

Devil's Deceptions

By Felix Immanuel

There are many deceptions in this world. Several deceptions are harder to identify and many good Christians are easily deceived. Devil's Deceptions is a collection of 11 articles of various deceptions that every true Christian must know and guard against in these last days. Each deception is organized into an individual article. Read and be blessed.

Other books by the author includes Christian Truth, Christian Journey, Handling Deceptions in Christianity, Apostate Paul: Deceiver of Christianity, Christian Comics, Christian Growth, Christian Essentials, Revelation: Verse-by-Verse Commentary, Daniel: Verse-by-Verse Commentary and Bible Timelines.

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Overview

There are many deceptions in this world. Several deceptions are harder to identify and many good Christians are easily deceived. Devil's Deceptions is a collection of 11 articles of various deceptions that every true Christian must know and guard against in these last days. Each deception is organized into an individual article. Read and be blessed.

Deception of Faith

The blunder that many make is joining sides on the faith vs works requirement for salvation and not allowing Scriptures to speak. The faith only group will take verses like Gal 2:16 and Rom 3:28 and try to give a twisted meaning to Jas 2:24. The works requirement will take James and give a twisted meaning to the faith only verses. So, what is the truth? The problem with both sides is they don't discern properly.

Faith Only

All the scripture verses that do not hinge on works are actually referring to "works of the law" - which produces "righteousness of the law".

(Gal 2:16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

(Rom 3:28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Faith and Works

And the verse that hinge on works and faith is actually referring to the righteous works mentioned by Christ.

(Jas 2:24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Context of "faith" by Paul & James (using Gen 15:6)

- *(Rom 4:2-5) For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath [whereof] to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? **Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.** Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
- *(Jas 2:21-24) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith*

*wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*

The book of Romans (actually, Paul in all his letters e.g, Rom chapters 2, 3; Gal 2:16; Phil 3:9) refers to "works" as "works of the law". The faith mentioned by Paul is same as the "living faith" mentioned by James using the above Abraham example mentioned by both authors.

Discern the works

The work James mentioned as an example:

(Jas 2:15-16) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit?

Which is exactly what Christ said:

- *(Matt 7:19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them*
- *(Matt 25:31-46) ... And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee]? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred,*

and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Can anyone reject Matt 7:19 and Matt 25:31-46 which are the words of Christ as works? Looks like Christ Himself is asking us do works, otherwise, we will be cast into fire. John the baptist also preached the same in Luke 3:9-11.

Works of the Law vs Righteous Works

Unless you properly differentiate "works of the law which is our righteousness" (which are not required), from the "righteous works which is His righteousness" (which is required for our salvation), you will not be able to discern this works vs faith differences and you might easily fall into faith only trap without having His righteousness. It is true our righteousness are filthy rags as in Isa 64:6- which is why Christ had come to reveal His righteousness and teach us what He expects. How long are you going to say that our righteousness are filthy rags and not ready to follow His sermon on mount to seek and follow His righteousness?

Thief on the Cross

Did thief on the cross do any works? This is also one of the questions put forward by "faith only" believers.

(Luke 23:39-43) Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your

kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Firstly, he not only rebuked the other thief but preached to him to fear God even at that situation in pain. Secondly, he humbled by acknowledging the punishment he received for his sins and also acknowledged the sinless nature of Christ. Thirdly, he prays to Christ to remember Him in His Kingdom. He would not have asked if he didn't have faith in Christ and in His Kingdom.

- **Had fear of God:** (Ps 85:9a) Surely his salvation [is] nigh them that fear him;
- **Humbled:** (Jas 4:6) But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
- **Had faith in Christ:** (Eph 2:8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

We see that the thief not only had faith or believed, but humbled and feared God. We also see that he showed his living faith by rebuking the thief to fear God even in that painful situation. In all the comfort I have today, I had never rebuked anyone to fear God. How much more is the "works" that this thief did? True faith always accompany with works and it is this living faith which we do and show along with the grace from God received though our humbleness, we are saved, just as the thief was saved.

Conclusion

If you separate works from faith to have faith only, then that dead faith as in Jas 2:20 and Jas 2:26 cannot save as in Jas 2:24.

James is not speaking about claims of faith but "specifically" speaking about people "claiming of faith without works" and declares it as dead. The works James mentions is the righteous works which Christ taught and not referring to works of the law.

(Jas 2:17-20) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and

tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Dead faith (with is without works) along with grace cannot save him. If you want to believe it can, you can only do so after tearing of pages of James from the Bible.

Deception of Unconditional Love

One of the greatest deception of Christianity today is God's unconditional love directed towards everyone including unbelievers.

Below are the few verses quoted for this.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

God demonstrates His love only towards the people who are justified by His blood and are saved from His wrath.

Another verse often told for Unconditional love is:

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This unconditional love requires the condition of believing in Him. Let's read more to know about this unconditional love.

John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

How much clear is Christ's own spoken words regarding His own unconditional love of condemnation of unbelievers.

Yet another verse often quoted for unconditional love is:

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

Rom 8:39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Firstly, this verse is referring to believers. Secondly, God's love is in Christ. Hence, if anyone rejects Christ, and/or Christ is not in Him, how can we say God's love is in him?

Finally,

Rom 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

If love of God is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, how can an unbeliever receive this love of God without the Holy Spirit?

Deception of Grace

There are abundant grace preachers in these last days leading many good Christians into a path of easy broad way which Christ warned as leading to death. Many of today's Christians are misled by a modern preaching that turns grace into licentiousness.

What is grace of God?

*Luke 13:6-9 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, **let it alone this year also**, until I dig around it and fertilize it. **And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.**'"*

*John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

The gardener mediates with the owner of the vineyard and got grace of one more year to nourish it after which it will be cut down if it is still fruitless. Similarly, Jesus Christ mediates with God the Father to be patient with our fruitlessness for a grace period during which Christ gives every opportunity for us to bear fruits and after which we will be cut down if we still remain fruitless. This deferral of His Judgment and the short time we have to bear fruits is called "Grace of God". As you can see, this grace is not for ever.

Grace is not for all

*Jas 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**"*

*1Pet 5:5-7 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**"*

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

It is wrong to assume that grace of God is for all. God does not give grace to the pride. Hence, we are to be humble to receive grace.

*Acts 5:1-5 But a certain man named **Ananias**, with **Sapphira** his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.*

If anyone sin against God, that does not mean they will always be given grace just as Ananias and Sapphira didn't receive any such grace even though it is their first sin of such kind.

Grace is not same for all

*Eph 4:7 But to each one of us **grace** was given **according to the measure of Christ's gift.***

*Rom 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing **according to the grace that is given to us**, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

As we saw earlier, just like grace is not for all, grace is also not same for all. Some have more grace while others have less according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Beware of Deceptions!

*Eph 2:8 For by **grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*

*Rom 3:23-24 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 11:6 And if **by grace**, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*

In the parable of the fruitless fig tree in Luke 13:6-9, the already fruitless fig tree did nothing to deserve grace from the gardener.

Matt 22:9 'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

Similarly, in the parable of the marriage of the King's Son from Matt 22:1-14, the good and bad from the highway who were not initially invited, did nothing to deserve the invitation. This is called "Grace" which is why it is often referred "salvation cannot be earned" or "we cannot save ourselves". While this is true, it is a packaged lie from the devil. Even while the fruitless fig tree had a grace of one year, if it remains fruitless, it will be cut off. In the same way, even when the person who was invited from the highway through King's grace, if he does come without the wedding garment, he will be cast into outer darkness. The initial grace is neither going to save the fruitless fig nor those who come without the wedding garment. The fruits are the works which Christ expects and the wedding garment represents our robe washed in His blood and kept undefiled from the sins of this world.

The biggest deception is, we are saved by grace and we can't do anything to earn salvation. This cascades into another deception where righteousness of God is imputed because of our faith in Christ, and thus saved even if we have no fruits. This is exactly what Satan wants you to believe.

*Matt 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because **narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who find it.*

Satan used scripture to tempt Jesus Himself and he is now using Scripture to lead many Christians into the easy broad way giving an illusion of heaven as destination while they are walking on the path that leads to death.

*Heb 12:14-15 Pursue **peace** with all people, and **holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone **fall short of the***

grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Are you using grace of God as an excuse to walk in the broad and easy way without realizing it not only leads to death but also your grace is running out? Repent! Turn from your sins! Strive to enter the narrow gate.

Deception of Love your Enemies

God's love is saving us from the flames of hell and from His wrath. If we are to show God's love to others, we are to declare His judgments and the coming wrath of God.

*Matt 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be **sons of your Father in heaven**; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*Matt 5:9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called **sons of God**.*

*Luke 6:35-36 But **love your enemies**, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore **be merciful**, just as your Father also is merciful.*

Jesus Christ taught us to love our enemies for the sake of goodness of both the just and unjust. He calls us to be peacemakers and have mercy just as our Father in Heaven is also merciful. We need to discern [affectionate and compassionate](#) love.

Understand Biblical Love



No Intermarriage

(Rev 2:14)



Compassion

(Luke 6:35-36)



No Fellowship

(2 Cor 6:14-17)



No Vengeance

(Rom 12:19-21)

God loves His children affectionately but He is compassionate and ready to forgive any wicked person who is willing to turn to God. This is exactly how we need to reflect God.

Satan wants you to love more!

Satan also wants God's children to love more but to love the sons of the wicked one and God haters. Satan used Scripture to tempt Jesus Christ Himself. So does Satan today uses Christ's own words of 'love your enemies' in deceiving millions of Christians to love the wicked more affectionately so that Satan can cut off the relationship Christians have with God once they begin to have fellowship with the wicked. This is the same counsel used by Balaam.

So, what does God had to say?

*2Chr 19:2b **Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.***

If you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD, only His wrath of the LORD will be upon you. Satan wants God to have wrath of God upon His people.

Do not be deceived!

Make peace with your enemies for the sake of both just and unjust. Show mercy on the wicked but not help. Satan also wants God's children to love more but to love the sons of the wicked and God haters. Love your enemies not God's enemies. If you help the wicked and love those who hate God, the wrath of God will be upon you. Satan wants God to have His wrath upon you.

Deception of Charity and Giving to God

One of the biggest deceptions in modern days is about charity to unbelievers thinking that they are doing it for God. Scripture verses are often quoted to justify charity even to unbelievers referring to as doing it to God is:

Matt 25:40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did [it] to one of the least of these My brethren, you did [it] to Me.'

Matt 25:45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do [it] to one of the least of these, you did not do [it] to Me.'

Notice that both the sheep and goats are within the church and knew about Christ. Further more, Christ refers as "My brethren". Who is Christ's brethren?

Matt 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Hence, least of My brethren refers to those who do the will of the Father in heaven and not to unbelievers.

Christ not in unbelievers. How can someone give something to a needy that s/he is giving to Christ when that needy person rejects or never knew Christ?

Matt 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Prov 19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.

Christ never knew the lawless. Christ also considers only His people as Himself because His people are His body.

Acts 9:4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Notice that Saul is not persecuting Christ but His people. However, Christ is referring to His people as Himself.

This does not mean we mustn't or shouldn't help an unbeliever who is needy. What Christians must know is that, it is not giving to God. If Christ is going to say to some unbeliever that He never knew him/her, how can a Christian believer convince Christ about a charitable work that s/he did to someone Christ never knew?

Misquoted verses regarding love your enemies used for charity and giving to God.

Matt 5:42-44 "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you

Luke 6:34-35 "And if you lend [to those] from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Firstly, the verses do not represent any charity but rather being kind and loving to an unthankful and evil people who persecute us and not about the needy. Secondly, notice the word 'lend' and 'who wants to borrow' in the verses given for extra clarity by the Holy Spirit, showing these have nothing to do with charity or giving to God.

Giving to an unbeliever is not giving to God for God doesn't dwell on an unbeliever. Therefore, let us satisfy Christ's hunger, thirst, take Him in, clothe Him, visit Him in sickbed and prison, by doing all these to a fellow believer.

Deception of Secret Pre-Trib Rapture

Secret Rapture seems to be one of the greatest deception in churches today. One of the famous verses often quoted is,

Luke 17:34 "I tell you, in that night there will be two [men] in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left.

I can't understand how this is related to rapture when it is saying the opposite. Let's ask Christ Himself where they will be taken.

Luke 17:37 And they answered and said to Him, "Where, Lord?" So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together."

In other words, they will not be secretly raptured but taken to be killed!

Another famous verse for secret rapture is as follows:

1Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

But this isn't a secret rapture either because the preceding verse clearly says the dead in Christ will rise first.

1Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Finally, Acts 1:11 makes it clear that He will come in clouds the same way He went up, which is not in secret.

Acts 1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Does thief in the night refers to anything secret?

1Thess 5:2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

2Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt

with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Peter clears up with much clarity. There is no pre-trib secret rapture. It is a false doctrine which does not prepare the flock for the great tribulation.

Deception of God's Love

One of the greatest deception today is many does not know what is God's love is.

What is God's love?

*Rom 5:8-9 But **God demonstrates His own love** toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from wrath through Him.***

God's love is all about saving us from His wrath.

*John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me **will be loved by My Father, and I will love him** and manifest Myself to him."*

God's love is for those who has His commandments and keeps them, not everyone.

Does God love everyone?

*John 3:16-18 **For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does not believe is condemned already,**** because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

The real question is, does God condemn the people whom he loved?

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

The answer is No! It is not love but God's wrath abides on him who does not believe.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

But God dwells on those who loves Him.

Does God love those who hate Him?

John 15:23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also.

Exod 20:5-6 .. For I, the LORD your God, [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth [generations] of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Again no! It is up to you to decide if visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children is out of love - but I don't think so.

God hates and abhors

God is love. Indeed He is.

*1John 4:15-16 Whoever **confesses that Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the **love that God has for us**. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.*

However, it is wrong to say He never hates. He does indeed hates sinners.

*Lev 20:23 'And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore **I abhor them**.*

*Rom 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but **Esau I have hated**."*

*Prov 22:14 The mouth of an immoral woman [is] a deep pit; He who is **abhorred by the LORD** will fall there.*

*Prov 3:32 For the **perverse person is an abomination to the LORD**, But His secret counsel [is] with the upright.*

God's Vengeance

Heb 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

God also takes vengeance.

Reflecting God's love

*Eph 5:1-7 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And **walk in love, as Christ also has loved us** and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore **do not be partakers with them.***

Hence, we are to reflect God's love by not being partakers with sons of disobedience.

Deception of Tithing

Tithing is now a financial income for many institutionalized churches. Blind Christians who have no idea of what tithing is, had been giving a tenth of their earnings all through their life thinking they give it to God. Here we will explore what tithing is, and if Christians had to follow it in the new covenant.

What is Tithe?

*Ezek 45:14 “The ordinance concerning oil, the bath of oil, is **one-tenth** of a bath from a kor. A kor is a homer or ten baths, for ten baths are a homer.*

Tithe means a tenth.

*Lev 27:30 ‘And all the **tithe of the land**, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s. It is holy to the LORD.*

*Lev 27:32 ‘And concerning the **tithe of the herd or the flock**, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.*

The law mentions a tenth of the produce of the land or earnings given to God as an offering.

Num 18:21-24 “Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. “Hereafter the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a statute forever, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, ‘Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.’ ”

God had given the tithe of the children of Israel to the Levites as an inheritance according to the old covenant.

First Tithe

Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe of all.

The first mention of tithe was given by Abraham to Melchizedek. While tithe is generally referring to the law, it simply means a tenth and Abraham gave a tenth of all he had to Melchizedek. It is important to understand Abraham was neither obliged nor instructed to provide any tithe. He gave out of his own freewill, a tenth of all he had. Hence, this is not the same as tithe in the law but a freewill offering which is a tenth of all he had.

Heb 7:4-5 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

This is expanded by the author of Hebrews to show Christ was from the order of Melchizedek.

Tithe mentioned by Jesus

Matt 23:23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Luke 11:42 “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Is Jesus instructing Christians to follow tithing? No, but rather He is showing how scribes and Pharisees had left justice, mercy and faith which are the weightier matters and followed the lighter matters of the law like tithing. This is by no means Christ is suggesting Christians to follow tithing. It is like saying Christ was circumcised on the 8th day, so Christians must also be circumcised which was never instructed to gentile Christians.

Blind Christians

Many Christians are so blind that they are easily misled by institutionalized churches who actively preach that they are no longer under the law yet request tithe which is part of the law. Christians need to wake up to understand that people who do service to God in churches are neither Levites nor priests. Nor does the new covenant believers part of an Israelite tribe to have tithe obligations. Neither do they have any inheritance with children of Jacob for them to offer tithe to a Levite.

In the new covenant, Christians don't have tithe but only freewill offering. It can be so little or everything you have but there are no obligations. However, when you have and you don't help your fellow Christian, you may end up in everlasting punishment.

Matt 25:44-46 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You? Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Hence, there is no such thing as tithe in the new covenant.

Matt 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Jesus also said, if we want to be perfect, sell what we have and give it to the poor and follow Christ. This is not suggesting selling everything and become poor but rather selling our 'treasures' which are in earth and giving to poor so that we have treasures in heaven. The treasures refer to our abundance which we must sell and give it to the poor.

Also, giving to some needy unbeliever is not the same as giving to God. Refer to [Deception of Charity and Giving to God](#) for more details. Just because someone is doing God's work does not mean we must provide any offering and make him or her super rich but rather, we must provide help and support to all fellow poor and needy Christians and have compassion to even enemies and unbelievers.

Conclusion

- Tithe is only for the tribes of Israel who had give it to Levites
- Tithe is an old covenant law and Christians are not under it.
- Blind Christians are misled by institutionalized churches for monetary benefits.
- New Covenant preaches to help fellow Christian brothers and sisters and does not set any value or percentage on earnings.
- We must sell our abundance and treasures to help the fellow poor and needy Christians so that we become perfect before God.

Deception of Perverted Gospel

Many Christians don't have a clear idea of what is the gospel which must be preached to a sinner and unbeliever. I am seeing repeatedly the gospel message to unbelievers is being diluted with the message of God's love and no where God's wrath and the repentance is preached. Let's look into what is the true gospel message which Christ commanded in his great commission.

To discern the true gospel, we need to understand what gospel Christ preached.

*(Mark 1:14-15) Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"*

*(Matt 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"*

So, Christ preached about repentance throughout his ministry.

(Luke 5:32) "I have not come to call [the] righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

(Luke 13:3) "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

God does preach His love, but not to sinners and multitudes, but to His disciples and a closed group who believed in Him.

E.g,

(Matt 23:27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead [men's] bones and all uncleanness."

Even John was preaching about repentance.

(Mark 1:4) John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

What did Christ want us to preach to all nations?

*(Luke 24:46-47) Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

"Repent" was the message told to 5 out of 7 churches by Christ Himself!

Ephesus:*(Rev 2:5) "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.*

Pergamos*(Rev 2:16) 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.*

Thyatira*(Rev 2:22) "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.*

Sardis*(Rev 3:3) "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

Laodiceans*(Rev 3:19) "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.*

God's long suffering:

*(2Pet 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**.*

Even God's long suffering is that all should come to repentance.

Today's gospel is perverted primarily using God's love and removing repentance completely. The good news or the gospel message is never about God's love but always about repentance and remission of sins, so that he can be saved from God's wrath. Hence, Satan uses a perverted gospel which preaches God's love instead of repentance because Satan knows, the sinner may be saved if he knows about God's wrath which is waiting for him. Hence, Satan perverts the gospel by removing repentance and God's wrath and filling with God's love.

It is sad that even dedicated gospel preachers are preaching this perverted gospel. This is one of the important reasons for lack of revival.

Deception of Eternal Security

There are many churches today, are deceived with a false doctrine called 'Eternal Security'. Many hold slightly a different view, surrounding this doctrine but, all who believe on Eternal Security agree that salvation is secure for eternity because they truly repented and saved to become a believer sometime in the past. There is also a liberal view of saying a prayer. But can this be true? We must ask ourselves to trust scripture and scripture alone and not on any man's doctrine. Unless we properly discern the truth by interpreting scripture using scripture, we will also fall into these traps.

False foundations

Eternal security is not a doctrine on its own. It has a supporting doctrine called "Faith Only" doctrine which teaches no works are required. This is primarily because, many do not properly discern the faith / works mentioned by Paul's letters and in the book of James. To give you a brief understanding, when Paul mentions faith, he always refers to "living faith" and works to "works of the law". However, when James mentions works, he refers to "righteous works" mentioned by Christ and differentiates living faith and dead faith. I had mentioned in detail in the other blog, [Deception of Faith](#). When this false teaching of "faith only" is broken, the doctrine of eternal security automatically falls apart. But still there are other aspects of eternal security that must be broken using Scripture which we will explore more in this blog.

Misinterpreted Verses

Most eternal security supporters don't like to go into the detail of the text but just don't want to even test their own doctrine using scripture. I will take all the points used by eternal security supporters and let's analyze them with scripture.

1. By Faith Only - Rom 4

Eternal security supporters say, *The scriptures show that eternal life, our justification, our salvation, is by faith (Rom 4). Faith, not works, justifies*

the ungodly (Romans 4:5). God imputes righteousness without works (Romans 4:6). Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

The question we need to ask ourselves is,

- What do we consider as "works" and "faith" in book of Romans?
- How does it agree with the book of James?

The context of "faith" and "works" by Paul & James using the same Gen 15:6:

- (Rom 4:2-5) For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath [whereof] to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.
- (Jas 2:21-24) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

The book of Romans (actually, Paul in all his letters e.g., Rom chapters 2, 3; Gal 2:16; Phil 3:9) refers to "works" as "works of the law". The faith mentioned by Paul is same as the "living faith" mentioned by James using the same above Abraham example mentioned by both authors. I had explained this in a more detailed way in another blog at [Deception in Faith](#)

2. Saved Through Faith - Eph 2:8,9

Eternal security supporters say, *A person can be saved (present tense) through faith, not of works, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8, 9).*

We need to look into the text carefully and with context. They ignore overlook the next verse esp., verse 10 which says "in Christ".

(Eph 2:10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The next verse gives the reason for Ephesians 2:8, 9. It clearly states that, this work by God on us (whatever mentioned in verses 8 & 9) is created "in Christ Jesus" for "good works". It is not directly to us.

3. Eternal life mentioned as present tense - 1 Joh 5:13

Eternal security supporters say, *A person can be given (ie gift) eternal life by God, and it can be something they have (present tense) (1 John 5:11, 12). A person can know that they have (present tense) eternal life (1 John 5:13).*

We need to actually look into scriptures to understand the truth. The statements does not reflect the actual scripture truth. They ignored or overlooked the rest which explains in great detail.

(1John 5:11-12) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

The verse actually says, that this eternal life is "in Christ". It even goes further to explain how eternal life is given to any person by saying, whoever has Christ, have eternal life and whoever don't have Christ don't have eternal life.

4. Believes will have Eternal Life - Joh 6:47

Eternal security supporters say, *He that believes on Jesus Christ has (present tense) eternal life (John 6:47).*

What does Christ refers to "believes" ?

(John 3:18-21) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that

doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

The present tense of eternal security is only because of Christ who dwells inside the believer, not on its own.

(John 14:23) Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

5. Some will have no works to show but faith only in judgment - 1 Cor 3:15

Eternal security supporters say, *At the judgment of believers some people will have no works to show - to be rewarded for -yet they will still be saved, yet so as by fire (1 Cor 3:15).*

Paul refers to the person who will be saved "only" if the person have the foundation as Christ.

(1Cor 3:11) For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

How can someone say there is not work done to have foundation as Christ. As mentioned earlier, Paul refers to works as works of the law, which is what is referred as works in 1 Cor 3:15.

Christ Himself said a parable about foundations on His Word.

(Luke 6:47-48)"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

6. By His mercy and not by our works of righteousness - Tit 3:5

Eternal security supporters say, *God saves us according to His mercy, not by works of righteousness which we have done (Titus 3:5).*

Mercy is not directly given to us but only through Christ after being

justified by His grace. If anyone rejects Christ anytime along the way, he will also cease to receive mercy because mercy is given only "through Christ". If there is no Christ in him, how can he receive mercy? How can someone who you consider as once saved, reject Christ and still be eternally secure?

(Titus 3:4-7) But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

7. Eternal life is a gift. He will not take back - Rom 6:23

Eternal security supporters say, *The gift of God is eternal life (Romans 6:23)*.

They miss the previous verse which clearly states that who will receive everlasting life. The verse which they mention also clearly states that this gift of eternal life is given through Jesus Christ. As I already mentioned, if someone rejects Christ anytime along the way, he will also not receive eternal life.

(Rom 6:22-23) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8. His sheep will never perish - Joh 10:29

Eternal security supporters say, *Of the saved, ie they who are His sheep, they will hear the Shepherd, know His voice, and follow Him, and the Lord promises that they shall never perish (John 10:29)*.

It is a promise given to those who hear His voice and follow Him. How are they already saved, when it is still a promise? If someone started to follow Him, but later didn't, can he still be saved in the end?

9. Salvation mentioned as present tense

Eternal security supporters say, *Salvation is also mentioned in scripture as past as well as present tense.*

(1Pet 1:5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1Thess 5:8) But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and [as] a helmet the hope of salvation.

(1Pet 1:9) receiving the end of your faith -- the salvation of [your] souls.

(Heb 9:28) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

All the above verses clearly mention that salvation will be revealed only during Christ's second coming. Why are we supposed to have "hope" of salvation as helmet if anyone is already having the salvation? The present possession of salvation is only when we have Christ in us and it is through faith. If faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen according to Heb 11:1, how is that what we hoped is already received? It is the absolute surety that God who cannot lie had given us eternal life and salvation in Jesus Christ. No one had ever received salvation except it is all present in Christ. If we have Christ, we have salvation because it is in Him and if we reject Him, we lose it.

9. True converts will never reject Christ

Eternal security supporters say, *True faithful converts will never reject Christ. If they reject, they were never truly saved.*

Let us see what the scripture say.

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

(Heb 10:38-39) Now the just shall live by faith: but if [any man] draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

How can someone depart from faith if they had not already in faith? Drawing back from what? Scripture says yes, we can walk away.

10. Our righteousness are filthy rags - Isa 64:6

Eternal security supporters say, *ALL our righteousnesses are as filthy rags* based on Isaiah 64:6

Unless we properly differentiate "works of the law which is our righteousness" (which are not required), from the "righteous works which is His righteousness" (which is required for our salvation), we will not be able to discern this works vs faith differences and we might easily fall into faith only trap without having His righteousness. It is true our righteousness are filthy rags - which is why Christ had come to reveal His righteousness and teach us what He expects. How long are they going to say that our righteousness are filthy rags and not ready to follow His sermon on mount to seek and follow His righteousness?

As in Phil 3:9, our righteousness is of the law and we are to have the righteousness from God by faith in Christ.

- Do not murder is our righteousness but don't even be angry is His righteousness. If not danger of hell fire.
- Do not commit adultery is our righteousness but don't even lust at our heart is His righteousness. If not hell fire.
- A tooth for tooth is our righteousness but turning the other cheek to get smite is His righteousness.
- Loving our neighbor and hating the enemy is our righteousness but loving our enemy is His righteousness.

Can we have salvation and end up in hell fire? The Words of Christ speaks plainly, we will be in danger of hell fire even if we are angry with brother and will end up in hell fire for adultery in heart.

11. Salvation is a work of God, not based on any man's work

Eternal security supporters say, *Salvation is a work of God and not based on any man's work.*

Let us see what the scripture teaches.

(Hebrews 5:9) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

(1John 2:1-3) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is not for all. It is only for those who obey Him. It even teaches that Christ, who is our advocate is only for people who keep His commandments.

Conclusion

When we interpret Scripture, we need to make sure, not one scripture verse speaks against or contradicts our interpretation. All promises, blessings, inheritance, salvation, eternal life are all present in Christ. If we have Christ, we inherit everything. Eternal security not only removes Christ from Salvation (as He is no longer required afterwards for those that are already saved) but also gives a false comfort zone for being in sin and deceiving themselves as saved for eternity.

Hence, don't deceive yourself, think that just believing in Him will save you. Just believing without righteous works or the fruits, you will end up having dead faith. Scripture clearly states, dead faith can never save you.

(Matthew 7:19) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Don't be deceived by this false doctrine of Eternal security.

Deception of Abundance

Prosperity is being widely preached in Christianity today. While prosperity and abundance is a blessing to many Christians, it is not a promise given in the New Covenant. While most Christians ask for the blessings of abundance and treasures of this world, many does not know why abundance is given to them or what the bible commands them to follow after abundance is given or when the blessings of abundance becomes a sin.

Prov 28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

Heart on Treasures

*Matt 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**”*

A direct command from Jesus is not to lay up treasures on earth because our heart will also be set on it. When Christ said 'treasures', He is mentioning the abundance and not referring to basic needs.

How many Christians today truly follow Christ by not laying up treasures on earth?

God's blessing of abundance or treasures are by themselves not a sin. However, it is hard for those who have them to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

*Mark 10:23-25 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “**How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!**” And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”*

Paul in his letter explains the problems of being rich.

*1Tim 6:7-10 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be **rich fall into temptation** and a snare, and into many **foolish and harmful lusts** which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

Those who desire to be rich fall into temptations with foolish and harmful lusts. Even if they don't fall into temptations, Christ gave two important commandments to even enter into Kingdom of Heaven.

Christ's Commands

Mark 10:20-24 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!"

Luke 12:33-34 "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Christ is not asking the rich man to sell all he had which is a bad translation or interpretation but rather asking him to have treasure in heaven rather than on earth. Treasures are the abundances we have and not the things we require to meet our basic needs. Christ teaches two important points which are required to enter Kingdom of Heaven.

- Not to trust in riches
- Must give to those who are in need

If you look into the conversation of the rich man with Christ, to enter kingdom of heaven, the rich man followed all commandments in the law yet he lacks one thing. He is required to sell his abundance and give it to the poor and to follow Him. But the rich wasn't willing to sell his abundant riches and help the poor but store all his abundance for himself. This is the sin of the rich man in the below Lazarus and the rich man parable and many rich Christians still have this sin being unable to enter kingdom of Heaven.

Sin of the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-22,25-31 “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.“But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘**They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’

The rich man with all his abundance did not help the poor beggar at his gate.

Deut 15:7-8 If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

Ezek 16:49 “Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

Helping a poor Israelite at the gates was a specific commandment in the law. Yet the rich man did not obey neither the law nor of the prophets.

*1 Tim 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, **ready to give, willing to share**, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may **lay hold on eternal life**.*

Ready to give and willing to share is required to lay hold on eternal life.

Luke 3:8-11 “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” So the people asked him, saying, “What shall we do then? He answered and said to them, “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.”

What does John preach to avoid being cut off? To give from our abundance to the poor. This is not a option but a requirement for us to bear good fruit. This is exactly what James taught when he said, faith without works is dead.

Giving to Reap More

*Luke 21:1-4 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, “Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty **put in all the livelihood that she had**.”*

*Luke 18:28-30 Then Peter said, “See, we have **left all and followed You**.” So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the*

kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

The poor widow gave all she had for her livelihood and the disciples left all that they had and followed Christ. Jesus Christ did not ask us to give everything we have but only not to store our abundance to ourselves but to help the poor and needy. However, giving to God, no matter how little it is, if we sacrifice our own needs to help others, it is more in the sight of God and will reap a hundred fold in this age and in eternal life. Therefore, let us desire to reap more in eternal life and store treasures in heaven.

Conclusion

We are required to help the fellow poor and needy Christians either through the church or independently from our abundance. While helping poor and needy is important, giving to an unbeliever is not giving to God. Refer to [Deception of Charity and Giving to God](#) for a detailed explanation and Bible references. However, if an unbeliever is desperately in need of help, we must have compassion and save him.

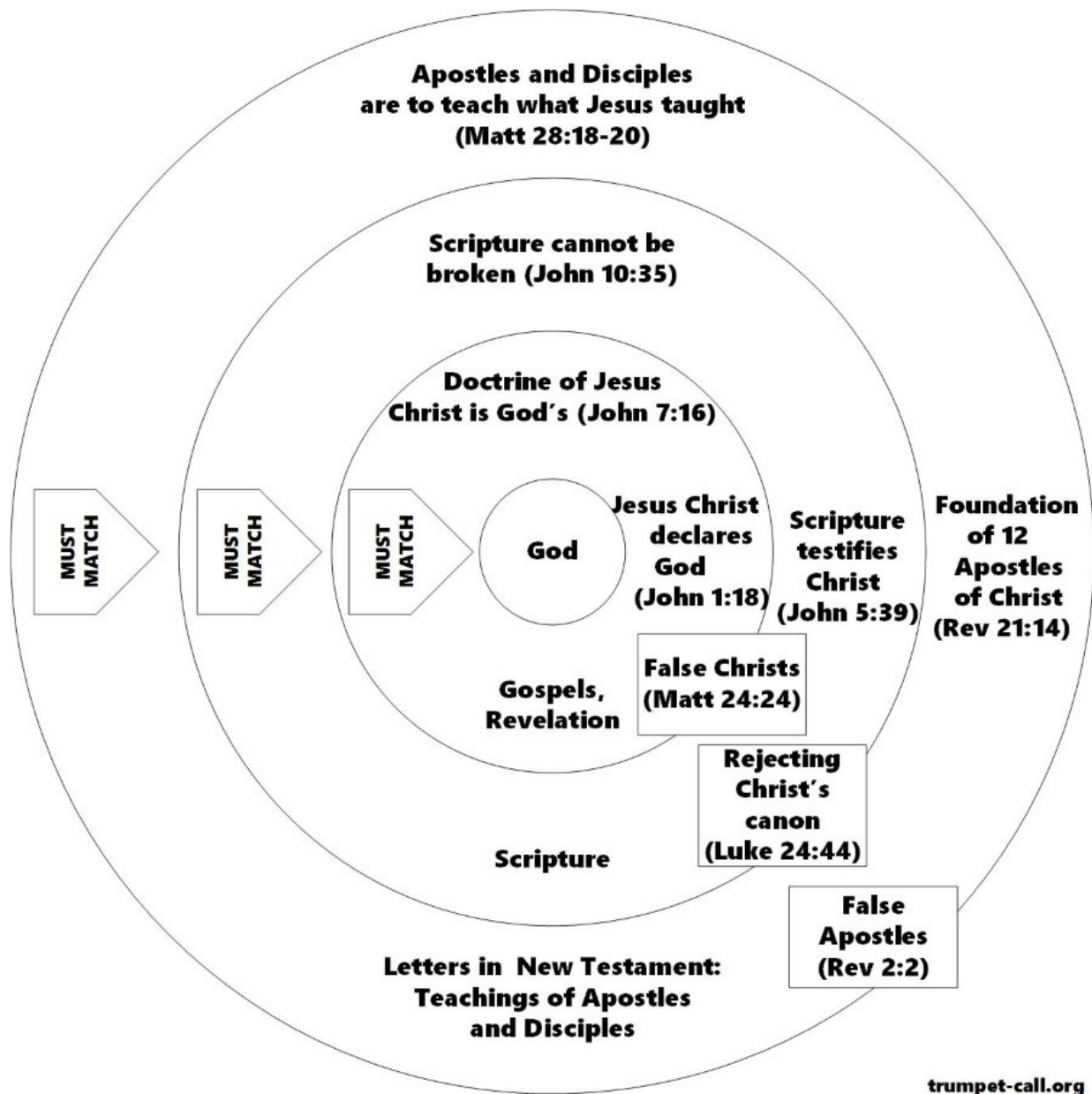
Storing up treasures to ourselves and not helping a fellow believer in need is a sin. Neither they can enter kingdom of Heaven nor Eternal life is not for them. The abundance which God gives as a blessing is actually to help others who are in need and not for our own luxury to store up treasures to ourselves.

Bibliography

- All Scripture verses are quoted from New King James Version (NKJV)
- Cover Picture adapted from Illustration for John Milton's "Paradise Lost" by Gustave Doré -
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Paradise_Lost_39.jpg

Statement of Faith

Being a Protestant Christian, it is easy for me to simply say, I believe the Bible. But, there are lots of different interpretations of the Bible and several deceptions without sound doctrine which created thousands of denominations. Hence, I had put forward a Circle of Discernment to discern every interpretation from the Bible to avoid deceptions.



Source: File: Circle-of-Discernment.png - <https://trumpet-call.org>

Circle of Discernment is another way of saying, all interpretations must match God's spoken words, Christ's teachings, Scripture (Law, Psalms and Prophets) and the teachings of apostles and disciples in the authoritative order. If you cannot find the conclusion of your interpretation taught by Christ, or found in Scripture, or spoken by God in the authoritative order, then your interpretation is wrong. Similarly, if you interpret Scripture that does not agree with Christ, then your interpretation is wrong.

Christ did not give anyone authority to change His canon of Scripture (Luke 24:44-45). He included only 28 books from the Christian Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and Psalms. Just like there are weightier matters of the law (Matt 23:23), Gospels and Revelation are the weightier books in the New Testament. We need to listen and obey Christ's teachings for which Father will require of all who reject His Words spoken through His Son (Deut 18:19). It is blasphemy to exalt and glorify a man's letter and make it equal with Christ's words.

About the Author

Felix Immanuel is a born-again Christian, trying to live a Christ-like life. He is a software professional who write blogs in trumpet-call.org focused on the spiritual growth of Christians. God had blessed him with his wife and two daughters.