

Resurrecting Major

BIBLICAL TRUTHS

Buried for Centuries by Satan

BY: PASTOR RICHARD ELDRED



Foreword

Most of us would agree that truth matters. If we are on trial in a court of law, witnesses must swear to tell the truth and we certainly pray that they will. We seem to like truth from our teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, and friends. But what about truth in theology?

It is an unfortunate fact of history, that error has crept into theology over the centuries. This should not surprise us because Jesus warned in Matthew 7:15: “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.” Paul warned of the dangers of error in Acts 20:29, 30: “I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.” Notice that the danger comes from outside the church and even inside the church.

We would do well to follow the example of the people who lived in Berea as mentioned in Acts 17:11: “Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” It would be good for us to study the Bible for ourselves, rather than blindly accepting what someone tells us about the Bible, no matter how articulate and educated they are.

In the following pages, the author asks you to consider some basic Bible teachings about God, Jesus, and the Kingdom of God. He provides many Scripture texts that will help you to gain a good understanding of these important topics. I urge you to read this material with an open and searching mind so that you can let God’s Word become clear to you. Pray the words of Psalm 119:18: “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.” I am certain that God will answer this prayer. God bless you in your study.

I have known Dick Eldred for more than 40 years. He is a man who cares about people and wants as many as possible to come to a knowledge of truth and salvation. He enjoys nothing more than talking about the Scriptures and sharing God’s wonderful plan for the future. Through the churches he has started, the students he has taught at Atlanta Bible College, and his individual conversations with many people, he has shaped countless lives and advanced the cause of Christ in a huge way. I know you will benefit from his words in this book.

David Krogh, friend and colleague in ministry

Preface and Acknowledgments and My Personal Journey of Faith

I am so grateful for the people in my life that God has used to bring me out of the cloud of doctrinal confusion and into the true teaching of Scripture. This understanding led me to a life-saving relationship with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

First on that list is Carol Lee Riley, the pretty little girl I met in the fifth grade. I had been raised in an orthodox church and had very little understanding of the Bible. I assumed what I was hearing was right and true. If it wasn't for God bringing this pretty little girl into my life, I am sure I would still be lost and confused. I certainly didn't know it in the fifth grade, that Carol and I would one day be married. When we were eighteen we were married in her church—the Church of God of the Faith of Abraham. Once married, I began serving a two-year hitch in the United States Army. After my tour of duty in Germany and my discharge, we began to attend her church.

The doctrinal truths I was hearing, such as the return of Jesus, the Messiah, to establish the Kingdom of God here on the earth made so much sense that I made the decision to be baptized. I regretfully, but honestly admit that it was not life-changing at the time; I was consumed with my trucking business and Christ was just not the priority in my life that He needed to be. Carol was the spiritual anchor in our home. She had our four sons in church every Sunday morning, every Sunday evening and even Wednesday night Bible study at the church—where was Dad? Not there.

God had a plan though. My truck was stolen off the Kenworth dealership truck lot in Grand Rapids in 1976. That was life changing, to say it lightly. I was out of the trucking business. I turned my truck garage into a welding business. Now that I was home with my family, I got more involved in the church and got more sincere about my relationship with Christ. I attended a Christian Workers Seminar and came home on fire. I told Carol I didn't want to be in the welding business any longer. I had a burden to reach people lost in sin, and help

them to find a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. A complete heart transplant, that's what the Lord did to me at that seminar.

We put our home and business up for sale. The house and the business sold within a few months of each other; that was God's confirmation of my decision to pursue a life of ministry. We moved to Oregon, Illinois—the home of the Oregon Bible College and the headquarters of the Church of God General Conference. In the fall of 1978 I was a thirty-nine year old freshman at Oregon Bible College. What a blessing!

I continued to learn in my studies the **true** message of Scripture. It is so simple: Jesus the Christ (Messiah), Son of the one true God, suffered on the cross to pay our debt of sin. He ascended into heaven to be with His father and to intercede on our behalf. He is coming again to this earth to raise His faithful followers from the sleep of death to rule and reign with Him on the earth as he establishes the Kingdom of God—an inevitable paradise here on earth. "*When He has put all His enemies under His feet...He will hand this restored earth back to His Father that God may be all in all*" (1 *Corinthians 15:24-28*) (NIV).

I am so grateful for all the people God has brought into my life, including the staff at the Oregon Bible College. I am thankful also that I had an open mind and didn't try to defend what I had been taught in my ignorance, but was open to new learning instead. You can study yourself into these wonderful truths that I am presenting in this booklet, but you too must have an open mind and question what you have been taught previously. Once you understand the simplicity of the message you will never study your way out of it. Please be open to the Scriptures alone and new learning.

I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for that sweet little girl in the fifth grade. God bless her for her patience and grace as she helped me grow into the man that God had intended for me to be. God had a plan, as He always does. Even for you!

— Dick

Pastor Richard Eldred

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

—Isaiah 40:8

1

Introduction

The world today is in chaos concerning the true and very simple message of the Bible. This distortion came into Christianity shortly after the death of the apostles and is still very much alive today; it has never recovered. Masses of people in churches never question whether or not what they are being taught is supported by Scripture. In this article, I am going to address three major doctrines that have been terribly distorted. As a result, it has hidden the simple, logical understanding of the Christian message.

First: ‘Who is God?’

Second: ‘Who is Jesus and what was His mission and main message to you and to me as His followers?’

Third: ‘What happens to a man when he dies? What is his hope when his life has ended?’

May I encourage you, before you start reading this doctrinal paper, to begin with earnest prayer. Many people are quick to defend what they have been taught by others and believe it to be true, without ever searching and digging into God’s Word for themselves. Had it not been for me having an open mind and listening carefully to God’s Word, that probably would have been me as well.

Many are willing to ignore Scripture to defend their distorted point of view. The Bible alone must be our authority and guide.

Bible verses will be printed in *italics* and my comments will be in regular print. I use an older version of the New American Standard Bible for all of my Scriptural references Please pay particular attention to the Word of God.

I pray that God will open your eyes, your mind, and your heart to the Scriptures. I pray that He will give you new and clear understanding of the Scriptures and use you powerfully to teach the message of Jesus and His coming Kingdom to others whom Satan, ‘the father of lies,’ has confused.

The confusion that was brought into Christianity was through the influence of Satanic paganism. Paul warned Timothy about it shortly before his death. *“O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoid worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge which some have professed and **thus gone astray from the faith**” (1 Timothy 6:20-21).* Satan, God’s number one adversary, distorted the simplicity of these major doctrinal truths early as Greek and Babylonian paganism was introduced into the Christian message. His distorted and false message is still alive and unquestioned in many churches today.

Following is an excerpt from the book, *“The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy”* by Brad McDonald. It documents how Satan has successfully used men to distort the Scriptures. “Simon Magus (believed to be Simon the sorcerer *in Acts 8:8-11; 18-24*) went to Rome with his own distorted false gospel. By the fourth century this distorted message was taking root in the Roman Empire. In 313, Constantine the Great, as he is known today, issued the Edict of Milan. This supreme ruling made tolerance of “Christianity” (that is ‘Magus’ Christianity) mandatory through the Roman Empire... Constantine the Great presided over the council of Nicaea. At this pivotal gathering of secular and religious leaders, Constantine presided over the establishment of the **Catholic hierarchy** as the official head of the church. This council formally established the “**trinity,**” as a pagan teaching brought over from the Babylonian religion into false Christianity by Simon

Magus... Now that it had the official backing of the mighty Roman Empire, its destiny to be a global religion was assured.”

Satan used Simon Magus, the Roman Empire, the Emperor Constantine, and eventually the Roman Catholic Church to endorse and promote many false teachings over hundreds of years. Constantine accepted a mixture of false Christian teachings and worldly conduct. Because of his hunger for power, he endorsed Christianity, thinking it would unify his government and increase his power and influence. At the same time, he had his son Crispus and one of his wives Fausta, put to death. Corruption within the family had become a threat to his power. Looking at his character and values, would you want to put much faith in the teachings that he endorsed? Sadly, much of the world, unaware, still teaches much of Constantine’s view of Simon Magus’ distorted form of Christianity.

Most people attending churches today are unaware of the corruption that came into Christianity in those early years, let alone the fact that the Roman Catholic Church endorsed many of these false pagan beliefs. For hundreds of years they persecuted and even put to death innocent people who simply stood on the teachings of the Scriptures and would not follow their pagan system. The belief that God is three personalities essentially in one Godhead is the doctrine of the ‘trinity’ spoken about here. We will get into that more later. Not only did they teach the doctrine of the ‘trinity’ but they also taught the ‘immortality of the soul.’ The priest could pray your dead loved ones from purgatory into heaven, for a fee. Since when does any man have the right to say who is saved and who is not? It was all about power and money. God, through Jesus’ sacrifice, is the only One able to make the judgment call about who’s name belongs, and makes it into The Book of Life—no mortal man has that authority.

The corruption and brutality were horrible. Countless numbers of people were burned at the stake simply for standing firmly on the Scriptures, or even for having a copy of the Scriptures. They

were told that the “Bible was only for the clergy,” not for the common people. William Tyndale was strangled and his body burned to ashes simply for translating the New Testament into English. People having the Scriptures, that they could read personally, was a threat to their power and authority. The greater your wealth, the greater the chance you would suffer death, as they confiscated your possessions and property. It is estimated that through about twelve hundred years of this corruptible form of Christianity, fifty million people were killed by the Catholic Papal system. Jesus tells us, *“love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44)*. The true church of Jesus Christ is built on love. How could anyone claiming to be a representative of Christ, kill—in the most sadistic means, anyone who was simply standing firmly on the teachings found in the Scriptures?

The following verses describe Satan’s ability to use people to distort the true message of Scripture:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4 “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should 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” Verses 13-14 “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light.” Paul was deeply concerned about a false message being taught on many issues, through men whose teachings did not match the Word of God. He goes on to say in *verse 14*, *“even Satan himself disguises himself as an angel of light.”* Satan is deceptive; he uses people to distort the simplicity of the true message.

Jesus speaking to the Pharisees says, *“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand for 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” (John 8:44)*. *“...he blinds the minds of the unbelieving” (2 Corinthians 4:4)*. I put the message of these two verses together.

In *John 8*, the Pharisees were trying to find fault in order to put Jesus to death. It is clear that Satan had blinded their minds to the Scriptures regarding who Jesus was. This proves the fact that even those who claim to follow the Scriptures can be totally confused, unwilling and unable to see the truth.

As we investigate these three major doctrines, I will strive to help you, the reader, see clearly and simply these truths that have been totally hidden from the minds of many. Then I will go on to discuss what we need to do as followers of Christ, to inherit God's promise of the Kingdom. Sadly, there are many who truly want to follow Jesus but have been unknowingly misled by the "god of this age," SATAN. Please read carefully the words in italics—God's words.

2

Who is God?

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To understand the question, **WHO IS GOD?**, we must look at it from a Jewish point of view. It is absolutely clear that the prophets, who spoke for God in the writings of the Old Testament, believed in only one God. He alone is the creator of the entire universe.

Following is a conversation between Jesus and a Jewish scribe who was very familiar with the Jewish laws and practices. The Jewish people prayed a daily prayer recorded in *Deuteronomy 6:4-5* “Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your souls and with all your might.” This verse of Scripture is known as the SHEMA. It was a prayer that was offered daily by the Jewish people. They understood that God is **one single personality**. He alone is God. Jesus had a conversation with a Jewish scribe over what was the greatest commandment in *Mark 12:28-34*. Jesus quoted from the SHEMA (*verses 29-32*) “the greatest commandment is hear O Israel the Lord our God is one Lord and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said to Him, ‘Right teacher, you have truly stated that **He is One and there is no one else beside Him**’.” So, Jesus and the scribe agree that there is only **one God**, not three in one—Satan’s god.

The fact that God alone is the one true God and creator of the entire universe is stated clearly in the following verses. I will not add further commentary to these Old Testament verses; they speak clearly for themselves. Portions of the verses I will put in **bold**

print to emphasize and confirm the Scriptural point that is so clearly made.

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel. I am the first and the last, and **there is no God besides Me.**”

Isaiah 44:8 “...And you are My witness. **Is there any God besides me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.**”

Isaiah 44:24 “Thus says the Lord your redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, I the Lord am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens **by Myself** and spreading out the earth **all alone.**”

Isaiah 45:5 “I am the Lord, and there is no other; **Besides me there is no God.**”

Isaiah 45:6 “...there is no one besides Me, I am the Lord and there is no other,”

Isaiah 45:18 “For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed earth and made it. He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), **I am the Lord and there is none else.**”

Isaiah 45:21b “...And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; **there is none except Me.**”

There are many other verses in the Old Testament that claim that the Father alone is the one true God and that He alone is the creator of all things. I challenge you to seek them out.

The New Testament also verifies the fact that the **Father alone is God**. Here, I will add some commentary to these New Testament verses, although they speak for themselves.

John 17:3 Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, **the only true God** and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” Jesus here, calls His Father the only true God. So Simple.

Acts 17:31 “...He (God) 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 but raising Him from the dead.” Notice, it is God alone who has fixed the day (or determined the day) that His Son would

judge the world in righteousness. Obviously, they are two distinct personalities. Consider the same thought in the two following verses. Another point to be made here in this verse, is that God cannot die; He alone has immortality, Jesus died. Again, the Father and Son are definitely two different personalities.

Acts 1:6-7 The disciples were asking Jesus, "*Lord is this the time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel? he said to them, 'It is not for you to know the times or epochs (dates) which the **Father has fixed by His own authority**'.*" God, the Father, has fixed that time by His own authority, so that even His Son does not know.

Matthew 24:36 (Concerning the return of Christ) Jesus said, "*But of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels of heaven, **nor the Son**, but the Father alone.*" Jesus Himself did not know at that time, the date of His return to earth. If Jesus is in fact God, wouldn't He know this?

1 Timothy 2:5 "*There is one God and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*" Jesus was a human being just as we are. He had a special relationship with His Father. By His life, He showed us what the Father is like. Imagine standing in front of the mirror. You could say that the image that you see in the mirror is you, yes? But is it literally you? Or would you more accurately say that the person in the mirror is a direct representation of yourself in the mirror? Many people believe that Jesus is in fact God, however, if we really dig into the Scriptures, we see that He is a direct representation of God, not God himself.

James 1:13 "*...God cannot be tempted by evil...*"

Hebrews 4:15 Speaking of Jesus our high priest, the verse says, "*...He was tempted in all things as we are yet without sin.*" Jesus was tempted daily; He was a human being like you and me. Satan tempted Jesus in the desert for forty days. God Himself cannot be tempted by Satan. What kind of God would that be if Satan could tempt Him?

It is very clear in Scripture that the Father alone is God, yet most churches today endorse the doctrine of the 'trinity.' The 'trinity' is the teaching that the Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit make up one God. I agree, they are one in purpose; they are in total agreement. The Holy Spirit is not a third person; it is the power of God that is made available to empower believers who are striving to serve Him. Many will tell you that if you do not believe the 'trinity' then you are not a Christian. I have been attacked verbally as a pastor many times. I have been called a cult leader for not agreeing with the doctrine of the 'trinity.' I have PAINFULLY, lost people from churches that I have pastored over the years. Well meaning, but confused pastors and often people in their congregations, who have been blindly influenced by the doctrine of the 'trinity,' have told members of my congregations that they must leave—get out! They were told to leave, simply for seeking the truth and voicing what they had found in the Bible. Without staying with us and studying deeper into the Scriptures, to find the truth, they blindly accepted the advice given and left the church. Satan, the god of this age, won that battle—it crushed me.

The verses I have used to confirm that the Father alone is God, are so crystal clear. If people will open their minds and hearts and let the Word of God be their only authority, they should be able to see clearly the truth of Scripture. Many times it is difficult for people to go against what they have always been taught, or believed to be true. To many, it would be equivalent to someone telling them that the sky is green, without looking for themselves into the clear blue sky, to see that what they were told was false. God put His word, the Bible, here for us to read and meditate on in order to have the truths revealed to us—for that to be our concrete evidence, and our only authority. Most people just don't put in the time. It is easy to listen to your pastor every Sunday morning and take his word for it without question. Pray for truth and an open mind as you seek knowledge about God and His plan for mankind.

Sadly, most people do not question the doctrine of the 'trinity' and many other doctrines that are taught in churches today. As I have already said, but I'll say it again to drive my point home—they are not aware that through the centuries, many who have stood on the true teaching of the Bible were killed by church authorities. There is absolutely nothing Christian at all about killing people who disagree with a pastor or any one else. The brutality suffered by so many was all about power, authority, and money. Many died in the most cruel, brutal, and horrible ways—burned to death at the stake, locked in prisons with no food or water until they died, simply for standing on the clear truths of Scripture. How can you claim to be a follower of Christ and yet treat others with such hatred and brutality. The system, for centuries, was simply SATANIC.

Who should we believe? The Word of God, or the twisted and confused traditional teachings that came out of that system so many years ago and that are still very much alive today? Please do not be led astray by a world-wide popular view that does not match Scripture.

3

Who is Jesus?

And what was His mission and message to you and me
as His followers?

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First, I will answer the question, 'Who is Jesus?'

The Bible tells us clearly; He is the Son of God. Many today call Him "God the Son," a complete twisting of Scripture. Satan is alive and well!

Jesus was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in *Luke 1:26-35*. *"...Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in he said to her, 'Hail favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was greatly troubled at this statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. And the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary: for you have found favor with God. And behold you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His Kingdom will have no end.' And Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' And the Angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.'"*

The confusion over the 'immortal soul theory' has distorted the birth of Jesus as well. Some teach that Jesus, was a spirit being in Heaven with the Father before He became a baby. I heard one pastor say, "God turned Himself into a baby." If we killed the baby then I guess that would mean we no longer have a God. We killed Him! Jesus was simply conceived in the womb of a virgin by the power of God. Miraculously, without knowing a

man, she would bear a Son. Conception means Jesus' life began in the womb of Mary. Again, God did not turn Himself into a baby nor was Jesus a spirit being before His birth. The Holy Spirit, the power of God, caused her pregnancy. **Verse 35** says, "*...and for that reason the Holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.*" God contributed to the pregnancy what a male counterpart normally would do, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is literally the Son of the living God. He had no earthly Father. God alone is His Father.

Jesus was a human being, a living breathing person just like you and me. We don't know much about Jesus in His early years, except that at age twelve He stayed behind in Jerusalem and was "*...sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking questions. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers*" (**Luke 2:46a-47**). **Verse 52** says "*...Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.*" Jesus matured and grew just as any human being does. At about age thirty, He was baptized by John the Baptist. "*After being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water and behold the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and coming upon Him, and behold a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is MY beloved Son, In whom I am well pleased'*" (**Matthew 3:16-17**). The anointing of the Holy Spirit simply empowered Jesus for the work that God had brought Him into the world to do.

Second, Let's look at Jesus' MISSION AND HIS MESSAGE:

Jesus knew He was born for two major missions: First, his mission was to preach the good news (gospel) of the coming Kingdom of God. A Kingdom that He Himself was born to rule over, in the future, at His return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His second mission, that had to be accomplished first, was to die and pay the penalty for the sins of the world. Those who would claim His blood and serve Him out of deep love and devotion for the sacrifices He made, would inherit that Kingdom with Him.

Jesus' disciples also understood who He was. When He asked them, "...*who do people say that the Son of man is...*" and they answered, "*some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.*" He said to them, "*But who do you say that I am?*" And Simon Peter answered and said. "*Thou art the Christ (Messiah) the Son of the living God*" (**Matthew 16:13-16**). They had also heard Jesus say, "*I must preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose*" (**Luke 4:43**). Gospel in the Greek means 'the good news.' "*He began going from one city and village to another proclaiming and preaching the Kingdom of God and the twelve were with Him*" (**Luke 8:1**). They truly believed that He was the Messiah that would reign over the Kingdom. He preached it continually. It is no wonder it confused Peter greatly when Jesus said, "*He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priest and scribes and be killed and be raised up on the third day*" (**Matthew 16:21**). Before He would become King over the Kingdom of God, He would have to die for the sins of the world.

Jesus knew clearly from the Old Testament Scriptures that He was the descendant of King David that was born to rule over the Kingdom of God. We too must understand the Old Testament promises if we are to have a clear understanding of His mission and message. Sadly today, many teachers and preachers are unaware of these major Old Testament promises and the message of the Kingdom of God is seldom mentioned in many churches. The return of Jesus to establish the Kingdom here on earth is our blessed hope. It is why in a world of chaos, we should remain optimistic.

Consider closely the following verses that clearly indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, is also a descendant of King David by His human bloodline. He will be seated on the throne of King David and rule over the Kingdom of God when He returns to earth. Mark these verses in your Bible; be ready to help others learn these valuable truths.

God's message to King David was given about a 1,000 years before Christ was born:

2 Samuel 7:12-13 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you and I will establish His Kingdom. He will build a house for My name and I will establish the throne of His Kingdom forever." This is speaking of Jesus, the descendant of David who will reign over the Kingdom forever. The angel Gabriel confirmed this very same message to Mary recorded in *Luke 1:31-33* "Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His Kingdom will never end."

King David wrote the following message in the book of Psalms, confirming that the Messiah was literally the Son of God.

Psalms 2:1-2 "Why are the nations in an uproar, and the peoples devising a vain thing, the kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and **against His Anointed.**" His anointed is Jesus, God's Son.

Now look at what is written in *Psalms 2:6-8* "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, **Thou art My Son**, today I have begotten Thee. Ask of Me and I will surely give the nations as your inheritance and the very ends of the earth as Thy possession..." Clearly Jesus the 'Christ' (Messiah) is the Son of God, who is coming to reign over the nations of the world.

Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah writes:

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore..." Again, Jesus will be seated on the 'throne of David' and rule the nations and His kingdom will never end.

Speaking of Jesus, Daniel writes: **Daniel 7:13-14** “I kept looking in the night visions and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a Kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” “The Ancient of Days’ mentioned here is God Himself, ‘One like a Son of man,’ is Jesus Himself. His Kingdom will never be destroyed. If you now go back and re-read **Daniel 7:13-14**, replacing 'The Ancient of Days' with 'God' and 'the Son of Man' with 'Jesus,' the passage becomes even more clear.

I cannot imagine how Bible teachers can completely ignore the message of the Coming Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is mentioned in Matthew fifty-two times, Mark nineteen times, Luke forty-four times and in John four times. Again, it is the central message of Jesus and His disciples.

Jesus said, “I must preach the Kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose” (**Luke 4:43**). Jesus’ purpose was to preach the Kingdom of God, “...He began going about from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the Kingdom of God and the twelve were with Him” (**Luke 8:1**). For three years His chosen disciples followed him from one city and village to another. What did they hear? “The message of the Kingdom.”

Acts 1:3 “To these, (His disciples) He presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God.” After He was raised from the dead He spent forty days with the disciples talking and teaching about the coming Kingdom of God. I like to think He said it this way: “Fellas, I’m going to be with My Father; I’m leaving you in charge. You have got to get this right. Go teach the good news (gospel) of the Kingdom.” And that is what they did!

When Jesus has destroyed Satan and all wickedness, He will hand the restored earth over to His Father. Consider these

verses, mark them also in your Bible—get familiar with them. The command to teach this message was given to us ‘believers today’ as well as to His disciples. “*Go make disciples...I am with you always, even to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20).

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 “*Then comes the end, when He hands over the Kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death...when it says that ‘all things are put in subjection under His feet’ it is clear that this does not include God Himself who put everything under Him, so that God may be all in all*” (NIV). They clearly are two different persons, the Father alone is God. In the beginning God created a paradise for Himself and for mankind.

He loved and enjoyed His creation, “*Adam and Eve heard God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...*” (Genesis 3:8). Then Satan brought sin and disobedience into the world and God, who is Holy, could not allow Himself to dwell with sinful man. When Christ has destroyed Satan in the lake of fire, He will hand this restored earth over to His Father, so that God may once again dwell in His paradise with man.

I’ll state it again for clarity. After Christ and His church have reigned for a 1,000 years on the earth and Satan and all wickedness has been destroyed, the earth will become a paradise once again as it was when God created it.

Isaiah 11: 6-9 “*And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little boy will lead them. Also, the cow and the bear will graze, and their young will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox, and the child will play on the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*”

The earth will be restored as it was in the beginning and God, once again, will dwell on the earth with His creation. “*And I*

heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them...'" (Revelations 21:3).

I know I am repeating myself, but so does the Bible. Truths are worth repeating—it facilitates memorization and learning. This earth **will** become a paradise again under the thousand-year reign of Christ. When Satan no longer has influence on the earth, God the Father, will join us here for eternity. The paradise we are offered for our faithfulness is not in outer space for eternity, as many teach, but in the paradise that will be on this restored earth—as God originally designed.

4

What happens to man when he dies?

What is his hope when life has ended?

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As I already stated, Jesus is coming to be seated on the throne of David and rule over the Kingdom of God. The earth will be restored to its original beauty. That leads naturally into another misunderstood doctrine of what happens at or after death. Our reward of eternal life is not at the time of death, as most teach, but at the return of Christ when He raises His faithful followers from their graves. As I stated earlier, the immortality of the soul came into Christianity through pagan beliefs and has been taught as truth for thousands of years.

Revelations 12:9 *“Satan is the deceiver of the whole world.”* His deception is world-wide, seen in many cultures and false pagan religions. Satan’s greatest deception is the doctrine of man having an immortal spirit, or an immortal soul that continues to live when man dies. Most, if not all, religious systems have been infected by this Platonic false doctrine. I will mention a few:

- Islam: Death is a natural threshold to the next stage of existence in paradise.
- Buddhism: Reincarnation— a new beginning in another life.
- Hinduism: Soul gets reborn into a new body.
- Baha’i: The soul separates from the body at death.
- Christianity: Much of Christianity has adopted the false Platonic immortal soul theory as well. It is seldom questioned by anyone, pastors included. Yes, it has impacted the “whole world.” Many believe and teach that the soul lives on and goes straight to Heaven to be with God—living on and watching over us as we suffer here on earth. That doesn’t sound like paradise to

me, watching my loved ones suffer while I am powerless to help them.

Satan has very successfully blinded the minds of a multitude of people. His confusing and false message comes in many forms, funeral services with a false hope, music lyrics, movies, even churches filled with people who hear a distorted message. This false teaching is coming from well-meaning pastors, whom Satan has blinded their eyes to the simple truth that the **dead are dead**. Again, the message of Scripture is so simple. Jesus is the Christ (Messiah—a leader and savior of the true church) and is coming again to this earth to raise His faithful followers from their graves to rule and reign with Him as He establishes the Kingdom of God here on earth. The return of Christ is our blessed hope (**Titus 2:13**).

To understand death we must first understand the creation of man himself.

Genesis 2:7 “God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and the man became a living being.” Notice God did not put an immortal soul in the man; He simply started him breathing. It is quite easy to understand that when we quit breathing we are dead. Do you know of anyone who is walking around without breathing?

Job 34:14-15 “If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to Himself his spirit and his breath all flesh would perish together and man would return to dust.” Again, without the breath of life man is dead.

Much of the distortion that continues in Christian churches today is confusion over the Greek word ‘PNEUMA’ which is translated ‘spirit.’ It can also mean breath or wind. From this word we get the English words pneumatic, or pneumonia—both having to do with air or breathing. Matthew says that when Jesus died, “He cried out with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit” (**Matthew 27:50**). Many believe that this means His immortal spirit. It simply means His ‘breath.’ In Mark’s account of Jesus’ death he says, “He uttered a loud cry and **breathed His last**...when the centurion saw the way **He breathed His last**, he said, ‘Truly this man

was the Son of God” (Mark 15: 37-39). God breathed the breath of life into man, when he quits breathing he is dead. Simple isn't it?

Most people, perhaps some pastors too, do not realize the Christian movement started with Abraham. Consider the promises God made to Abraham (Abram) and his descendants. He called him out of a pagan world and made a covenant with him. *“The Lord said to Abraham. Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land which I will show you. I will make you a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will curse and all peoples on the earth will be blessed through you” (Genesis 12:1-3).* *“The Lord appeared to Abram and said, to your offspring I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7).* *“Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your descendants forever...” (Genesis 13:14-15).*

God made the same promise to Abraham's son Isaac. *“For to you and your descendants I will give these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give them all these lands” (Genesis 26:3-4).*

Take note how God did not promise Abraham and his descendants a place in heaven for their faithfulness, but all the land he could see as a never ending possession. Abraham has yet to receive the land that was promised as is recorded. *“And He gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot of ground; and yet, even when he had no child, He promised that He would give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him” (Acts 7:5).*

Speaking of the faithful, including Abraham, *“All these died in faith without receiving the promises...” (Hebrews 11:13).* *“All these, having gained approval through their faith did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect” (Hebrews 11:39-40).*

We are the descendants of Abraham, purchased by the blood of Christ; we have been adopted into the promises God

made to Abraham. *“And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).*

Together we will receive the promise of the land at the resurrection of the righteous. The Bible is very clear that the dead are asleep and awaiting resurrection to life. Read the following verses carefully. Again, mark them in your Bible.

Psalms 17:15 King David says, *“As for me, I shall behold Thy face in righteousness, I will be satisfied with Thy likeness **when I awake.**”* King David is clearly waiting to be awakened from death.

In Peter’s first sermon he says, *“Brethren, may I confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried and his tomb is with us today” (Acts 2:29).* He was responding to the fact that Jesus would not remain in the grave. David is in his grave awaiting the resurrection to life.

Job 14:14-15 *“If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes. Thou will call and I will answer Thee....”*

Isaiah 26:19 *“Your dead will live, their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust awake and shout for joy. For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.”*

Daniel 12:2 *“Many of those who **sleep in the dust of the ground will awake**, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.”* Jesus says the same thing, *“Truly, truly, I say to you an hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear shall live.... Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming in which all who are in their tombs shall hear His voice and shall come forth, those who did good deeds to a **resurrection of life**, those who committed evil deeds to a **resurrection of judgement**” (John 5:25-29).* Daniel and Jesus agree, the dead are in their graves awaiting resurrection. Notice that Jesus says the judgment comes at the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked, not at the moment of death.

Daniel 12:13 God’s final words to Daniel: *“But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and arise for your allotted portion at the end of the age.”* The end of the age is at the return of

Christ (Messiah), when the thousand-year reign begins. Daniel also will be in the resurrection of the faithful when Christ appears.

Acts 24:14-15 “...I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the law and that is written in the prophets; having a hope in God that these men cherished themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”

The writing that Moses and the prophets cherished was the hope of the resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. If the wicked are burning in Hell, as most teach, why would they be raised from the grave? To be thrown into a different fire? It doesn't make sense. It also doesn't make any sense that a loving God would burn anyone for eternity. They will simply be destroyed in the lake of fire—a true and final, eternal death.

There is a series of TRUMPET BLASTS that will announce the return of Jesus and the resurrection of those that are asleep in the grave:

Matthew 24:31 “He (Jesus) will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from one end of the sky to the other.”

1 Corinthians 15:22-23 “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ **all shall be made alive**. But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's **at His coming**.” There is no mention of a trumpet here, but at Christ's return, His faithful will be made alive. *1 Corinthians 15:51-54* “Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last TRUMPET, for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and the mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, **DEATH IS SWALLOWED up in victory**’.”

Notice, our victory over death is not at the moment of our death, as most people teach, but at the sound of the trumpet when the dead are raised out of their sleep to eternal life. **That** is when death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 “...we do not want you to be uninformed brethren about those who are asleep...For if we believe that Jesus died and rose

again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the TRUMPET of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first 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." Notice that Paul says the dead are asleep, awaiting the sound of the trumpet. Those in the grave and those who are alive will meet Christ at the same time.

Revelations 11:15 *"And the seventh angel sounded (the seventh TRUMPET), and there arose loud voices in heaven saying 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever'."* At the last TRUMPET, the seventh trumpet, the faithful dead will be raised to life to rule and reign with Christ as He establishes the Kingdom here on the earth. Please turn to it in your Bible and read it carefully.

As stated above, there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked—the faithful will be raised to life, the wicked will be raised and destroyed.

Revelations 20:4 *"And I saw thrones and they sat upon them and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and **they came to life** and reigned with Christ for a thousand years."*

Revelations 20:5-6 *"The rest of the dead did not **come to life** until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection, over these the **second death** has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."* Those in the first resurrection reign with Christ for a thousand years. The wicked are not raised until the end of the thousand years.

Revelations 20:14a-15 *"...this is the second death the lake of fire. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

Notice, the wicked are not burning in hell at the moment of death; they do not have an immortal soul that burns forever. Because their names have not been recorded in the book of life they are cast into the lake of fire which is the **second death**. They are destroyed. “...*narrow is the gate that leads to life...broad is the way that leads to destruction...*” (**Matthew 7:13-14**) He does not speak of eternal torment and burning in Hell forever as has been taught for centuries and is so widely taught and accepted today.

Take a look at what Paul wrote to Timothy shortly before they ended his life.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. **In the future** there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will award to me **on that day** and not only to me, but to all who have loved His appearing.”*

Paul said he would receive the crown of life **IN THE FUTURE**, not at the time of death. He said it would be **ON THAT DAY**, the day that the Lord Jesus appears. The day Christ returns with the blast of the trumpet is the day that Paul will receive his crown of life.

The Bible is clear, the faithful are asleep in the grave, awaiting the return of Christ and the sound of the trumpet, to inherit the kingdom of God.

5

What must I do to inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God?

As we have documented in this booklet, we now understand these biblical truths about the identity of God, the identity of Jesus and His message of the Kingdom of God, and what happens to man when life is over. We see clearly that Satan has terribly confused these simple truths for centuries and in many churches these false doctrines, inspired by Satan, have never recovered.

It is vital also that we understand, clearly, what we must do to inherit the Kingdom that God has offered to the faithful. Yes, the faithful. Not only has this Kingdom message been replaced with many false teachings, Satan would love to distort what it means to be truly converted to Jesus Christ.

What does the Bible tell us about true conversion and the requirements for eternal life in the Kingdom?

The first step is to believe that Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, suffered on a cross to pay our debt of sin.

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 eternal life.**” We are all sinners; we were born into a sinful world. Now the choice is clear—we can believe and make it personal to inherit eternal life or ignore it and perish in the lake of fire. We must have a personal, loving relationship with Him. Those who do not love Jesus and strive earnestly to please Him, will perish in the lake of fire. Perish means to perish, not burn forever in the lake of fire, but perish eternally. The lake of fire is the second death (*Revelations 20:14-15*).

The second step is repentance.

Believing is much more than head knowledge; it has to impact the heart also. We need to be broken over the sin in our lives. We are all sinners. The difference is that we need to be broken over sin and realize the debt paid by Jesus to save us. Once we do that, we need to turn from the ways of the world and surrender our lives to Christ. The apostle Paul says it very well in **2 Corinthians 7:10-11a** *“For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow has produced in you...”* God loves it when our hearts are broken over sin—the half sorry heart leads to death. The greater our brokenness over our sins and the suffering of Christ to pay our debt, the more we will love Him and the more He will empower us to defeat Satan’s attacks. It is love for God and for His Son, Jesus the Christ, that changes our lives completely. *“... Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).*

The third step is to be immersed in the waters of baptism.

The Greek word ‘BAPTIZO’ means to dip or make fully wet. The following verses explain the meaning and purpose of baptism:

John 3:23 *“John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there...”*

Acts 8:36-38 *“... They came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized... and he ordered the chariot to stop and they both went down into the water...’* This verse indicates that they passed by a body of water and the eunuch was immersed in the water. Clearly baptism by immersion in the water is the biblical model, which we should follow, even today.

Acts 22:16 Ananias told Paul... *“and now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sin, calling on His name.”* Our sinful past is washed away in the waters of baptism.

Galatians 3:27 *“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed of your selves with Christ.”* We put on Christ’s righteousness in

the waters of baptism. When we claim His blood, His righteousness covers our sins.

1 Peter 3:21 “...baptism now saves you, not the removal of dirt from flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” Baptism is an appeal to God to take away our brokenness and our guilt, allowing us to have the peace and joy that the Holy Spirit gives us.

The fourth step is being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 Peter’s instruction: “repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” It is through true brokenness over our sin, repentance (turning from the world’s value system) and being baptized in the name of Jesus, that God empowers us to love Him and serve Him.

Galatians 5:16 “But I say, ‘walk by the spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.’”

Romans 8:9 “... if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” Living under the power of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. This verse should grab each of us by the throat —‘do I have his spirit guiding all my decisions and giving me victory over sin and guiding me every day?’

When we get serious about loving and serving Jesus Christ, God will give us the power of the Holy Spirit to defeat Satan’s attacks. He will empower us to serve Him.

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In closing, false doctrines were brought about through the Greek paganism teaching that man has an immortal spirit, that continues to live after the body dies. Satan corrupted the true message of Scripture even before the ink was dry. The apostle Paul said, *“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you not sparing the flock.” (Acts 20:28-29)*

Some were ‘SAVAGE WOLVES’ who twisted the Scriptures for their own benefit and even killed many true Christians; Christians who would not accept their false teachings. I pray that as you read this, it will give you the determination and courage to stand for these truths and work tirelessly to communicate them to others.

The apostle Paul said, *“...the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).* I trust that all of you reading this are determined to be faithful witnesses. Please read your Bible carefully, and be careful who you listen to. Mark these verses in your Bible and be ready to share them with others. You and the people you love are precious to God. We are called by Jesus to go make disciples. It is hard to make a true disciple, one who will make other disciples, in a Sunday morning worship service. True disciples are more easily made in a small group setting. Start a small group Bible study in your home—it’s fun and exciting. Go and be that faithful witness. Lead them to Christ and the true message of Scripture, and ultimately into the Kingdom of God.

YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

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May God bless your love for Christ and your
desire to serve Him.

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