponds to Paul’s full statement once again: “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. **But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil**” (Heb 5:12-14).

Unfortunately, many, I emphasize many based on “For there are **many called, but few chosen**” (Matt 22:14) and “**Not many of you should become teachers**” (Jam 3:1), because the real godly ones are few these days, who have conformed once again to Paul’s saying: “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; **for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works**” (2Cor 11:13-15), and did not heed Paul’s advice: “**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth**” (2Tim 2:15). How many can be said of them: “**A preacher of righteousness like Noah**”? (2Pet 2:5).

All the order of clergy given by Jesus were “... **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ**” (Eph 4:12), but Christian Clergy has forgotten their “*first love... and the love which they have (at one time) shown toward his name, in having ministered to the saints*” (Rev 2:4; paraphrased Heb 6:10).

Let us review together what the Lord says about those: “**Physicians, who cannot heal themselves**” (Luk 4:23), “**Desiring to be teachers of the law (the theological truths); even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions**” (1Tim 1:7), the seemingly: “Vessels God chose to bear his Name before the world... And...” “*To know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth... in order to:*” “**Show themselves in all respects to be model of good works and in their teaching show integrity, dignity and sound speech**... and are expected to: “Teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean”, and: “**To make a people perfectly ready for the lord**” (Act 9:15; 22:14; Tit 2:7; Eze 44:23; Luk 1:17), starting with this truth:

“**Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people (or do what I want), I would not be a servant of Christ**” (Gal 1:10)...

“Moses said: “This is he (Jesus Christ) that was in the **church** in the wilderness with the angel which spoke to him in the Mount Sinai, and with our fathers: **who received the lively oracles to give unto us**” (Act 7:38).



What can we say of the dozen a dime clergy who are only concerned and occupied 24/7/365 days to enrich themselves using all the biblical tools at their disposal to rob the believers putting them on a one guilt trip after another? Verse 11 of the below passage is one of the most repeated verses in clergy's self-enrichment: "*If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share the right over you, do we not more?*" But they never quote verse 12: "*Nevertheless, **we did not use this right**, but we endure all things so that **we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ***" (1Cor 9:11-12)...

While God says: "***My shepherds did not search for my flock, but fed themselves and did not feed my sheep***" (Eze 34:8), they harangue loudly and thunderously: "*Will a man rob God? ... Why is the house of God neglected? ... Honor the Lord with your substance ... and you shall receive a hundredfold now in this time... Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's... etc., etc. etc.*" (Mal 3:8; Neh 13:11; Pro 3:9; Mar 10:30; Matt 22:21).

What happened to? "*You shall not oppress your neighbor (your fellow humans and the people of God), nor rob them... Let no one deceive you **with empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons/daughters of disobedience. **Therefore do not be partakers with them***" (Lev 19:13; Eph 5:6). What happened to? "***You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God***" (Matt 22:29)... What happened to: "*Is it not written: **My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer**? But you have made it a den of thieves*" (Mar 11:17).

What happened to? "*No one can serve two masters; for either he/she will hate the one and love the other, or he/she will be devoted to one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and mammon***" (Matt 6:24)... because: "***When you are slaves to sin, you are free from the control of righteousness***" (Rom 6:20), and because: "***Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God***" (Jam 4:4).

What happened to? "***Fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and truth**, and put away the gods which you and your fathers served... and serve the Lord. **If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve**: whether the gods (clergy) which you and your fathers served which (are from every denomination). And repeat with Joshua: "***But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord***"... Can Christian clergy and believers join together to answer? "***Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods***" (Paraphrased Josh 24:14-16).*

When we read the Book of Malachi where the *lethal weapon* verse: "***Will a man rob God?***" is found, we realize that while Malachi speaks of all the offering of defiled sacrifices to God (Mal chpt 1), which great many denominations are offering the same in line with: "*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight. The way of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord, but he loves one who pursues righteousness*" (Prov 15:8-9), to which Paul mirrors Malachi statement (Mal chpt 3): "*He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver*** (it does not say a percentage giver)" (2Cor 9:6-7), but it seems that we ignore and thrust aside that he also speaks of **CORRUPT PRIESTS**, all kinds of infidelities in defiling the bed and how easy to be granted divorces (Mal chpt 2), also in line with these verses: "*You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things... Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way... It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law*" (Act 15:29; Matt 19:8). Do these narratives sound familiar themes in our era?

What happened to? "*So when you give to the poor (charities, church), do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **so that they may be honored by men**. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full... **But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing***" (Matt 6:2-3).

The Bible warns clergy not to be: "***GIVEN TO FILTHY LUCRE***" (Tit 1:7; 1Tim 3:3, 8), yet today's clergy are like the sons of Samuel: "*Turned aside **after dishonest gain** and took bribes and perverted justice*" (1Sam 8:3), as well as: "*They are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and **they are shepherds that cannot understand**: they all look to their own way, **every one for his gain***" (Isa 56:11), of whom many cannot consciously say: "*I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing*" (Act 20:33), in line with what Peter exhorted: "*Shepherd the flock of God among you,*



exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; **and not for sordid gain**, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, **but proving to be examples to the flock**” (1Pet 5:2-3)...

“But these men/women **revile the things which they do not understand**; and the things which they know **by instinct**, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and **for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam**, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are the men/women who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, **caring for themselves**; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, **doubly dead, uprooted**” (Jude 1:10-12).

I am fully aware of the following passages and others, but they should not be reasons for cheap lucre and self-enrichment: “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel...Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor... Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account” (1Cor 9:14; Gal 6:6; Phi 4:17).

What happened to: “You were bought with a price; **do not become slaves of men/women** (and clergy)...knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like **silver or gold from your futile way of life** inherited from your forefathers, **but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ**... **All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus**... **it is the (free) gift of God**... “I have preached to you the gospel of God **freely**? ... Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: **Freely** you have received; **freely** give” (1Cor 7:23; 1Pet 1:18-19; Rom 3:24; Eph 2:8; 2Cor 11:7; Matt 10:8).

Why today’s clergy cannot copy Prophet Elisha? “Then went he (Naaman) down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean (symbolism of Baptism: “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb 10:22)). And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him and he said: “Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, **I pray you, take a blessing of your servant**”. **But he said: “As the Lord lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused**” (2Kgs 5:14-16).

I believe these verses of Paul explain it: “It was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in **to spy out our liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, **in order to bring us into bondage**... They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching **for shameful gain** what they ought not to teach” (Gal 2:4; Tit 1:11).

(The above has nothing to do with **voluntary and cheerful** paying and donating, **without coercion and guilt trips**, legitimate and reasonable dues to support the church, the work of God and the needy)

### **Are They Sent By God?**

“**There are ways that seem right to men, but their end is death**” (Pro 14:12)...

“**Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness**” (Jer 12:10)...

“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, **which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into**... **But as he which has called you is holy, so be you holy in all manner of conversation**” (1Pet 1:12+15).

Do you know how many leaders and founders of these different denominations claim to be sent by God? I heard of and read about few, but their stories are all over the Internet and their web sites. I believe many were called and were sent, but: “Long ago they broke off their yoke and tore off their bonds; and said: “**We will not serve the Lord**”... and “You make their tongue ready like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that you triumph in the land. You go from one sin to another; you do not acknowledge me”, declares the Lord” (Paraphrased Jer 2:20, 9:3).

One preacher invited me to join his denomination telling me: “Our church is growing because we are the only church “approved of God”; and he quoted me this verse: “Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord is adding to our **church** daily” (Act 2:47)...I

declined and thanked him, but he showed dismay and contempt and murmured a paraphrased Act 7:51-52: “*You are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears and are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your denomination does. Which one of the prophets did your denomination not persecute? You killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers your denomination have now become*”; immediately I recall what God said by Ezekiel’s mouth: “*Be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with you, and you do dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a **rebellious house**... as well as James: “*Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?*” (Eze 2:6; Jam 2:4)...*

Do not these verses sound familiar? “***So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth? They eagerly seek you, not commendably, but they wish to shut you out so that you will seek them***” (Gal 4:16-17)... “***Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God***” (Rom 10:1-3)... “***You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. And they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them neither to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs***” (Act: 21:20-21).

The following statement of Paul is pregnant with wisdom and discernment: “***The one coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness***. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning ***for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth***. It was for this he called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word” (2The 2:9-17).

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil”*** (Pro 3:5-7).

***“This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve: “The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone”, and: “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed”*** (1Pet. 2:7-8).

I know the Bible says that clergy and believers are to be “obedient”, “holy”, “just”, “righteous”, “faithful” and “pure” as: “The word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you... ***You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it***” (Isa 40:8; 1Pet 1:25; ; Deut 4:2 (cf Matt 5:18; Num 23:19; Psa 119:89; Pro 30:5-6; Rev 22:19). Where does it say in the Bible to be a counterfeit and theologically and politically correct in being: “progressive”, “liberal”, “conservative”, “charismatic”, “revivalist” “renewalist”, “modernist”, “postmodernist”, “innovative”, “evangelical”, “improvising”, “contemplative”, “inventing”, “transformational”, thus distorting, manipulating and introducing the concepts of: “Social Gospel”, “Updated Gospel”, “Prosperity Theology”, “Plurality of Theologies”, “A/Gnosticism” and “Eastern Mysticism”, “New Agers”, “all religions are the same”, in addition to “Christian Atheism”, which denies the existence of God but copycat Jesus’ teachings, as well as “Henotheism”, the worship of one single God, yet mixing monotheism with polytheism, etc. denoting this fact: “***Are they now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Evidently, they are trying to please people. Because they are still trying to please people, they are not servant of Christ***”? (Paraphrased Gal 1:10). Is there any salvation in any of these worldly extra biblical labels? “***Even, as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good: but the good of many, so that they may be saved***” (1Cor 10:33).

What happened to the “*inerrancy of the Bible*” attested to by the Bible itself? Who gave the authority in dream, vision or prophesy to any deist so-called Christian leader or clergy of the +/- 32,980 or 42,980 denominations to claim that the Bible is a historical document that is neither inspired nor authoritative. Did these so-called Christian liberal blaspheming leaders read their Bible? “*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about me; and you are unwilling to come to me so that you may have life*” (John 5:39-40).

Is the Bible inspired or not? The answer to those who call God a liar is from the one and only authoritative Bible: “*Thus says the Lord: “Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book... Go now, write it on a tablet for them; inscribe it on a scroll, that for the days to come it may be an everlasting witness... The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and his word was in my tongue... **ALL SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED BY GOD** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man/woman of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work”* (Jer 30:2; Isa 30:8; 2Sam 23:2; 2Tim 3:16; cf 2Pet 1:20-21; etc.). I guess they did not do their homework or they maybe were reading bad translations.

Jesus said: “*I am the (ONE & ONLY) **WAY**, the (ONE & ONLY) **TRUTH** and the (ONE & ONLY) **LIFE** and the (ONE & ONLY) **HUSBAND** of the (ONE & ONLY) **CHURCH**”, my **BODY** (John 14:6; Eph 5:23). In other words, all the other “ways”, “roads”, “highways”, “byways”, “truths”, “churches, mega churches and denominations” and “strange doctrines” do not lead to Jesus Christ, neither to Rome, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Russia, Germany, France, England, Africa, the Americas, the Middle, Near and Far East, etc. The moment all the 32,980 or 42,980 so-called Christian factions rally under the above and below truths and guidelines, the Christian unity is feasible, plausible and achievable:*

“*To be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit, this is in the bond of peace. There is **ONE BODY** (One Church) **AND ONE SPIRIT**, just as also you were called in **ONE HOPE OF YOUR CALLING; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER** of all who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift” (Eph 4:3-7).*

According to the authoritative Bible, believers are exhorted to: “*Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men/women are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting... Trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them**; or it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret...*” (Rom 16:17-18; Eph 5:10-12).

I venture to say, based on the word of God, that many of the so-called Christian denominations are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life: “*All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast (John is talking at the end of the world but it too applies to the denominations now), all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life... nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life*” (Rev 13:8; 21:27).

Since the concept of “Grace” Christianity is the crowning of the “Law” Judaism, and as Jews like to repeat: “*It is Jewish not to be perfect*”, then do you know which denomination and its followers are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life? God alone knows of all true Bible abiding believers and a handful of Bible conforming Christian churches, in line once again with: “*To walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” (Eph 4:1-3)... **based on**: “*I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man/woman according to his/her ways, according to the results of his/her deeds... And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God... The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*”. **We should pray, fast and ask the Holy Spirit**: “*Lord, you know everyone’s (and every denomination’s) heart. Show us which of these you have chosen (and by extension: which denomination (s) is approved by you, O Lord)*” (Jer 17:10; Rom 8:27; 1Sam 16:7... Act 1:24).



If you really care about Jesus, your salvation and way of life, listen to what Jesus tells us: “**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask** (not just material things but spiritual also) **and you will receive, and your joy will be complete...** I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God”. Furthermore, Jesus assures us in our wandering in the desert and the storms: “**Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid... In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world**” (John 16:24-27; Mar 6:50; John 16:33).

“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope **without wavering, for he who promised is faithful**; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds... **THEREFORE LET US DRAW NEAR WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED**. So: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Heb 10:21-24; 4:16; Matt 7:7-8).

The true believers, the saints according to Paul (Phm 1:5; 2The 1:10; Col 1:12), who had, before they passed away, or those who have now genuine relationship with Jesus Christ obeying and doing his commandments, statutes and doing the Father’s will while abiding in him alone are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life: “**If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth... Then: I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart... Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will be careful to observe my ordinances...** So that: “You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry (the genuinely Christ sent), written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (Col 3:1-2; Jer 24:7; Eze 36:26; 2Cor 3:3).

“The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, **WHICH ARE THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS**. And they sang a new song, saying: “Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals; for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood **MEN/WOMEN FROM EVERY TRIBE AND TONGUE AND PEOPLE AND NATION... LOOK, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD... AND I SAW... THOSE WHO HAD BEEN VICTORIOUS OVER THE BEAST AND ITS IMAGE AND OVER THE NUMBER OF ITS NAME**” (Rev 5:8-9; John 1:29; Rev 15:2).

Finally, the few God fearing and abiding clergy with good conscience motivated by their sincere love for Jesus, their ardent zeal to unreservedly and righteously serve him with all their hearts, minds, souls and strengths: “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord” (Rom 12:11); and to “Feed his sheep” (John 21:17) can identify with this story: “A Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures (similar to Paul). **HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD, AND HE SPOKE WITH GREAT FERVOR AND TAUGHT ABOUT JESUS ACCURATELY**, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and **EXPLAINED TO HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE ADEQUATELY**. When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, **PROVING FROM THE SCRIPTURES that Jesus was the Messiah**” (Act 18:24-28).

### **Believers’ Conundrum, Anguish and Nightmare**

“Do not be afraid, little flock,  
For your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom” (Luk 12:32)...

**“Then what if some (or many believers/Clergy) did not believe?  
Shall their unbelief (unfaithfulness) make the faith (faithfulness) of God without effect?” (Rom 3:3)...**

**“If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself” (2Tim 2:13)...**

*“The disciples said to him: “If this is the situation between a husband and wife (in marriage), it is better not to marry”. Jesus replied: “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. For 1) there are **eunuchs** who were born that way, and 2) there are **eunuchs** who have been made eunuchs by others; and 3) there are those who choose to live like **eunuchs** for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it. Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt 19:10-14)...*

You might say what the above passage has to do with the Christian denominations and clergy? In order to assert the relativity, let us dissect the passage together because Jesus asks every believer to enter into a spiritual and not a fanatical religious relationship with him:

- 1) Christianity is not a religion but a **“Way of Life”** based on a personal, confidential and intimate relationship with the bridegroom of our being, Jesus Christ: *“For I have betrothed you to one husband, to present you a chaste virgin to Christ... He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. **He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease**” (2Cor 11:2; John 3:29-30), as well as: “For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, he himself being the Savior of the body (the Church)” (Eph 5:23)...*

His clergy, like Jesus’ apostles and disciples, operate only on the concepts of the *“cup half empty/half full”* and *“If you are not with us, you are lost headed straight to hell”*, whereas Jesus said: *“Come to me, **ALL** who are weary and heavy-laden, **and I will give you rest.** Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**... Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink... **The Spirit and the bride** say: “Come”. And let the one who hears say: “Come”. And let the one who is thirsty come; **let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost**” (Matt 11:28-29; John 7:37; Rev 22:17)...*

- 2) The intended Christian marital union and intimate relationship are a for-life sacrificial love and devotion in all its aspects and facets: *“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together; let no man separate” (Matt 19:6), **thus divorce is an apostasy and alienation from God, and it represent schisms.** Although Christian clergy are entrusted and needed to preach the gospel to the four corners of the world and to lead *faithfully* God’s flocks, yet I believe a genuine Christian can do more than clergy to win souls for Christ by living Christlike applying the following directives of the Lord himself, starting with the one and only *truth of Christianity*: **“WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED”** (Psalms; Joel 2:32; Rom 10:13; Act 2:21; 1Cor 1:2; etc.), in exact scenario of the thief on the right of Jesus on Calvary, Lazarus the beggar, the centurion, the Canaanite woman, etc.; **Paul meant for his above statement to be taken literally at face and cash value, no ifs ands or buts attached.***

Before you rush and say Jesus said: *“Not everyone who says to me: “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he/she who does (in the Kingdom of God here on earth) the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter. Many (90% of Christian clergy) will say to me on that day: “Lord, Lord”, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them: **“I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS** (immorality, swindling, preaching and teaching another Jesus, Spirit, Gospel, etc.)” (Matt 7:21-23). I am aware of this passage, but it applies to 90% of the Christian Clergy first and foremost and not to the victimized misled believers. The same chapter 7 of Matthew verses 13-14 speak of *“the narrow gate of heaven”* for the Christian clergy (whose punishment is greater Luk 20:47) more than the believers, whereas verses 15-23 speak of *“true and false clergy and disciples”*, and Matthew ends the chapter with this *two-edged sword* statement: **“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law** (and many of the self-serving Christian Clergy: “the blinds leading the blinds” Matt 15:14)” (Matt 7:28-29).*



- 3) “All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses: “**Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die** (contrary to Jesus’ teachings)”. Moses said to the people: “**Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of him may remain with you, so that you may not sin**” (Exo 20:18-20).

That was in the O.T., the N.T. established that direct communication with the Triune God, devoid of mediators (1Tim 2:5), through “obedient Love” and “Intimate Relationship”: “In whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in him... Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God... and such confidence we have through Christ before God” (Eph 3:12; Rom 5:2; 2Cor 3:4, Heb 4:16, 10:19; etc.).

“Then if any man/woman shall say unto you: “Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not”... Wherefore if they shall say unto you: “Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth”; behold: “he is in the secret chambers; believe it not” (Matt 24:23, 26). **With godly clergy or without, if you like it or not, we alone, the believers are responsible for our own salvation:** “For it is written: “**AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD: “EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD. SO THEN EACH ONE OF US WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF/HERSELF TO GOD**” (Rom 14:11-12); “For each one should carry their own load... For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **so that each of us may receive what is due us** for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad... But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead” (Gal 6:5; 2Cor 5:10; 1Pet 4:5)... We cannot hide like our father Adam and claim: “**The woman, the man, the pastor, the priest, the clergy YOU GAVE TO ME whom I followed and obeyed, they made me do it**” (Gen 3:12)...

Some of the anguish and nightmares of the believers are self-inflicted because of ignorance while others are inflicted on them by their clergy. Here below are some points to digest, starting with: “Man/woman shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceeds out of **the mouth of God** (in his Holy Book)” (Matt 4:4):

### **Part I:**

- a. The culpability of the majority of Christians that millions over millions of them never read the Book of God for themselves, and they rely on the “pick and choose” crumbs (whether biblical or unbiblical) the clergy throw at them: “As for you, O my flock, thus says the Lord God: “Behold, I judge between cattle and cattle, between the rams and the he goats. Is it too slight a thing for you that you should feed in the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pastures? Or that you should drink of the clear waters, that you must foul the rest with your feet? **As for my flock, they must eat what you tread down with your feet and drink what you foul with your feet**”. Therefore, thus says the Lord God (to the clergy, the shepherds): “Behold, I, even I, will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep, because you have thrust with side and with shoulder, and pushed all the diseased with your horns, **till you have scattered them abroad. Therefore will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey; and I will judge between cattle and cattle**” (Eze 34:17-22)...
- b. John was prompted to write: “And I wept much, because no man/woman was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon” (Rev 5:4). The Bible is sitting on the shelf collecting dust, while the misled believers rush to buy the books of their so-called Christian leaders and become inebriated of their venoms.
- c. “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort **to confirm your calling and election** (to be Christian) (saved Child of God). For if you do these things, you will **never** stumble” (2Pet 1:10)...because: “Every family (believer) in heaven and on earth **derives its name** from Jesus Christ” (Eph 3:15)...
- d. “So that you incline your ear unto wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yea, if you cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding... Then shall you understand the fear of the Lord, and **find the knowledge of God** (not from clergy but by the Holy Spirit). For the Lord gives wisdom: **out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. When wisdom enters into your heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto your soul,**



*discretion shall preserve you, understanding shall keep you; to deliver you from the way of the evil man/woman, from the man/woman that speaks froward things, who leaves the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness; who rejoices to do evil, and delights in the frowardness of the wicked, whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths”* (Prov 2:2-3; 5-6; 10-15) . . .

e. *“But continue you in the things which you have learned and **have been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them** (90% of the time not from the self-serving clergy); and that **from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures**, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus... That the man/woman of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works**”* (2Tim 3:14-15, 17)...

f. *“That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Rom 10:9).

## **Part II:**

g. *“I **myself** will feed my sheep and I **myself** will make them lie down, declares the sovereign Lord”* (Eze 34:15)...

h. *“For then I will give **to the peoples** purified lips, **that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve him shoulder to shoulder**”* (Zep 3:9)...

i. *“I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them”* (Isa 42:16)...

j. If we abide in Jesus, he will abide in us and he will open our eyes to understand the scriptures; and we may relate to the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, detailed in this study. (Luk 24:27-32)...

k. *“**Seek you out of the book of the Lord and read:** “No one of these shall fail, none shall want... Whereby, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit... **I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go: I will guide you with mine eye... You shall guide me with your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory**”* (Isa 34:16-18; Eph 3:4-5; Psa 32:8, 73:24)...

4) Jesus concluded the passage of Matt 19:10-14 in the beginning of this chapter above with: *“Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given”* in parallel to: *“For there are many called, but few chosen”* (Matt 22:14). Verses 4 and 5 of the same passage are in line with: *“Whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”* (Phi 3:7-8), Jesus talks about: *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh”* (Mar 10:7-8), which translates into: *“He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter (Husband/wife/clergy/denomination) more than me is not worthy of me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me... If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters; yes, even their own life; such a person cannot be my disciple... In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples”* (Matt 10:37-38; Luk 14:26, 33).

5) Jesus tells us for this category: *“The one who can accept this should accept it”*. The three types of *“Eunuchs”* are symbols of the parables of Jesus in general, but the sown seeds in different grounds in particular (Luk chpt 8):

a. The *“born eunuchs”* are the condemned non-believers in Christ, either apostate by choice or belonging to other religions, or followers of the 32,980 or 42,980 Christian denominational churches, factions and heresies: *“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? Paul emphasizes here the last two verses: And how will they hear without a preacher? **How will they preach unless they are sent?**”* (Rom 10:14-15), *“In the hope that God will grant them*

repentance, leading them to a knowledge of the truth... that leads to godliness” (2Tim 2:25; Tit 1:1)...

- b. The “*eunuch made by others*” are the hundreds of millions over millions of Christians who are misled by their spiritual leaders and clergy: “*The false prophets, who are no more than self-serving: diviners, dreamers, soothsayers or sorcerers... Those prophets are prophesying lies in God’s name;* (and God says): **“*I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them*”**. *They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds... Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions. from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord”* (Jer 27:9; 14:14; 23:16) (many verses in this regards in this study).
- c. The “*eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven*” are all the genuine and true clergy and believers who by choice and conviction vowed to live the “beatitudes” of Jesus and to be: “*Ready always to give an answer to every man that asks them a reason of the hope that is in them with meekness and fear; having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ”* (1Pet 3:15-16).

- 6) It is our responsibility to discern what we hear from our self-serving clergy, and to continue imploring from Jesus and the Holy Spirit to: “*Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed your commandments before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept your word. You are good, and do good; teach me your statutes”*... and heed John’s council: “*Whosoever abides in him sins not: whosoever sins has not seen him, neither known him”*. Little children: “*Let no man/woman deceive you: he/she that does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous... Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin; for his seed remains in him/her: and he/she cannot sin, because he/she is born of God”* (Psa 119:66-68; 1John 3:6-7, 9). The Bible exhorts us to: “*Let no man/woman despise your youth... You shall rise up before the gray headed and honor the aged and you shall revere your God... be you an example of the believers: in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity”* (1Tim 4:12; Lev 19:32)...
- 7) With regard to dealing with the children, all of us, are babes in Christ; it seems that the apostles and the disciples always tried to egoistically protect Jesus by making it difficult to come to him or approach him except through them, thus denying us the simplicity and the liberty we have in Jesus, who came, contrary to his clergy: “*Not to judge the world, but to save the world”* (John 12:47). The N.T. is full of such examples, which is exactly what many of his clergy are doing. Do you recall what they did before Jesus feeding the 5000 (John chpt 6)? What they did to the Canaanite woman (Matt chpt 15)? Etc. In other words, you only can come to Jesus if you belong to their so-called Christian denomination and strictly follow their defunct, manmade and unbiblical rules and caprices.
- 8) “*But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict you; which have said to your soul: “Bow down that we may go over: and you have laid your body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over”* (Isa 51:23). **Jesus never asked us to be door mats or to be used and abused or stepped over by anyone, especially the Christian clergy**, in spite of the misinterpreted and harangued passages about: “*Treat others the same way you want them to treat you”* (Luk 6:31); “*turning the other cheek”* (Matt 5:39) (Jesus is speaking here of evil people); “*forgiving 490 times”* (Matt 18:22); “*let the sun not set on your anger”* (Eph 4:26; Jam 1:20). Although Jesus said it to his disciples; yet it applies more befittingly to them: “*If they persecuted me (the Jewish clergy and by extension the Christian clergy), they will persecute you also”* (John 15:20), etc...

Jesus asked us to do all this in dignity, love and compassion like he did even while being hanged between two criminals on the cross: “*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing”* and “*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Luk 23:34; Matt 5:10-12)...

“*For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him... If you are insulted (misled, stepped over, ridiculed, etc.) because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you”* (Phi 1:29; 1Pet 4:14).

9) Last but not least, going to church every Sunday and holy days does not make of us a true *spiritual* believer in Jesus, abiding in him and him abiding in us or makes our life better; because many clergy will make sure that we are *denominationally, fanatically and legalistically religious* so that we will be devoted to that church and its teachings than following Jesus, where we will be worshipping the Lord with our lips but not with our hearts. We go to church and come out emptier spiritually than when we went in. Are we still wondering why our life is so chaotic although: “*Our God is not a God of confusion but of peace as in all the churches of the saints*” (1Cor 14:33)? Let us remember: “*Not everyone that lifts his/her hands toward heaven prays*” and “*The road to hell is paved with good intentions*” (Russian maxim).

The pure and sound biblical “*Truths*” are like rock solid, well connected and indestructible “*chain*” with symmetrical consistency and flow. Then, **have you ever asked yourself if you are totally saved** (abiding by all the biblical truths of Jesus without exception) **or you are totally lost** (even by missing on one of the fundamentals and essentials of the biblical truths)? Because, as I explained earlier, there is no biblical formula stating that a person can be: “*almost saved or almost lost*” (based on: “*whoever loses all aspects of his/her life for my sake*” and “*dead to the world and alive with God*”): “*If the Lord is God (with ALL HIS TRUTHS), follow him; but if Baal is god (with syncretistic teachings), follow him*” (1Kgs 18:21).

We owe it to ourselves to read the word of God for ourselves and to: “*Work out our salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in us* (not the clergy with personal agendas, power hunger and worldly lust), **both to will and to work for his good pleasure . . . Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of his glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen” (Phi 2:12-13; Jude 1:24-25), that is only if we sincerely intend to overcome the conundrum, the anguishes and the nightmares believers experience at the hand of a great number of Christian and so-call Christian clergy whom Jesus warned us of their contemplated schemes and action: “*The time is coming when anyone who kills* (misleads and wastes) **you will think they are offering a service to God**” (John 16:2). Otherwise, we are not better than: “*The chief priests (who) planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus*” (John 12:10).**

### Which Christian denomination is “Approved by God”?

Whether the political regime ruling a country is a theocracy, autocracy, monarchy, democracy or despotism of all kinds, God created man and endowed him/her with free will. With this freedom, anyone in this world can start a new religion or political party. This is a part of the entrepreneurial and mystical development of life and affairs. The “no, no” part is for someone to start a potpourri religion and label it “Christianity”, prefixing it with fancy attributes from evangelical to charismatic to what is in between and suffixing it with the “one and only true church of God or Christ or the Holy Spirit”. Christianity is not about changing, distorting and manipulating the word of God but allowing the blue print of the message of his biblical truths to change us straightening our crooked flesh and intellect’s train of deed, speech, behavior and thought.

We also have to contend and reckon with these biblical exhortations concerning discernment: “*Take heed to yourselves what you intend to do as touching these men. For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to naught. After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. And now I say unto you: “Refrain from these men, and let them alone: **For if this (Way=Jesus way) plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God . . . if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”**” (Act 5:35-39; 11:17).*

For the last 2000 years, Jesus is asking each and every one of us individually (believer and clergy alike) what he asked his disciples: “*Who you say the “Son of Man” is? And “So and so, son/daughter of so and so: “Do you love me* (with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength and every fiber of your body, soul and spirit) **more than these** (your clergy, your family, your denomination, etc.)? ... “*Are you ready, willing and able “To carry your cross” and “To lose your life for my sake to save it?”* (Matt 16:13; John 21:15; Deut 6:5; Luk



14:27; Matt 10:39)... Only you can answer Jesus directly with no living testament or proxy (given to family, friends or clergy to represent you).

I am sure that you read this study waiting for me to tell you specifically and by name which Christian denomination is “*approved of God*”? As a Christian who believes unconditionally every word proclaimed in the entire Bible, especially the N.T., I may echo David’s statement: “*When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply*” (Psa 73:16), yet I can humbly and personally repeat with Agur: “*Neither have I learned wisdom, nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One*” (Prov 30:2-3).

Nonetheless, with God’s mercy, I gave in this study every biblical tool for the learned and illiterate alike to discern the will of God for them and for their lives: “*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you. For you: **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God**... This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men/women to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth... then we can say: “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*”, and the Lord assures us: “*For I know the plans I have for you*”, declares the Lord, “**thoughts of peace and not of evil**, to give you hope and a future” (Mic 6:8; 1Tim 2:3-4; Psa 119:105; Jer 29:11). So Let us first re-establish the facts: “*The Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands*” (Act 7:47, 17:24; Isa 66:1), **but in the Temples of the Holy Spirit, which is you and I.***

St. Jerome wrote a letter to Paulinus about the reading of the Bible, here an excerpt: “*All who reads it finds **the instructions**, where in the same one-sentence, **educated and illiterate**, will find the clear meaning*”. Nehemiah wrote: “*They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading*” (Neh 8:8). “In this regard, Paul says: “*God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong*” (1Cor 1:27), and: “*Press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you**; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained*” (Phi 3:14-16)... Nevertheless, Jesus explains to us the “**WHY**”: “*Why do you not understand my speech? Even, because you cannot hear my word* (and because you listen to self-serving and unruly clergy)” (John 8:43).

I reviewed volumes of the different Christian denominations’ beliefs and creeds and I practically read the Vergilius Ferm’s “*Encyclopedia of Religion*”, **I found none second to perfection**, and the main ones are moderately inconsistent and comparatively flawed. On the other hand, I found about a handful of Christian denominations and affiliations that are the closest to the teachings of the N.T. in beliefs and creeds, in spite of the excess baggage of conflicting traditions, dispensations, methodology, practices and rituals.

A friend of mine told me that: “*The Lutheran church he attends is the closest to the tenets of the Bible than any other Christian denomination and I am blessed to be a member*”. I asked him: why and how? He said: “*Every Lutheran pastor must learn Greek and Hebrew and must cite the respective texts along the English for accuracy*”. I answered him: “*First, with due respect, you should be blessed to know and love Jesus and not by being a member of your denomination; and second, if that is the case, then the people of Greece as well as the people of Palestine and Israel should ALL go straight to heaven because they read God’s word in their original languages... I can assure you there are as much so-called lost Christian people in those three countries as you can find in any other place on the face of the earth... Christianity is neither about denomination nor translations; it is about pastors and clergy preaching the word of God **faithfully** being a Christlike example in holiness and righteousness to believers*”. He was not happy with my answer because he felt offended as if I have insulted his intelligence.

All I was trying to do is to wake him up to the reality of Jesus not the deceitful lure his denomination is using to gain followers. I did neither degrade him nor pass any judgment on him or his denomination nor treat him with contempt because I do not doubt his zeal for the Lord. Then I recalled what Peter said: “*Keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander*” (1Pet 3:16)...

I am very aware of Paul said: “*Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions. One person has faith that he/she may eat all things, but he/she who is weak eats vegetables only. The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, **for God***”

**has accepted him/her**. Who are you to judge the servant of another? **To his/her own master he/she stands or falls**; and he/she will stand, **for the Lord is able to make him/her stand**. One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. **Each person must be fully convinced in his/her own mind**” (Rom 14:1-5).

I have explained in great details the different criteria to discern what we hear from our denominational clergies. If we care about abiding in Jesus and Jesus alone, we can first heed these exhortations, regardless of the denomination we are affiliated with, because we are accountable for our own salvation: **“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn him/herself by what he/she approves** (the teachings of his/her denomination)... **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance... For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people... For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong**” (1John 3:20-22; Rom 14:22; 1Pet 1:14; 2Pet 2:15; 1Pet 3:17), then:

1. Read Jesus’ word for ourselves and search and research while earnestly **“praying without ceasing”** (1The 5:17), and **Jesus will definitely show us how to find his true church because he will reveal it to us: “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them”** (John 14:21),
2. **“We, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in us (as a believer). And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ”** (Rom 8:9).
3. If you fail to hear his voice because you continue to live in the flesh and idolize your clergy and denomination, I assure you he will continue knocking on your door until you hear his call and until you open your heart and mind as he did to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and **he will show you the way to his true church**. The disciples on the road to Emmaus represent a great majority of Christians from all walks of life and denominations. Here some passages to study and digest to re-shape our lives:
  - a) **“Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him”** (Luk 24:15-16). For them, it was providentially planned, but unfortunately for us, many of our clergy devilishly schemed for it and planned it not to know the real Jesus, but their invented Jesus. Moreover, being on the road means we may still be in our spiritual wilderness,
  - b) **“Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” Jesus asked”** (Luk 24:18). Our abject personal ignorance in the word of God renders us uninformed and easily misled, because we rely on hearsay and the eloquence and persuasion tactics of our clergy,
  - c) **“He said to them: “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken: (The word and truths of God vs. what clergy tell us), Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (not what the clergy picks, chooses, adds, subtracts and distorts)”** (Luk 24:25-27). We are as foolish as they were and maybe more, so let us read God’s word and Jesus will guide us through in the same manner,
  - d) **“But they urged him strongly: “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over”. So he went in to stay with them”** (Luk 24:29), you do not have to beg Jesus to stay with you. If we are true believers, Jesus already lives in us with the Father and the Holy Spirit; just communicate with them; one do not need an appointment, God is available 24/7/365 days at your disposal no matter where you are,
  - e) **“When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him; he vanished out of their sight”** (Luk 24:30-31). Many of us live under the influence of anesthesia and morphine injected in us by the poisonous unbiblical teachings of our clergy; did we ever wake up and receive the bread that Jesus, the real Bread of Life, broke but waiting to give to us to be able to recognize him? If we did, he will appear and he will neither vanish, **“forsake nor leave us as orphans, I will come to you”** (John 14:18; Deut 31:8; Heb 13:5; Josh 1:5; 1Chr 28:20; etc.),

- f) If “***Our heart is burning within us for Jesus and Jesus alone***”, after you read the word of God for yourself and scrutinize what you hear and from whom you hear it, you will be able to talk the talk and walk the walk, where: “*The Scriptures will be opened to you by Jesus*” (Luk 24:32).
- g) “*It is true*”. *The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon*” (Luk 24:34), and then you become a true disciple of Jesus ready to spread the good news by living, modeling after and sharing Jesus,
- h) And finally, the key for your eyes to open to recognize Jesus is to invite him into your heart and to readily receive the bread he broke. If you already did, then do it again today as an enlightened believer, through the auspices of the Holy Spirit, far away from all clergy: “*Truly, truly, I say to you: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. He/she who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day”*” (John 6:53); do not forget what Jesus said: “*When you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret*” (Matt 6:6),

4. I have provided you with a summary of the major Christian tenets from the Bible itself with others as questions in this study. You can take the tenets of your denomination’s teachings and compare them to what Jesus said, instructed and commanded in his entire Bible, excluding any outside excess baggage writings of any kind, using my below method or any other method.

5. The following is a detailed example of how to study and discern the word of God as a part of: “*Work out our salvation with fear and trembling*” theme (Phi 2:12) and about doing diligently our homework: if your denomination says baptism is not necessary for salvation (compare it with the word of God: “*He/she that **believes** and **is baptized** shall be saved*” (Mar 16:16), in other words: **belief+baptism=salvation**, and “*Go therefore and make disciples (Christians) of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*” (Matt 28:19) in sharp contrast with what certain major and minor denominations like to falsely proclaim and promulgate: “*Salvation is by grace through faith (only)*” citing as evidence: (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:8-9; Gal 3:1-2)... and hiding behind the statement of Paul: “***For Christ sent me not to baptize**, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect*” (1Cor 1:17). This is not true because they are singled out and grossly taken out of context. Here below the proof as a tool in your personal study:

- The *first* biblical fact of Christianity states that a believer *receives* the Holy Spirit *only* in *baptism* after *repentance* and for the *remission* of *sins* and for *regeneration to have access* to the Father and to Jesus and confess *believing* the Lordship of Jesus: “***In your hearts revere Christ as Lord... **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, **now saves you**, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience***” (1Pet 3:15, 21). “***Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit***” (Act 2:38)... it cannot be clearer and straight forward than that,

Jesus was baptized and the Holy Spirit descended on him, but there is no mention of any of his apostles, disciples or followers being baptized while with Jesus, before or after John the Baptist’s decapitation, in spite of the dialog Jesus had with Nicodemus about baptism to be born again. They were all baptized by the Holy Spirit with fire on the day of Pentecost.

- The *second* biblical fact is that faith stands for “*to believe*” no more and no less, because: “*Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*”... together with: “*Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed*” (Rom 10:17; John 20:29),

- The *third* biblical fact is that after we *believe* and *receive baptism*, we become the “*Temple of the Holy Spirit*” (1Cor 3:16, 6:19; 2Cor 6:6; Rom 8:9), “***He saved us through the **washing of rebirth** (baptism) and **renewal by the Holy Spirit*****” (Tit 3:5).

When engaging in any biblical study, one ought to read the entire chapter together with the corresponding and related biblical passages to glean the consensus of the doctrine from the content and the context not just the “*pick and choose*” quoted verse. The above quoted verses about baptism seem contradictory, but they are not, because with regard to the alleged Rom 5:1, if we read the same chapter verse 5, we ascertain of their lies: “*Because God’s love has been **poured out** into **our hearts** (The seat of Temple of the Holy Spirit) **through the Holy Spirit, who***”



***has been given to us***” in which “*poured out*” (water & fire), “(circumcision=repentance/confession/belief of the) *heart*” and the “*Holy Spirit*” all are symbols of **baptism**;

In the case of Eph 2:8-9: if we read the same chapter verses 1, 15, 20-22, we realize the misleading of the claimants: “***You were dead in your transgressions and sins*** (mandating baptism for the remission of sins)... ***He might make the two into one NEW MAN*** (baptism=born again=regeneration)... ***Christ Jesus himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling (Temple) of God in the Spirit***”: self-explanatory,

And for Gal 3:1-2, if we read the same chapter verses 14, 27-29, we expose the claimants’ deceit: “***So that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit*** (through baptism)... ***For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise***”.

And finally 1Cor 1:17, claimants must have schemed to prey on the ignorance of believers who did not read the word of God for themselves. The whole chapter is talking about the divided church of Christ, where we find the most memorable questions: “***Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name***” (1Cor 1:13-16)... All what Paul is saying that wherever he is in the world, he preaches the Gospel to gain believers while his entourage of disciples, elders, bishops, aids, etc. performs the baptisms, evidenced by 1Cor 1:17: “***For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel***”.

On a side note: The above passage focuses on the word “*promise*” linking O.T. and N.T., because of the faithfulness of Abraham, he and his seed were blessed by God and the promise through the command for circumcision was established, likewise that same promise of Abraham was transformed in the N.T. by the baptism in Jesus Christ/Holy Spirit receiving the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the baptized.

6. Or if your denomination says Jesus does not have a dual nature (compare it with the word of God: the many references to the) “*Son of Man*”, “*Son of God*”, fully divine and fully human (cf John 1:1, 14; 8:24; Col 2:9; 1John 4:1-4, such as: “*I and the Father are one*” (John 8:18, 10:30, 36, 17:21) and “*For the Father is greater than I*” (John 14:28; 10:29)... **or if your denomination says that God is not a Trinitarian God because they believe in henotheism and consider the Christian biblical concept of trinity as polytheism** (Compare it with what the N.T. teaches about the Trinity which is the existence of one God in nature, essence and substance in 3 manifestations: *Father* (Matt 28:19), *Son* (John 1:1), and *Holy Spirit* (Acts 5) “*Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19)... The concept of Trinity is also an O.T. connotation gleaned from the use of Hebrew *El* (one God, used about 235 times), *Eloah* (single or dual God, used about 70 times) and *Elohim* (plural, used about 2,249 times) not in a polytheistic sense but oneness in qualitative not quantitative manifestations.*

When one researches a subject, and besides comparing one’s denomination’s tenets with the Bible, one should also make researches to find out what is out there in the religious circles, be it positive or negative, that will help in having a closer and more accurate conception. After I researched many sources dealing with denominations, I stumbled over this quote: “***Both Jehovah’s Witnesses and the Mormon church are not accepted within many Christian circles as part of the larger Body of Christ over a number of controversial beliefs that the two religions hold. Identification of the former religion as Christian, among other controversies, is debated largely due to their rejection of the Trinity, which most Christians regard as a fundamental doctrine. Latter-day Saints, meanwhile, are often criticized for their belief in “divine” books of scripture, aside from the Bible, including the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price***” which highlights the heretic and cultist premises of the respective teachings, (<http://progressiverevelation.blogspot.com/2008/09/largest-church-denominations-in-north.html>),

7. Or does your denomination believe in the particulars of the “*Apostles’ Creed*” adopted and practiced by Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Methodists and Eastern and Western Rite Orthodoxy, (Evangelical, Charismatic and cultist denominations dismiss it as well as the other versions of creed; the different particulars of the creeds contradict some of the tenets of their beliefs); or did God create the world in six literal days?...or

are dating and sex before marriage biblically based and permissible?... or does my denomination faithfully glorify God and rejoice in his Son? Etc... then you will know if you are in the right or wrong church.

I hope and pray that the above illustration and the simple method of study would help you discern what you hear, so that by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, you will always find your way to the loving and inviting bosom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is “**THE ONE AND ONLY WAY, THE ONE AND ONLY TRUTH, AND THE ONE AND ONLY LIFE**”, and whose real church is your heart and body being the: “*Temple of the Holy Spirit*” not your denominational church building: “*If anyone loves me, he/she will keep my word; and my Father will love him/her, and we will come to him/her and **make our abode** (real Altar & real Church) with him/her*” (John 14: 23)... because if you ask Jesus to forgive you and heal you, Jesus will always be: “**Moved with compassion and he will put forth his hand to touch you, and to say unto you: “I will; be you clean... your sins are forgiven**” (paraphrased Mar 1:40-42, 2:9; Luk 7:48).

### **What is Prayer? & Praying at Home vs. Going to Church**

Prayer is hope in action and motion  
towards the light at the end of the tunnel...

*“Who is the Almighty that we should serve him?  
And what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”* (Job 21:15)...

*«Lord, teach us to pray »* (Luk 11:1)...

*“Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives  
in you and was given to you by God?”* (1Cor 6:19; 3:16)...

To our chagrin as Christians from all walks of life and denominations, we do neither know the protocol of how to properly pray nor for what. Many of us rely on prepared prayers that we repeat like parrots. Many of us pray when we are in trouble or experiencing hard times and dire situations due to lack of income, joblessness, unhappy marriages, terminal illnesses, rebellious and lost children, catastrophes, etc.

I have written a study titled: “*Does God answer prayers?*” which is on this website, where I outlined the biblical bases and requirements for prayerful life including all aspects and facets how to effectively pray.

Prayer is no more than a romantic doxology in the praise of the attributes of the beloved and the confiding in him. When one falls in love, his/her routine life is head over heels, where his/her heart quickens, mind swells, breath races, face shines with excitement, body quivers, shivers and sweats, verve sharpens, verbal expression peaks, the level of hormones, adrenaline and pheromones climax, etc. and finally one becomes impatient to be with the beloved and never be separated.

All that can be summarized in: “*Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and his bride (the believer) has made herself ready (by asking Jesus to come into her heart and be her Lord). It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean (after repentance, baptism and confessing the Lordship of Jesus=the wedding white dress); **for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints** (made pure and born again)...and the exchanged vows in the ceremony are: “**Love the Lord your God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength** (every fiber of your body, soul and spirit) . . .and for the ring: “**The Lord your God will circumcise your heart to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**” (Rev 19:7-8; Matt 22:37; Deut 6:5, 30:6)... “**If you are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep **his covenant of love with you** forever... to know **the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God (the two become one)**” where God: “**Will exult over you with joy, he will be quiet in his love, he will rejoice over you with shouts of joy**” (Deut 30:16; Eph 3:19; Zep 3:17). Denominational affiliation might be the honeymoon but only a lifelong personal and intimate relationship with Jesus and a righteous fellowship with our neighbor can generate a fairytale marriage and ending.*

Praying is an act of love and longing. Love like duty requires desire, devotion, faith, conviction, effort, labor, resolve, determination and purpose for the crystallization of the intimate dialogue between the Creator and the Created resulting in the Created becoming one with the Creator.

We ought to keep praying that: **“Men/women ought always to pray, and not to faint...Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** (Luk 18:1; 1Thes 5:17-18), imitating Christ who spent all his life praying, making the case and confiding in the Father offering thanks in advance.

Many of our clergy with their hierarchies, boards and collaborators and defunct unbiblical teachings are committing the same abominations the Israelites did: **“Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations which the house of Israel is committing here, so that I would be far from my sanctuary? But turn you yet again, and you shall see greater abominations”** (Eze 8:6); those who use Jesus and his Gospel as crutches to claim worshipping him through lips, but who, through their lust and agendas: **“Burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts** (by extension the idolized filthy rich clergy” (2Kgs 23:5), while in other churches God: **“When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, they will not find him; he has withdrawn himself from them”** (Hos 5:6).

This is one of the reasons why believers are lukewarm about going to church; **God is not in his sanctuary, his clergy retired him, like Adam and Eve did, because he does not know what he is talking about due to him being eternally senile.** Only the so-called biased butler and the servants are there. Accordingly, church becomes a social club, a hangout, a dating place, an outing from the house, a change of scenery, a Tower of Babel for chitchats and gossips. People wonder why no change is taking place in their spiritual and/or material lives.

Beside the sizes and the capacities together with the elaborate or simple architectural appearances of denominational churches, and in spite of the fancy and exotic labeling, which is a mixture of Christian connotations and patronizing names on churches, this statement of Paul applies to many: **“For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship (your teachings, rituals and practices), I even found an altar with this inscription: to an “UNKNOWN GOD”. **SO YOU ARE IGNORANT OF THE VERY THING YOU WORSHIP”** (Act 17:23)... and Habakkuk says in tandem: **“Woe to him/her who says to a piece of wood: “Awake”; to a mute stone: “Arise”. And that is your teacher? Behold, it is (the denominational churches preaching another Jesus, Spirit, Gospel, etc.) overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all inside it. But the Lord is in his Holy Temple (the denominational churches preaching: the true and factual notion of one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all and that Jesus was raised from the dead (Eph 4:5; 1The 1:10; Rom 6:4; Act 3:15) let all the earth keep silence before him” (Hab 2:19-20)... **“I have revealed and saved and proclaimed: “I, and not some foreign god (proclaimed by charlatan clergy) among you”. “You are my witnesses, declares the Lord: “That I am God” ... They have no knowledge, those who carry about their wooden idol and pray to a god who cannot save” (Isa 43:12; 45:20)... **“Some worthless men have gone out from among you and have seduced the inhabitants of their city, saying: “Let us go and serve other gods” (whom you have not known), then you shall investigate and search out and inquire thoroughly. If it is true and the matter established that this abomination has been done among you, strike them...”** (Deut 13:13-14)...******

Whether the particular denomination’s service is ritualized, a self-repeating broken record Sunday after Sunday, or based on haranguing clichéd sermons after sermons, the fact remains, in many of these churches, **the Spirit of God is totally absent.** Their rallies, fund-raising, revival services, specially their orchestrated healing and exorcism sessions shown on TV prove to be better performed than by the best actors of Hollywood.

I heard folks over the years and in my 47 years of shuttling all over the world saying to the tune of: **“I pray at home, church is a farce and a show played in a theater, all what they do is talk about need for money, money and more money, give, give and give, and “why are you robbing God?... you are a sinner and Jesus came to tell you that you are a sinner needing salvation... this salvation process is an ongoing journey, forgiveness is granted only if you repent and confess, not one time but every day and every Sunday of your life, and you have to do this and to do that for the rest of your life”... Others would say: “Churches are expert at formulating one guilt trip after another to make believers come to church”, etc...**

Before you rush and say that these are the methods of Catholic and Orthodox Churches, I can assure you and you may review the tenets, practices and messages of the 32,980 or 42,980 reformational mainline, protestant and cultist denominations, and you will find similar dispensations and bondages if not worst, maybe not on the official books but in real life and dealing.



Try to ask believers, especially men, from all denominations if they pray, and you will be surprised to hear the unexpected answer: “*I go to church*”. Whether they pray when they go to church or not, that is between them and God; it seems they mentally equate the attendance going to church with an act of praying. While 1% might bore you with their prayer curriculum vitae and frequency as if they were hermits, a great number may say: “*I pray before food, before I go to sleep, before taking an important decision, etc.*”, others may say: “*I only pray when I go church*” or: “*I do not really pray*”, etc.

It is a fact that many believers’ Christianity lasts for one to two hours on Sunday, and for the remaining 166 hours of the week, they are on their own living like the world who does not know God. Many believers are not properly taught to live **prayerfully** Christlike in order not to fall into temptation and do good by God, their families, their neighbor and to make a concrete difference to win the world for Jesus. If and when true clergy learn to equip believers with tools how to pray and live those 166 instead of just focusing on Sunday’s two hours in order for believers to become impatiently anxious and pre-occupied to re-meet with the beloved on Sunday with the congregation, then the one to two hours on Sunday will become relevant and a valuable treasure chest in the arsenal of the believer.

God is everywhere and in everything in the realm of his creation and beyond, but Church is our spiritual **home base** and **lighthouse**, that is why it is called the **House** and **Sanctuary** of God. Going to church should be like the prodigal son/daughter going home to be with our ever loving, forgiving and welcoming “Abba Father”. It should not be because it is a requirement of the faith and the denomination we belong to, but through personal and ardent desire to be with the beloved. Church is a school of life and for life with classes from kindergarten to advanced and specialized university curricula in the word of God in order to be spiritually, morally, mentally and psychologically equipped and nourished to learn how to live and conduct ourselves virtuously in Christlike manner.

True Church is where sinners are turned to saints; where we all practice self-forgiveness and altruistic forgiveness, and if we do, we obtain forgiveness and reconciliation with God (Matt 6:14-15; Mar 11:25-26); church is where all the present join their voices with the choirs of the heavenly hosts to glorify and to croon the praises of God: “***That we may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ***” (Rom 15:5-6); where we collectively and unanimously worship God; where we pour our hearts; where we present our thanksgiving offerings and alms; where we ask for protection from life’s storms and uncertainties; where we seek guidance and enlightenment; where we learn obedience; where we acquire traits and forbearance to become good neighbor; where we, communally and personally, lift up our prayers for our needs and the needs of others; where together, thirsty for the living waters, we may partake of Jesus’ body and blood, and finally where we implore him to grant us health and prosperity, especially his peace to our families, friends, leaders, community, city, country and the world, and to those we disagree with, and even our enemies.

We often question what is praying and how to attain genuine piety, devotion and worship, and we often hear someone asks: “*How to pray and for what*”, but St. Paul assures us: “***Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered***” (Rom 8:26).

Praying is not murmuring or repetition of word: “*But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking*” (Matt 6:7), or intoning hymns without meditating on their meaning, heeding their contents and applying their contexts with an earnest and sincere desire by the creature to:

**Meet - Know –Talk – Cozy – Confide – Glorify - Praise, and to Rapture with God so to give us his life to live by, in and through him and for him to live in us and shine his glory through us.**

Prayer falls in two categories as transmitted by our Lord Jesus, praise be to his name:

### **Church Communal Prayer:**

***“Praise God in his sanctuary”*** (Psa 150:1)...

***“I was glad when they said to me: “Let us go to the house of the Lord”*** (Psa 122:1)...

***“These things I remember as I pour out my soul, how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise”*** (Psa 42:4)...

***“Come; let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths”*** (Isa 2:3)...

Jesus said: ***“If two or three gather together in my Name, I will be in their midst”*** (Matt 18:20). Jesus reminded us: ***“My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayers”*** (Mar 11:17). It was an invitation to communal prayer as David wished: ***“One thing I desire of the Lord that I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life to behold the beauty of the Lord, to enquire in his temple, to come in the multitude of his mercies and in his fear to worship towards his temple”*** (Psa 5:7, 27:4), and the sincere effective participation in the Church’s ceremonies and functions, the collective intercession on behalf of the others. We have to always remember that we go to the house of the Lord to worship the Lord of the House and not vice-versa: ***“I say unto you: “In this house is one (the High Priest Jesus) greater than the Temple”*** (Matt 12:6), in order for our: ***“Spirits to be made saints and just men/women made perfect”*** (Rom 1:7; Heb 12:23).

***“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord... Hosanna in the highest heaven...”***

***We have blessed you from the house of the Lord”*** (Psa 118:26; Matt 21:9)...

### **Private Prayer,**

The personal and private prayer is also in a sense a symbolic church prayer: ***“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth”*** (John 4:24) through the heart and the mind in a body that became by faith in the baptism: ***“The Temple of the Holy Spirit”***. Jesus said: ***“But you, when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly”*** (Matt 6:6), which is in line with the many instances where Jesus ***“went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed”*** (Mar 1:35; cf. Matt 14:13-14; Luk 5:16; 22:39-46).

We should heed and learn from the lessons in these verses when we pray, whether in church or privately:

***“And when you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you: “They have their reward”*** (Matt 6:5).

***“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself: “God, I thank you, that I am not as other men: extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I possess”. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying: “God be merciful to me a sinner”. I tell you, this man (Publican) went down to his house justified rather than the other (Pharisee): for every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted”*** (Luk 18:11-14)...

***“Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you”*** (Act 8:22)...

***“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering”*** (Matt 5:23-24)...

***“Therefore I say unto you: “What things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them. And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses”*** (Mar 11:24-25).

A true Christian keeps contact with his/her redeemer constantly even to say hello Lord, I love you ... I praise your Holy Name ... I thank you ... and should communicate with him in prayer at home, at work, while commuting, driving, eating and drinking: ***“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice”*** (Psa 55:17). Blessed are the house and the work place in which God is the Lord.

The Lord promised to be with us always and not to forsake us; would not we rather be always with him? If we are sincere in claiming to love and believe in the Lord, we ought to be at his

disposal all the days of our life. The Lord has no need of us and there is nothing we can offer him that can be befitting of him, his love, sovereignty, dominion and majesty (Psa 115:12) except by the merits of Jesus and his intercession, Cross and Mighty Name. Whatever the Lord does, he does for us, not that we merited such favor, yet he gave it to us freely: Remember the Lord is the reliable and faithful friend, the physician and the healer, the facilitator and the orthopedic, the judge and the helper, the reconciler and the affirmer, the noble and the compassionate, the loving and the kind is waiting your visit to welcome you and hold you close to his chest and heart bandaging your wounds, forgiving your trespasses and blessing your life, home and work.

I would like to conclude this part with St. Cyril of Jerusalem's statement: "God is loving to man, and loving in no small measure. For say not, I have committed fornication and adultery: I have done dreadful things, and not once only, but often: will he forgive? Will he grant pardon? Hear what the Psalmist says: "How great is the multitude of your goodness, O Lord! (Psa 69:16). Your accumulated offenses surpass not the multitude of God's mercies: your wounds surpass not the great Physician's skill. Only give yourself up in faith: tell the Physician your ailment: say you also, like David: "I said: I will confess me my sin unto the Lord (Psa 32:5): and the same shall be done in your case, which he says immediately: "And you forgave the wickedness of my heart".

### The Conclusion

**"And has put all things under his feet,  
and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,  
which is his body, the fullness of him that fills all in all"** (Eph 1:22-23)...

**"I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands,  
without wrath and doubting, and, in like manner also, women"** (1Tim 2:8-9)...

**"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men/women  
by Jesus Christ according to my gospel"** (Rom 2:16)...

**"Men/women never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious  
conviction. Nothing gives rest but the sincere search for truth"** (Blaise Pascal).

I never had or will ever have the intention in this study or other writings to vilify the Christian Clergy or any other religion clergy on the expense of false prophets and apostles. God knows the hearts and who are his real and chosen elects, who are humbly obedient to do faithfully his will and implement his command, and preach his statutes and absolute truths. This study is geared toward reflecting on the deplorable status of their disarray and ungodliness, witnessed day in and day out in their bickering and slandering each other: "**But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another**" (Gal 5:14-15), and stealing each other adherents and proselytes: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to... Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you compass sea and land (other denominations) to make one proselyte, and when he is made, you make him/her twofold more the child of hell than yourselves" (Matt 23:13, 15).

They are faced with cover up of one outrageous scandal of disgrace, opprobrium and ignominy after another and pay hefty fines with the money supposedly collected for charitable purposes. The scandals of all kinds are not limited to the priests of the Catholic Church; it is widespread and universal in all denominations and sects of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, etc. The difference is that the Catholic Church with its celibacy rules and with their offshoots represent over one fourth of this world and because of their centralized hierarchy and governing, they get the broad brush and the exposure, so let us not brandish the sword of we are: "**Holier than thou**" cheap jargon and slogan. Let us remember that in this Cyber world of ours, all the churches of the Christian and so-called Christian denominations as well as other religions are made with see through glasses: "**People whose houses are made of glass don't (and shouldn't) throw stones on other houses**". The moment we stop putting clergy on pedestals, that moment we head God's warning: "**Do not let the prophets and diviners (by extension clergy) among you deceive you (not only with their teachings (if applicable) but with their ungodly behaviors and shocking lasciviousness). Do not listen to the dreams (do not accept their intransigence, transgressions and misleading) you encourage them to have (by putting them on pedestals with signs that say: above and beyond reproach, suspicion and censure)" (Jer 29:8)...**

Let us remember also that the characteristics of our relationship with Jesus is purely personal and individualistic, although partly conducted within a denomination, and that we are incontestably to give a "*personal*" account for it, and we cannot blame it on our clergy and



denomination: “But each one must examine his/her own work (deeds, faith and beliefs Jam 2:18), and then he/she will have reason for boasting in regard to him/herself alone, and not in regard to another” (Gal 6:4), SO: “**Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord**... Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. **But let a man/woman examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. **For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.** But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world” (Lam 3:40; 1Cor 11:27-32).

This passage in Jeremiah befittingly expounds on the deplorable status of the Christian clergy, where Jesus is telling us to: “**Take heed therefore how we hear** (and discern) *for whosoever has, to him/her shall be given; and whosoever has not, from him/her shall be taken even that which he/she seems to have*” (Luk 8:18):

“This is how you talk, **but you do all the evil you can.** The Lord said to me: “Have you seen what faithless Israel (Christ’s Church) has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah (all the Christian Denominations) SAW it. **I gave faithless Israel (Christ’s Church) her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries.** Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery. Because Israel’s immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense”, declares the Lord. The Lord said to me: “**Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah.** Go, proclaim this message to the (four corners of the globe)” (Jer 3:5-12).

It is a fact that every denomination has its own line of defense and argumentation, whether the support for their beliefs and doctrines is purely and biblically true or concocted through the figment of imagination, alleged dreams and visions of their leaders, or those striding the two banks of the river in syncretism. I tackled and argued few examples of the essentials of the Christian faith subjects of controversy, inconsistency and contention. I presented the biblical facts and argumentation with a consensus of biblical passages. I am sure some will rush to say that I forgot to quote this passage or that passage or I ignored the long held traditions, the writings of the fathers of the church, etc. If I forgot to quote a relevant quote that proves me wrong, I am man enough to stand corrected. As you come to realize that my studies and argumentations are based on the Bible alone and not on any outside source, although I may quote them for comparison purposes not proofs. I always strive to present our true Christianity within these lines:

“For God, who said: “**Light shall shine out of darkness**” is the one who has shined in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”... But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. **For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you bear this beautifully**” (2Cor 2Cor 4:6; 11:3-4)... more importantly the one and only immutable eternal: “**JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY, AND FOREVER**” (Heb 13:8)...

Do you know which denomination is the real *Faithless Israel* (Christ’s Church) and which is the sister *Judah* (the rest of the Christian Denominations)? I am sure the so-called Christian diviners, dreamers and false prophets already have the answer.

Jesus said to his apostles and disciples over 2000 years ago and to all the clergy from then till now: “**For God has put it in their hearts to execute his purpose by having a common purpose, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled** ...and: “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves” (Rev 17:17; Matt 10:16), but he attached a caveat to it provided they do exactly what he has sent and still sends them to do, which is to “**Teaching them** (the believers and the lost sheep) **to observe all that I commanded you**” (Matt 28:20)... and by the mouth of Paul: “**I solemnly charge you...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and**

*instruction... Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth***" (2Tim 4:1-5, 2:15)...

Unfortunately, many of today's Christians clergy are the shrewd snakes and the real wolves prying on the ignorant sheep empowering them with venoms against each other: "*But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison*" (Jam 3:8)... and ignoring to attend to the sheep: "Truly I tell you: "**Whatever** (good or bad) **you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me**" (Matt 25:40).

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: **and yet show I unto you a more excellent way**...: "*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, 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, 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, it profits me nothing*" (1Cor 12:27-31, 13:1-3).*

Remember that Satan is versed in the Scripture and just because your preacher can quote verses from the Bible does not make him a true representative of the real Jesus: "*Only there are some who are disturbing you and want **to distort the gospel of Christ**. But even if we* (Paul and the apostles), *or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, **he/she is to be accursed**. As we have said before, so I say again now: "If any man/woman is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed... **Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God**; the one who abides in the teaching, he/she has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him/her into your house* (nor to his/her church), *and **do not give him a greeting**; **for the one who gives him/her a greeting participates in his/her evil deeds***" (Gal 1:7-9; 2John 1:9-11). *You become an accomplice if you greet him/her, can you imagine the consequences if you fellowship and worship with him/her?* You may unknowingly lose your salvation.

Jesus looks today at his divided church and: "*He sees a large crowd that calls themselves Christians, and he feels compassion for them because they are like **sheep without a shepherd**; he began to teach them **many things***" (paraphrased Mar 6:34)... Do you intend to allow Jesus to teach you today his "*many things*" or are you determined to sell him by continuing to "*Crucify him*" because of your denomination? Jesus cries out daily while weeping: "*O Jerusalem, O Jerusalem, my City* (my Church)... **How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it**. Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you: "*You will not see me until the time comes when you say: "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord***" (Luk 13:33-35), that will happen only if we all, individually and collectively, repent and return to our Head and Lord Jesus Christ now saying with deep conviction: "***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord***". If we do not act now, it might be too late and we might be dead before the Lord Jesus Christ comes the second time: "*You fool! This very night your soul may be required of you*" (Luk 12:20).

There is only one divinely absolute mythbuster called the Bible: "*The unadulterated immutable word of God*" (not the manipulated self-serving translations and teachings), that can dispel and dissipate, aver and assert, disclose and expose all errors and doctrines: "***Whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways... My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes... The Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of man/woman's hearts; and then each man/woman's praise will come to him/her from God... So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known***" (Prov 2:15; Jer 16:17; 1Cor 4:5; Matt 10:26).

We are exhorted to take a stand and be responsive and not to be like the wavering people Elijah addressed:

“Elijah went before the people and said:  
**“How long will you waver between two opinions?  
 If the Lord is God, follow him;  
 But if Baal is god, follow him”**  
**“But the people said (and did) nothing”** (1Kgs 18:21).

Unfortunately, hundreds of millions of Christian believers who are being misled by their clergy are still babes who: **“said and did nothing”** as evidenced by Paul for clergy and believers alike: **“I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. INDEED, EVEN NOW YOU ARE NOT YET ABLE, FOR YOU ARE STILL FLESHLY.** For since there is jealousy and strife (schisms and divisions) among you, **are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men/women?** For when one says: “I am of Paul” and another: “I am of Apollos” (I am Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, this denomination, that denomination, etc.) **ARE YOU NOT MERE MEN/WOMEN?”** (1Cor 3:2-4), devoid of any understanding and spirituality and lacking that gift of being: **“Living stones built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus...** yet Jesus says by the mouth of Paul: **“I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established”** (1Pet 2:5; Rom 1:11).

“Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not well-pleased;** for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, **so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved”** (1Cor 10:5-6)... “They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isa 11:9). “Then Jesus said to his disciples: “If anyone wishes to come after me, he/she must deny him/herself, and take up his/her cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it” (Matt 16:24-25).

In summary, let us take a stand for the **“One and Only”**:

<b>Jesus</b>	<p>“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever. And I hold the keys of death and Hades...I am... He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this: “I know your deeds” (whether good or bad). (If good) “Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept my word, and have not denied my name” (Rev 1:18; 3:7-8)...</p>
<b>Gospel</b>	<p>“And the gospel must first be published among all nations” (Mar 13:10)...</p> <p>“I would like to learn just one thing from you: “Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing <b>what you heard?</b>” (Gal 3:2)...</p> <p>“How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring <b>good news of good things</b>” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says: “Lord, who has believed our report?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Rom 10:15-17)...</p> <p>“We know also that the Son of God has come and <b>has given us understanding</b>, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life” (1John 5:20)...</p> <p>“So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. For this reason we also constantly thank God that <b>when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe</b>” (1The 2:12-13)...</p>
<b>Truth</b>	<p>“<b>No lie is of the truth</b>” (1John 2:21)...</p> <p>“Grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17)...</p> <p>“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness (his righteous truth)” (Matt 6:33)...</p> <p>“Then you will know the <b>truth</b>, and the <b>truth will set you free</b>” (John 8:32)...</p> <p>“<b>For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth</b>” (2Cor 13:8)...</p> <p>“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel” (Gal 1:6-8)...</p>
<b>Spirit</b>	<p>“Building yourselves up on your <b>most holy faith</b>, praying (together) in the <b>Holy Spirit</b>” (Jude 1:20)...</p>



That stand to be all encompassing for the **Father, the Lord Jesus** himself, for their *Spirit*, for his one and only *Gospel*, for his one and only *“Truth”* in the fellowship of true and unwavering believers from all walks of life and denominations, and let us *“pray without ceasing”* for his intended *“One True Church”*, the ever *“Radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish* (schisms & charlatanism), *but holy and blameless”*... in the **ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER of all** (Eph 4:3-7).

*“Dear friends, since you are looking forward to this,  
Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him”*

(2Pet 3:14; Eph 5:27), because:

*“What harmony is there between Christ and Belial?  
Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?”* (2Cor 6:15)...

*“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons;  
you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.  
Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than he, are we?”*  
(1Cor 10:21-22)...

*“No one who is born of God practices sin, because his seed abides in him; and he cannot sin,  
because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are  
obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God”*  
(1John 3:9-11)...

*“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a  
perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: henceforth be no more  
children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of  
men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in  
love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ”* (Eph 4: 13-15).

Can we all with one voice croon sincerely and virtually and factually?

*“I fight the good fight, I (will) finish the race, I (will) keep the faith  
I (will) get a crown that will last forever* (eternal life with Jesus)” (2Tim 4:7; 1Cor 9:25)...

*“All the nations (& denominations) may walk in the name of their gods ...  
As for me and my house, (as true Christians) we will (only) serve the Lord (the True Sovereign Trinity) ...  
We will walk in the Name of the Lord our God forever and ever”* (Mic 4:5; Josh 24:15).

And if we do mean it in true ecumenical and universal Christian spirit:

**Let us:**

**“Talk the Talk”**

**& “Walk the Walk”**

**hand in hand**

**with Jesus**