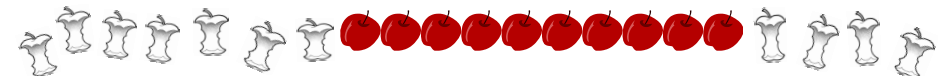


The Quick Study Series Includes:

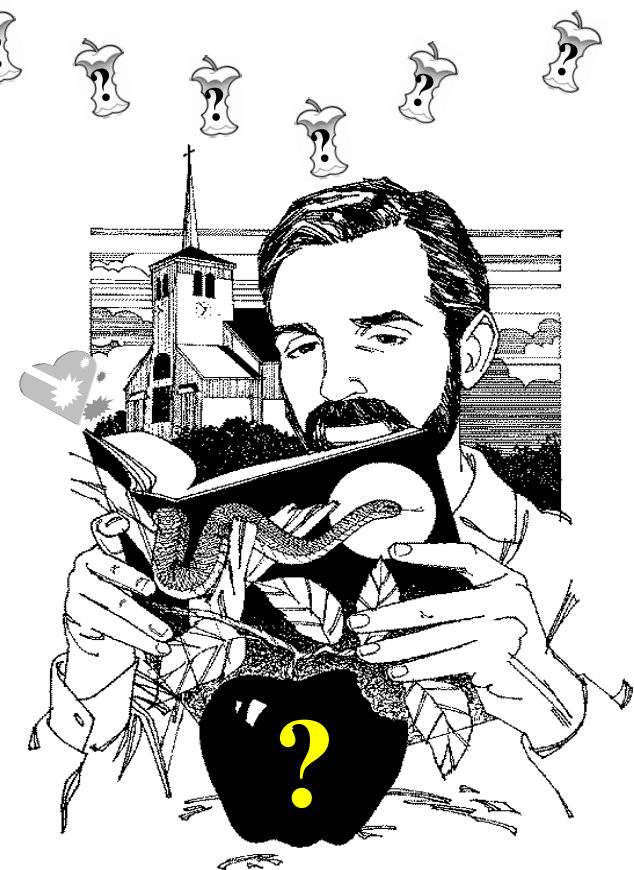
1. What In The World Is Wrong With Me?
2. The # 1 All Time Best Seller
3. I Thought I Was Coming To A Bible Study!
4. Angels Amongst Us?
5. God Be Merciful To Me A Sinner
6. None Good?
7. "... Lord, save me."
8. Am I Worthy?
9. Revelation chapter 12:
The Woman & The Remnant
10. Jesus Was Not A Hypocrite!
11. What Time Is Jesus Coming?

And more to come ...

Copyright 2011 Earl M Griffin III
Crossroads Baptist Church
3300 Rocky River Road North
Monroe NC 28110
(704) 221-2785
earlgriffin3@gmail.com



What in The World is Wrong with Me!



“...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

"Quick Study #1"
4th Edition



Dedication

To my family. My wonderful wife and young 'ens. I hope this little study will help you have a more wonderful life. I love you.

To my brothers and sisters. I love you and have been loved by you all these years. I'm honored to live this life alongside you and hope to serve you well. I believe this information and particularly this 4th revision will help us all to better understand what in the world is wrong with us and get another glimpse of much that is right with our LORD, Jesus Christ. I trust The LORD will bless you -His holy nation.

Thanks to Dr. Mack, my teacher and my dad. I hope all that I do will bring honor to him. In 1999 The LORD used him to open my eyes to the issue addressed here and I was so over taken by it that not only did I use it as the subject matter in the final thesis for my Master's degree, I wanted to serve The LORD better. I still do.

How can I thank Jesus enough. He is everything to me. I love Him above all things though I don't always show it. He rescued me and gave me something to do that means more than the world to me -serve you. I love You LORD.

All Biblical references are from the standard KJV

Copyright 2011
Earl M. Griffin III
(704) 221-2785
earlgriffin3@gmail.com

First Edition: January 2001
Second Edition: September 2003
Third Edition: February 2006
Fourth Edition: July 2011
Fifth Edition August 2015

Please reproduce any part or all of this book in any form or by any means. Teach it and preach it!

Printed in North Carolina, USA

Hislop, Alexander. Second American Edition, 1959. The Two Babylon's *or* THE PAPEL WORSHIP. Published in America by Loizeaux Brothers, Inc. Neptune, New Jersey.

Rick Meyers, 2000. E-sword, version 7.1.0. Equipping Ministries Foundation, Franklin TN –Webster's Dictionary, references

Strong S.T.D., LL.D, James. 1886. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. Oxford Press, England.

Tenney, Merrill C. Twentieth printing June 1977. The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary. Zondervan Publishing House Grand Rapids, Michigan.

World Book Encyclopedia. 2005. Volume #16, Published by World Book, Inc. Chicago, Illinois.

List of Charts

The Models of Evaluative Judgment	11
Examples: The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil	12 & 18
The Only Three Religions	24
The Ten Commandments	36

Bibliography

1689. *The Holy Bible*, King James Version. The following books of the Bible were referenced in this study:

Genesis	Exodus	I Corinthians
Isaiah	Luke	Psalms
Matthew	II Corinthians	Romans
Colossians	Acts	II Peter
The Revelation	I John	Ezekiel
I Kings	Hebrews	
John	Philippians	
Ephesians	II Timothy	
Mark	Galatians	

Adams, Lewis M., Managing editor. 1958. Webster's Illustrated Dictionary. Published by BOOKS, INC., New York.

Boyce D.D., LL.D, James Pettigru. 1887. Abstract of Systematic Theology. Reprinted by the den Dulk Christian Foundation, Hanford, CA

Cairns, Earle Edwin. 1954. Christianity Through The Centuries: A history of the Christian Church. The Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Calvin, John. 1559. Institutes of the Christian Religion 1 Edited by John T. McNeil- Reprinted by The Westminster Press, Philadelphia (1960), and the S.C.M. Press, Ltd., London

Foxe, John. 2001. Foxe's Book of Martyrs (updated and abridged). Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, Ohio.

Griffin Ph. D, Earl M. 1999. Emmanuel Theological Seminary: Advanced Apologetics class notes. Monroe, North Carolina.

Hanegraaff, Hank. 1997. Counterfeit Revival: Looking for God in All the Wrong Places. Word Publishing, Dallas, Texas.

Hanegraaff, Hank. 1997. Christianity in Crisis. Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon

Table of Contents

	<u>P #</u>
Introduction	
I. They Know The difference Between Right and Wrong!	6
A. Is the Knowledge of Good and Evil Good?	7
B. Is the Knowledge of Good <i>Better</i> Than The Knowledge of Evil?	9
C. What Is Good and What Is Evil?	10
D. "A god" vs "The God"	19
II. The Will of Man Runs Rampant throughout Creation	21
A. Here We Go again!	21
B. The Religions of Man	23
C. The Universal Church of Man	29
D. Here Are The Rules	33
E. There Are No Rules	37
III. The Church That Jesus Built	38
A. So What Is A Baptist?	38
B. What Can We Add to Calvary?	39
C. The Nature of The Sheep	41
D. The Heart of Christianity	43
E. The Renewed Mind	45
F. Man #1, Man #2, or Man #3?	45
IV. Help in Time of Need	48
A. The Harlot's Attire	48
B. The Attire of The Lamb of God	50
C. The Religions of Man vs The Church	52
Conclusion	53
Footnotes	54-57
Bibliography	58-59
List of Charts	59

Introduction

The goodness of God is surely beyond the conception of man. We see His goodness in every area of life. My desire is to express a few of the things to you that The LORD's revealed to me through His merciful goodness. I'm not deserving of His goodness. I've frustrated the grace of God in most every way a man can -but He won me over! I love You LORD. Thank You for saving me!

Jesus revealed Himself to me when I was eleven years old by His marvelous grace. I walked with Him for about four years and went through a full rebellious state as a teenager. As the years passed I thought I had a plan for my life. I thought I was on top of the world until the world came tumbling down on me. It was then that The LORD revealed to me that I'd not been on top of the world at all but the world had been holding me down for years. I'd been lost in it's back alleys and cesspools, for twelve long years. Beaten, battered, broken, black and blue; I begged The LORD to either use me or kill me. He must be using me, you be the judge -because He answers prayer and I'm not dead yet. It took this devastation to convince me that my life is not mine. Jesus made me and then paid for me with His blood —I've always been at His mercy but now I *know* it! The adventure I've been on with Him for over 18 years now makes the places I used trudge through look like anthills from an airplane. Jesus did it.

For most of my life I treated The LORD as if He were my invisible friend. Never let anyone convince you that The LORD doesn't go certain places and He can use anybody He wants —He was faithful to remind me of home and Himself time and time again throughout my tenure in spiritual Egypt. It was only when I had nothing else and no one else that I came to myself and He reminded me that He was not my invisible friend, but He *is* my LORD and Savior, my finest friend -my Daddy. My life is not my own: He paid for me at Calvary. Serving Him is my only hope and only wish.

I'm well acquainted with sin and the mind of man. I'm a sinner and a man though, thanks be to God, I don't sin as much as I used too! He's been better to me than I ever could have imagined in my wildest dreams. I'm a sinner saved by His free grace though I don't *have* to sin now. I deserve eternal damnation, yet I was given the greatest gift of all —He lives with me now and soon I will live with Him forever!

I hope this study will bless you. In our day the religionists are abusing the name of Jesus for all manner of foul thing. We hear very little

- 85 Ephesians 4:11-24
- 86 John 14:6 & Acts 9:2
- 87 Galatians 6:7-9
- 88 John 1:19-27
- 89 John 1:29-34
- 90 Matthew 3:12-17
- 91 Matthew 14:1-12
- 92 I Kings 19:11-12
- 93 Matthew 11:1-6
- 94 Hebrews 10:7-10
- 95 Romans 5:18-19
- 96 I Corinthians 15:45-47
- 97 Galatians 3:13
- 98 II Thessalonians 1:7-8 &
I Thessalonians 5:18
- 99 I John 2:26-28
- 100 Ephesians 2:18-22
- 101 Romans 3:23-28
- 102 I Peter 2:6-8
- 103 Galatians 5:22-26
- 104 John 10:1-5
- 105 Ezekiel 34:1-10
- 106 Psalm 95 & 100
- 107 Matthew 25:31-46
- 108 I John 4:19
- 109 Matthew 16:13-18
- 110 I Corinthians 10:1-4 &
Ephesians 2:19-22
- 111 Matthew 11:25-30
- 112 Galatians 2:20
- 113 Romans 12:1-2
- 114 Romans 2:4
- 115 Romans 6:6-14
- 116 Philippians 2:12-13
- 117 Romans 9:22-23
- 118 I Corinthians 3:1-5
- 119 Romans 8:5-6
- 120 Romans 8:14
- 121 John 10:27 & Revelation 1:8
- 122 I John 4:1-4
- 123 Romans 1:14-16
- 124 Exodus 4:1-12
- 125 Acts 15:18 & Ephesians 1:1-11
- 126 Luke 12:49-53
- 127 Ephesians 2:18-21
- 128 Colossians 3:1-5
- 129 I John 2:1-2
- 130 Hebrews 4:16
- 131 II Corinthians 3:17
- 132 Matthew 9:9-13
- 133 Revelation 17:3-14
- 134 Matthew 4:10
- 135 John 13:1-15
- 136 Isaiah 42:1
- 137 Matthew 11:28-30
- 138 Psalm 14:2-3 & Romans 3:23-26
- 139 James 1:16-18
- 140 II Timothy 2:12-13
- 141 I Peter 3:12-17
- 142 II Timothy 4:1-5
- 143 Strong's Concordance, Heb 2580
- 144 Genesis 6:8
- 145 James 1:11
- 146 Strong's Concordance, Gr 5485
- 147 Acts 2:1-11
- 148 Ephesians 2:8-10
- 149 Galatians 3:1-13
- 150 Revelation 1:13-18
- 151 Hebrews 13:20-21
- 152 John 15:17-19
- 153 Romans 3:10-18 & Hebrews 4:13
- 154 John 1:11-13
- 155 Ezekiel 8:12
- 156 Genesis 6:5, Matthew 15:8,
Luke 9:46-48, Acts 8:21-23
- 157 Jude 1
- 158 I John 2:26-28
- 159 Philippians 1:23-24
- 160 Hebrews 9:27-28
- 161 Romans 8:31-39
- 162 Philippians 4:6-8
- 163 I Corinthians 12:12-14 &
Mark 10:13-16

- 43 Genesis 11:1-9
- 44 Hebrews 1:1-9
- 45 Exodus 19:5-6 & Acts 11:26
- 46 Romans 5:12-16
- 47 E-Sword 7.0 Webster's definition
- 48 I John 3:1
- 49 Mark 13:22-23
- 50 I John 3:2
- 51 Romans 10:14-15
- 52 Genesis 3:22
- 53 Galatians 1:3-5
- 54 II Peter 2:20-22
- 55 "The Kingdom of the Cults", Chapter 1, p. 21
- 56 "Christianity Through Centuries", p. 86-87
- 57 Revelation 7:5
- 58 Revelation 17:1-6
- 59 John 14:6
- 60 I John 2:19
- 61 "Christianity Through the Centuries", chapter 7, p. 90-93
and Foxe's Book of Martyrs, P. 9-19
- 62 Matthew 24:23-26
- 63 James 5:16
- 64 World Book Encyclopedia #16 (R), 2005. Chicago, Ill, p. 218.
- 65 World Book Encyclopedia #16 (R), 2005. Chicago, Ill, p. 402b
- 66 Genesis 12:1-3
- 67 Genesis 32:22-32
- 68 Romans 3:19
- 69 Exodus 19:5-6
- 70 Isaiah 1:11-13
- 71 Jeremiah 3:6-11
- 72 I Peter 2:9-10 & Romans 2:28-29
- 73 Galatians 2:16
- 74 Romans 2 :4
- 75 Matthew 25:21
- 76 Matthew 5:17
- 77 Matthew 26:26-28
- 78 I Timothy 1:9-11
- 79 I Timothy chapter 3
- 80 Jeremiah 31:31-34 &
Hebrews 8:6-13
- 81 Acts 15:19-29
- 82 II Timothy 3:14-17
- 83 II Timothy 2:15-16
- 84 Hebrews 10:25-27

testimony of The LORD 's saving grace or sound Bible doctrine.

I don't intend to give you my subjective philosophy though due to the fact that I still have the human will, i.e., I'm not dead; I won't be able to completely avoid it. If I do give you an opinion and it seems to be stern, forgive me, but stop and ask The LORD about it. I hope much prayer will accompany your reading.

A gospel preacher should try to never give opinion when it comes to holy things. There are oceans of absolute truth in which to swim. I'm gonna try real hard. Check up behind me. Some of the best books I've ever read were used here and are listed in the bibliography for this little study. I hope you'll find them all. Some I can order for you through the Seminary.

The sheep are standing to be fed. The truths of the gospel are not only unpopular but hundreds of thousands have been slaughtered because of them and hundreds of thousands more have given their lives defending them –the first being our LORD, Jesus Christ. The doctrine of the total depravity of man is the underlining theme of this study and can be terribly offensive to the nature of man. To the child of God -it's food for the soul. In better understanding our depravity we can see ourselves for what we truly are and then really appreciate what Jesus did for us.

Remember as you go from here that my hope is to glorify The LORD and I know I'm far from perfect. I'm fascinated with the fact that He sets His people free from every yoke of bondage by showing goodness and mercy and since He's also sovereign, He does it without restriction.

I hope your "truth bell" will ring as your read. This was the first in what's become a life-long series I hope to continue. I trust that you'll question me and the doctrinal stances of contemporary leaders; only The LORD knows everything, but we can do the research.

Christianity is not a flighty fairytale. Jesus Christ is the answer to everything in life and death. We know He's alive because He lives in our heart. All that's wrong with us will be made forever right through Him!

This project was originally prepared for submission in candidacy for the degree of Master of Arts in Theology to Emmanuel Theological Seminary, Monroe N.C., 1999 and revised and recreated in this "Quick Study" format for the general assembly and church of The Firstborn¹ in the year 2000.

Dr. Earl M. (Chuck) Griffin III, pastor
Crossroads Baptist Church, 3300 Rocky River Road North
Monroe, N.C. 28110
(704) 221-2785

They Know The Difference Between Right and Wrong!

Some years ago I was flipping through the TV channels one afternoon when I came to a popular talk show. The theme was “Good Kids, Gone Bad”. I listened to the adults taking turns trying to explain why their kids were so unruly and out of control. The first thought that crossed my mind was, “Where are their dads?”. They were discussing possible solutions.

One parent in particular got my attention with a very important question. She just threw it out into the air and it sorta hung there; the kind of question I don’t think people really expect an answer to: “Why do my children act this way? They know the difference between right and wrong!”. The panel of experts probably did the best they could for those folks and I hope it all worked out in the end but no body even tried to answer the ladies question. This woman’s was stricken with grief. She couldn’t understand why her kid acted this way.

People who don’t have The LORD need the psychologists, psychiatrists, mental therapists, and so forth and I’m all for it for their sake. I don’t know whether those parents and kids were Christians or not, but I know that God’s people need Christ-centered, i.e., “Theo-centric” counseling. Secular counselors can further confuse Christians because *their* system only works for us the way a pill works for pain. It doesn’t solve the problem. It suppresses the problem and hides it from us until one way or another, it finally goes away -or not.

Secular counselors offer three answers: voluntary repentance, increased knowledge, and drugs to escape reality. If the drugs wear off and the problem is still there –take more drugs.

At that time I was a third year seminary student. I meant to find an answer for this parent even though we’d never meet. I needed an answer. I set my milk and cookies on the night stand and asked The LORD to help me. He impressed me to start at the beginning; the genesis. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

In this chapter we’ll look at the human predicament of “knowing the difference between right and wrong”: not only to know the difference, but *knowing both* right and wrong.

Man’s propensity is to search for the answers to problems using the knowledge of good and evil. By nature, we depend on this knowledge to lead, guide and protect us. Most seem consider this knowledge to be a *good* thing, as long as we really try to choose right over wrong, good

Footnote References

- 1 Hebrews 12:23-29
- 2 Genesis 3:1-5
- 3 Genesis 2:15-23
- 4 I Timothy 2:11-14
- 5 Genesis 3:14-15
- 6 Genesis 3:16
- 7 Genesis 3:17-19
- 8 Romans 1:20
- 9 Genesis 3:6
- 10 E-Sword 7.0 Websters definition
- 11 Matthew 7:1-2
- 12 Genesis 3:7-9
- 13 Hebrews 8:7-13
- 14 Genesis 3:17-19
- 15 Genesis 3:24
- 16 Revelation 2:7
- 17 Romans 6:23
- 18 Genesis 2:7
- 19 Genesis 5:5
- 20 Genesis 1:31
- 21 Genesis 4:1-15
- 22 Genesis 4:17-24
- 23 I Corinthians 2:12-16
- 24 Romans 8:7
- 25 Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, Greek 5485, from G5463
- 26 Romans 7:7-25
- 27 Romans 8:1-2
- 28 John 6:44
- 29 Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 4:11-16, & Hebrews 5:8-9
- 30 Genesis 3:22
- 31 E-Sword Webster's definition
- 32 Isaiah 14:12-15
- 33 John 8:44
- 34 John 14:6
- 35 Isaiah 45:5-7, Isaiah 55:8
- 36 Isaiah 64:6
- 37 Hebrews 12:12-17
- 38 Genesis 6:11-12
- 39 Genesis 6:5-8
- 40 Genesis 9:1
- 41 Genesis 10:8-10
- 42 Matthew Henry Commentary
Genesis 10:6-14 in E-sword

There are those who believe they're "Satan's Flock" or led by the *power* of the *underworld* and so on. There are those who think they're God's gift to man. Extremists are no more evil or good than us and we're no more good or evil than them. There are two kinds of people – the lost, without hope in this world, and the born-again Christian.¹⁵²

Our problem is that even if we choose good more often than evil, or choose good to the greater degree as a principle of life -we're not Holy. Anything short of God's Holiness is sin –so we're all sinners. No matter the degree of good or evil we abide by, it's all the same to Him. He left record that He told Adam not to eat of the fruit of the tree and we *still* do it everyday. There are none good from God's perspective. We live and die at the pleasure of our owner and He's determined that we're all bad.¹⁵³ Our choices don't define where we stand with Him, *His* choices do.¹⁵⁴ He sees the inside. He knows the chambers of our imagery, though we think He doesn't.¹⁵⁵ To those thoughts we would never, ever tell our closest friend; those actions we've taken in secrecy that are abominable even to us –He has a clear line of sight. He knows our very best hiding place. We judge by actions, He judges by the heart.¹⁵⁶ Only a dead man would claim to be incorrupt, and they do.¹⁵⁷

Jesus is our only hope –and all the hope we need! He suffered and died as our righteous sacrifice and now our Father will forgive our trespasses because of Jesus. When we're forgiven we're counted as Holy and can then truly be good in this life. He is what *good* is! If you don't know The LORD but you've managed to get this far in this Study – there's all of hope for you! This information's hard on the raw, natural mind. All you can do plead for mercy. Jesus is alive! And He is merciful. He speaks in the hearts of His people! Call on Him and see what happens next! The Church of the Living God will serve and train you. Jesus Himself will be your Teacher.¹⁵⁸ He doesn't walk beside us, or hold our hand; He's not the "man upstairs", or "the good Lord up above". He lives inside. He's forgiving and righteous and holy and True! He's Faithful and all *good* things in this life come from Him.¹³⁹

We don't fear death¹⁵⁹ it's the means by which we shall see Him. We must die¹⁶⁰ and we will, but 'til then¹⁶¹ we'll live in the grace and peace of God.¹⁶² We're "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms", learning to trust and obey, learning to love His people; forsaking the world.¹⁵² Life with Jesus is a bold and dashing adventure! And because of Jesus, we're promised that gift that Adam lost, Eternal Life. No matter what. Jesus *is* Life Eternal so His gift to us, is Himself. He doesn't see us as filthy rotten sinners, but as children: His children.¹⁶³ Oh God. My Father.

over evil. Is the knowledge of good truly *better* than the knowledge of evil? What's good and what's evil?

A. Is The Knowledge of Good and Evil Good?

Why did God put the tree in there to start with? Maybe He wanted to use the command as a boundary for their conscience? Maybe they would have matured out enough in time and He was gonna teach them how to use it? Maybe He wanted to confine the Devil's focus to one spot so he'd leave them alone in the rest of the Garden? I don't know. We know for absolute certainty that they were to trust and obey.

In the Garden of Eden the serpent came to Eve. Part of his enticing discourse was in this statement, "... God doeth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."² We can tell that Eve was standing and staring at the forbidden fruit when the serpent came along and had no doubt begun to evaluate the situation in her mind before the serpent's first word. We know that Eve was not yet created when The LORD gave Adam the command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the consequence if he disobeyed.³ The command was given to Eve by her husband. Certainly The LORD could have told Eve Himself but He chose to teach them His plan for the order of marriage from the very beginning –and to leave us a record of His will. He intended for the husband to be responsible for his wife and it's the same today.

We're all too familiar with the thought process that takes place just as soon as we're told to avoid something. We'll begin trying to find out all we can about that very thing that's forbidden! We go from one extreme to the other. We might adamantly determine to leave it alone then turn right around and try to find a way to disobey without getting caught. Just like a bunch of kids. Eve's curiosity was about to kill her.

Adam didn't give Eve this information so she could make an evaluation as to whether she should or shouldn't eat of the tree. He passed on this command so that her eternal life would be secure. Adam's love is unmistakable. The LORD gave him the secure path and she was to follow.

The serpent deceived Eve⁴ and was cursed.⁵ Eve disobeyed her husband and as a result women still suffer today.⁶ Adam disobeyed God and all of mankind, including the very earth itself, is dying.⁷

We might wonder if the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was an *actual* tree in the Garden or a metaphor to represent something else. I believe it was both. Most importantly I *think* it represents the reasoning process in the human mind and the results of that process: the original faculty of our nature, the human conscience dictating action or inaction.

The LORD has always used His creation to teach and train His people⁸. In spite of the fact that there was a physical tree -most importantly, The LORD didn't want them to eat of the fruit of it. Maybe He was using it to teach them how to use their mind.

There's no physical tree today that we can identify as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We are Adam's posterity and he's our confederate head; therefore, we use the knowledge of good and evil just as Adam did but we use from birth. We're born into this world with this *fallen* nature of Adam, therefore we too use this knowledge. You can't teach the doctrine of Harmatology (sin) to an infant and the great tragedy is that most are not taught as adults either. We are deprived at birth but in time God reveals His foreordained plan of redemption; a failsafe plan. If God couldn't trust Adam He'd save his soul anyway but Adam and Eve paid by the death of their bodies, and we will too.

Our will is created in the Adamic nature, in the image of Adam. Babies cry because they believe it's the best thing for them to do in order to reach the goal regardless of what the parents think. Toddlers avoid discipline because they think it's the best thing to do, regardless of what the parent thinks. By the time a child reaches their teenaged years we compare their conscience to ours and expect them to be more responsible for their actions and by our *Evaluative Judgment* they should be. We might get mad when they refuse control. We might become disillusioned because of their rebellion. Many people enter adult life with such a nature of irresponsibility that we think they won't ever *get well*.

Dr. Mack taught us years ago that "Children not taught and made to obey grow big bodies but not big brains". The unwillingness to do as we're told is a symptom of what's wrong with us as and parents who don't require obedience can ruin their children. We call it "spoiling" them. We say a child is spoiled and laugh. I've seen spoiled hamburger meat and I've seen spoiled children. Neither is funny. What if kids were required to obey parents from the age when they first understand? The world would still be cursed but after a few generations it would be a different place altogether. The process of reasoning that makes kids disobey -or makes parents *not make* kids obey -is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Decisions are the fruit of this tree and to act upon those decisions are to *partake* of the fruit. Every human since Adam and Eve knows both good and evil instinctively.

Oh! If we could willfully become so interested in what The LORD wants that we'd put His will above our own... but we can't because we're incapable and unable. Our will toward God is dead.

Conclusion

Is there anything in this world that is neither good nor evil? A chair seems to be a good thing to me at this minute. A bed is a good thing when it's needed. A school, a car, a house, a job, even a computer can be a good thing *sometimes*. They are to serve a purpose and their goodness is relative to their use and their state of repair. If a chair is in the way or it's undependable to hold us when we need to sit in it then it can be *bad*. "Things" aren't intrinsically good or evil. Inanimate objects serve at the pleasure of their owner and the owner determines if it's good or bad.

How about animals? We had a pet rat of some kind once that kept biting my kids. I think it was a hamster or gerbil -a rat of some kind. The kids would end up crying every time they tried to play with it. One morning I heard one of 'em cry that familiar cry and I'd had all I could take. I went to get the thing to put it in it's cage and guess what -it bit me! Instinctively I solved every problem that rat had and when I finished with it, it never had another one! That thing was evil! My young 'ens are animal lovers, as most kids are, so we've had quite the variety. I'm not an *animal lover* but I like the *good* ones. People make distinctions between the animals and label them as good or bad but they're not intrinsically good or bad. Animals serve at the pleasure of their owner and the owner determines if they're good or bad.

People *are* both good *and* evil, intrinsically. All people have good in them and all people have evil in them. I'm sure there are serial killers who have gone home after murdering someone and cooked a nice supper for their families. There are highly respected ministers of huge organizations who were committing adultery the night before they went to preach. We determine whether a certain person is good or evil by our experience with them but the fact is that we all are both good and evil, no matter what people think of us. Our actions can say one thing and our heart say another or vice versa. We can manipulate circumstances to make good look like evil or evil to look like good. We can influence each other one way or the other but -people can *only* choose good and evil because it's all they have to choose *from*. There are varying degrees of both but the human will functions only within the boundaries of the knowledge of good and evil. We choose the "lesser of two evils", or do "the best we can considering the circumstances", or "the best with what we have to work with"; but the will of man is chained in the prison of good and evil. Then we add emotion, preference, loneliness, environment, influences, religion, family history, among other things and it all becomes relative to the individual.

She'll tell you that your deeds will determine whether you keep or lose God's grace. She wants you to live better and keep her rules; maybe she'll trick you into working at keeping The Ten Commandments.¹⁴⁹ She'll try to persuade you to join her in her bedchamber and *maybe* you'll be granted eternal life. She tells you that all people are God's children. She sells lies as the Truth and they're very expensive. She wants *you* to begin *your* work with a single action based on a decision made through Evaluative Judgment. She *just* wants you to do what you already know would be best *for you*. Remember Adam and Eve.

Adam did what he thought was best -twice and was cast from the Paradise of God. As I mentioned before and the Scripture declares, no man will attain eternal life, Jesus Christ Himself, because he believes that this choice would be the right thing for him to do in order to make up for all the wrong that he thinks he's done. This would be self-justification. Only Jesus can justify and He does justify. There is no other way.

The great harlot will use the word "grace" and may say that she's saved by grace but she has no internal working of grace and no fruit of The Spirit of God. All of the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries in the world can't help her because she's spiritually dead. The LORD has not influenced her heart. We know this because there's no reflection of it in her life; therefore she neither has the will to be thankful to God nor anything to be thankful for. She has her rules and regulations; her intellectualism, self-justification, and lots of will-power. She has her sanctimonious ceremonies and human humility. This harlot consists of the governments of man, the religions of man, the clubs of man, the group-will feats of man, and every individual who practices the religion of will-power to ordain himself as the god of his universe. This is the rotten fruit of 6000 years of men feasting from that forbidden tree.

Finally, one of her most (w)hore-endous philosophies is that all men are created in God's image. Adam was created in God's image both physically and spiritually, but he fell and now while we may still be in God's image as far as our having feet and legs and arms and a head and so forth like He does,¹⁵⁰ we're born with a will that's in the image of Adam. The LORD is not depraved and bound by sin -He's still as perfect and Holy as He was before and after Adam fell. Of course, after The LORD saves us, we're a new creature -being re-created in His image!¹⁵¹

Now we don't have to be miserable, we can obey! There is peace and rest in obedience. The fewer actions we take by use of human will, the more He expresses Himself to us, in us, and through us! This is rest.

B. Is The Knowledge of Good Better Than The Knowledge of Evil?

Can our determination and then choice of a *good* action instead of an *evil* action cause us to stray from the perfect will of God? Is free will an asset or liability? Does free will exist in a state of total depravity? Let's look a little deeper into the lives of Adam and Eve.

Imagine Eve holding the fruit in her hand trying to reason a justifiable position? Eve's thoughts were as the Scripture says, ... "the woman saw that, 1) the tree was good for food, and that, 2) it was pleasant to the eyes, and 3) a tree to be desired to make one wise ...". There were three branches of positive thought toward partaking of the fruit. So obviously there were branches of negative thought. Maybe something like this, "Well, Adam told me not to eat of this tree." "This ole' snake may be lying to me!" or "I believe that God told Adam not to do it and I don't want to let my husband down." "I don't want to die!" "Maybe I should talk to Adam about this -but I already know what he'll say!". After this reasoning process, Eve acted upon what she believed to be the best decision for her "... she took of the fruit thereof and did eat...".⁹ Whether she thought it was right or wrong she did what she *willed* instead of what she was told. This is what we call Relative Ethics. "Rightness" depends on the situation at hand regardless of, or in spite of the facts.

Sin was conceived when she began to evaluate her husband's word. It sprouted as she talked with the serpent, thought long and hard on it, and plucked the fruit from the tree -but it was born when she bit it.

The process we use to create actions are how all of our problems begin. Evaluations cause decisions and then action occurs. The actions we take can help us or destroy us. The process is conducive to ungodliness such as disobedience to parents, forsaking responsibility, marrying some body who's not made for us, having children out of wedlock, alcohol and drug addiction, etc., none of this comes from obeying The LORD.

Is the knowledge of good and evil a good thing? It's great as long as the decisions we come to by the use of it don't interfere with obedience. If we habitually make decisions apart from The LORD we will also habitually act on them. When we habitually act on our decisions we grow farther from The LORD and can ruin ourselves. The LORD can and does interrupt and stop us sometimes. It may be to deliver us or maybe because He's weary of the offense. We *will* offend Him because action outside of obedience is the partaking of the fruit that grows on this tree.

Eve did what she thought was best for her, in spite of her husband. Was Eve right or wrong? No - Why didn't she obey her husband? Her *action*

claimed him to be incompetent as her husband. She usurped the authority God had given Adam, therefore she usurped God's Divine order.

Is the knowledge of good better than the knowledge of evil? No. There was no "tree of evil" and different "tree of good". The LORD had forbidden partaking of the tree of the knowledge of "good and evil": one tree bearing both fruit in each piece. Every action has positive and negative elements in the evaluation. Our conscience bears witness to the fact.

C. What Is Good and What Is Evil?

Eve was created with an ability to reason. We see in the fact that her *reasoning* directed her to a *decision* so that she could *act* in disobedience. Obedience to Adam would have required no use of a reasoning process. One does not need to *decide* to obey. There are three immediate detrimental effects of evaluating and making a decision to obey: 1) Exercise of the knowledge of good and evil makes it stronger when the idea for a Christian is to learn to make it weaker by using it less often, 2) If we evaluate and make the decision to obey then we might take credit for the outcome instead of glorifying The LORD, and 3) If we start evaluating we may well make a decision to disobey and then act! Well, what if the outcome is *good*? Any act in disobedience is sin. Obedience is very simply "the performance of what is required".¹⁰ It requires action but not an evaluation or decision.

When the command comes the evaluation and decision have been made already. In certain situations with certain people we can go back into the evaluation after the decision has been made by them and actually help make the result better or more productive, etc. This interaction is often welcomed or required; it may be in a job description. People often have to work together to get things done. Even God will *reason* with us on certain issues but when the person in charge or The LORD Himself gives an order and we refuse to perform without evaluating and deciding... we get into trouble. Obedience to parents and Christian authority doesn't require evaluation and decision making. Obedience only requires action.

Why might we may read Eve's response to temptation today and condemn her as having been wrong or evil? It's because we use the same reasoning process she did. Whether she was right or wrong -she disobeyed her husband. The results of her action speak for themselves. If we judge her to be wrong then not only have we judged her,¹¹ which means that we'd better be ready to prove that we can do a better job with our tree than she did with hers but we've also dismissed a wealth of wisdom. To say that Eve disobeyed her husband is the issue.

We have to go the original Hebrew and Greek definitions so that we can better understand what The LORD meant in the day it was written according to that language. Orthodox Hebrew and Greek are dead languages, i.e., they are today what they were in the time of the inspiration of the Scripture. We don't have to know Hebrew and Greek though if The LORD wanted to He could cause us all to spontaneously know any language! He's done it before!¹⁴⁷ Normally, He's chooses to let us study with Him. Amen!!!

English is an ever changing language, a living language. Also, as in any language interpretation, there are some words that won't translate properly as single words. I suggest the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible as a basic tool for the disciple (3101 Greek). I'm in no way discounting the Holy Scriptures! It was inspired in Greek and Hebrew. The LORD has provided the "Strong's" for us to use as a tool for diggin'; we'd be sluggards to ignore it. Many preachers ignore reference books. Some say the only education they need is by The LORD yet they turn away the tools He allows for education. LORD help us!

The LORD can regenerate His people without this or any study having been done on their part at all! He can use any translation, any book, any person, any thing in any place to prick the hearts of His people. The LORD might come and salvage our lives right before our very eyes! He has no restraints. Yet, I must add that The KJV is the closest related translation of the inspired Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. It's important.

The serious student will find that they don't need a new translation of the Bible. They need to be faithful the church where The LORD sent 'em and yield to the translation of their mind. That's the plan.

An understanding of the word "grace" puts a microscope on many issues of Bible doctrine. We're regenerated through His kindness, this is absolutely true, but an honest study of "grace" is even more astonishing, and humbling. The LORD's Divine influence on our heart has a reflection in our life"! An understanding of free grace makes a fool of man's doctrine of self-salvation by will-power, i.e., Evaluations, decisions, and actions which are all based in human will and the knowledge of good and evil. We're saved by grace, and not by *any* works on our part.¹⁴⁸ We get The LORD's grace apart from any act of self-will.

The great whore's premier doctrine is free will. She appears to concede to the doctrine of free grace but twists the definition to point back to herself. She may say, for example, that The LORD knew you would choose His free grace and so He chose beforehand to give it to you. "Grace" is not passive, it's fervently effectual.

A Christian has this Spirit of God in their flesh, therefore we take on His characteristics. There are many instructions in the Bible to help us with this but ultimately it becomes natural. His nature comes to the forefront in our lives because He's alive inside. Christians won't be content in self-service or service to any other than Him. We learn to ask before acting; we long for opportunities to obey and for those precious private moments alone with Him to hear the great news of what's next!

We count all good fortune as His goodness knowing that all good and perfect thing comes from Him,¹³⁹ though we're worthy of Hellfire. We're thankful for the tribulations of life because *we* know we'll know *Him* better when it's over –and it will end.¹⁴⁰ We stand "...ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh (us) a reason of the hope that is in (us) with meekness and fear..."¹⁴¹

We stand ready to give Him all the honor and glory we can muster, not because it sounds good, looks right, or makes money, but because it's our new nature to do so! In our old nature we were wholly given to self-service but in our new nature we're in the process of being wholly given to His service. The fleshly tendencies of the Holy Church can't kill the fruit of such a great deliverance.

C. The Religion of Man vs The Church

Many churches claim to not teach "doctrine". How do they not *teach*? "Doctrine", by definition, *means* "teaching". Every organization and every church has doctrine; the question is, Who's doctrine and What doctrine?. The church is called to study God and teach what He teaches. That's Theology, that's Bible doctrine.¹⁴² (But I know what they mean)

Every religious organization teaches one of two fundamental doctrines: free grace or free will. They're not the same and it does matter. We think of "grace" as an extension given to us on our insurance policy or mortgage. But when the Scripture speaks of The LORD's grace, we're dealing with the most powerful *force* known to man! In Hebrew, grace is The LORD's kindness toward man.¹⁴³ Hebrew is the original language of the Old Testament. The Scripture says that Noah "found grace",¹⁴⁴ this means that The LORD was "kind" to Noah by "stooping down to him as to an inferior" to help. Wow! Noah knew a little about the absolutely amazing "grace" to come. The New Testament was originally written in Greek. Every time the word "grace" is used in the New Testament, (with one exception,¹⁴⁵ and here the subject is the demeanor of a rich man falling as compared to the passing of the beauty of a flower), it has the definition: graciousness -especially, "the divine influence upon the heart and it's reflection in the life, including gratitude".¹⁴⁶

After Eve's use of this process of reasoning on a direct order from her authority, she became aware of the fact that her conscience could dictate that her body act against the will of her husband. For the first time ever, death was felt by a human. She gave Adam two problems.

He had a reasoning process of thought also. Surely he started evaluating as soon as he saw her. Death had entered her body by then. All the Scripture says about Adam's act of partaking was that Eve "...gave also unto her husband with her and he did eat."¹² Under these circumstances he would've surely used his reasoning process which led him to a decision which he then acted on instead of obeying The LORD; thereby, claiming The LORD to be incompetent *as* LORD. Adam treated The LORD as Eve had just treated him.

The following are models of reasoning involved with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which from this point we'll call Evaluative Judgment. It was Evaluative Judgment that led Adam and Eve and leads us today to the fruit –a decision. Adam and Eve surely used Evaluative Judgment everyday. Which path to take in the Garden, where to start today, what's next, how far to prune the bushes... Use of an operating system of thought would have to be present to get anything done. When they acted out judgment on a direct order from God *instead* of doing as told, they came to *know* good and evil. *And how!*

We use Evaluative Judgment everyday

Aesthetics: to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation is right or good; to refuse to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation is wrong or evil.

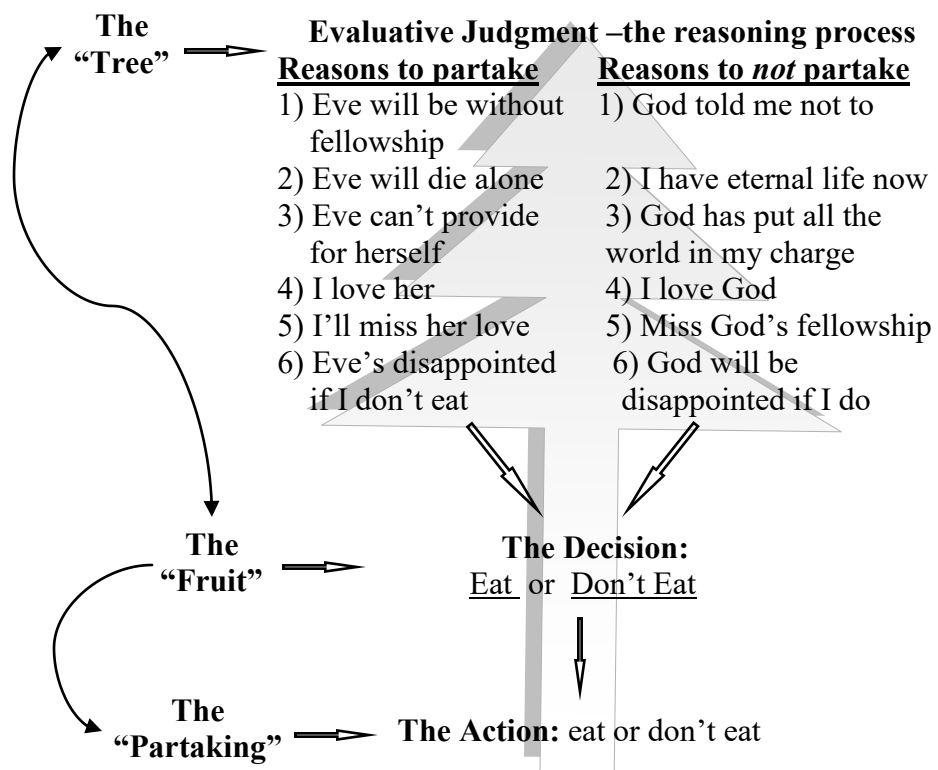
Ethics: to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation is beneficial to ourselves or others; to refuse to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation has no benefit to self or others.

Pragmatics: to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation is functional; to refuse to act because we evaluate and decide that a situation is dysfunctional.

What about going shopping? What to wear? Going hunting? Working late? (as I am tonight) Take a ride through the country? Where to eat? What to eat? When to eat? Supper or dinner? Go back to school? Where to go? Which road to take? What time to wake up? What time to go to sleep? What kind of cereal? eggs? Scrambled? Over-well? Over-easy? Coffee or Tea? But! We're Okay, as long as we proceed with caution; ready to be interrupted at any second to hear The LORD tell us to do something other than we're doing or show some other way. If we say, "Jesus don't care how I eat eggs!", watch out! What if He does?

It's all about our relationship with Him. It may or may not be about the eggs. We're just supposed to obey. How do we know which issues to ask The LORD about and which ones to evaluate for ourselves? The LORD said "...I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people...".¹³ He lives inside us and bears witness to His will. He also left us a perfect record of His will. His likes and dislikes, expectations and allowances, His judgments and mercy. It's all in the Bible. There's only so much we can know about God without learning our Bible. It helps us with these predicaments in life that provoke Evaluative Judgment. If we're still not sure how He feels about something –ask! Nobody knows everything but Christians know the One Who does! There's very little guess work involved in life as a born-again Christian: trust and obey.

Yes, The LORD gave us a mind to evaluate –but not to try to usurp His authority. This is where Adam fell. Instead of trusting and obeying, he evaluated until he became torn between his Creator's commandment and his wife's predicament. His evaluation was surely much like the following example. What would you have done? Obey or die?



Obedience is to perform the act required without evaluation & decision

She's proud of her accomplishments for self; yet never satisfied, she strives for more. She appears to give honor and glory to The LORD, but this is an image she creates to give her more opportunity to speak of self and to make more money. She appears to be lovely from a distance but is hideous to the innocent at close range.

Those belonging to her come are faithful. Those who don't belong specifically to her may visit other bedchambers in her house with younger harlots who she's raising -and she is jealous over them. She's all shapes and sizes. She decorates herself. She delicately designs and disguises herself. She is devoted only to herself. She loves only herself. When all is said and done she is just an old, worn out whore and being with her was a nightmare. Night and day she's on every street corner prostituting herself. I'm talking about every individual, organization, and religion of man fueled by raw human will-power. These are not built or maintained for the glory of God but for the glory of man.

The Scriptural reference to her as a great whore in no way implicates that The LORD cannot regenerate an actual prostitute.¹³² The question is, "will He?". Yes, but only if he wants to. *This* Harlot and her daughters will not be spared of their fornication and idolatry.¹³³

B. The Attire of The Lamb of God

Jesus was completely self-less and was the perfect servant to others, yet He refused to accept honor. He served the entire world with one drop of His blood. Preaching tirelessly until the appointed time of His death, He never once claimed to be able to justify Himself, but relied upon the justice of The Father to prevail. He refused any will to disobey and His righteousness was well known among all who knew Him, yet He refused to accept their accolades. He spoke of the One True God, and wholly rejected idolatry. Satan was plainly instructed to worship Him *as* LORD during the temptation in the wilderness.¹³⁴

He consistently bragged on The Father's goodness and mercy, giving all honor and glory to The Father every chance He could. He's the only One in the history of man who had no desire to cause others to serve Him though He was the only One worthy. He repeatedly made reference to The Father and to the services required *of* Him.

He gave many examples of service for us,¹³⁵ of being the greatest servant in history and the special servant of God.¹³⁶ Those belonging to Him come to Him and He gives them rest, He is meek and lowly in heart; His burden is light.¹³⁷ When all was said and done in Jesus' life on earth, He gave even that very life for sinners who cared nothing for Him.¹³⁸

Help in Time of Need¹³⁰

In this final chapter I'd like to briefly discuss the issue of service. The weekly services that The LORD allows us to have are wonderful in the Holy Church. They're not overly religious, monotonous, or boring. This is not because of a forced effort to appear more like the world's party in order to attract attention or herd a bunch of goats but just because the LORD is with us. We all have a service to perform for The LORD—a job.

The business of the Harlot is to serve herself. This was evident even from her roots in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were interested in serving *self*, and the habit of self-service that followed was passed on to their children.

Cain believed that the service he performed was worthy to be accepted by God which proved that he had a dishonest heart. He slew his own brother, Abel, because Abel's service *was* accepted. Abel served with an honest heart and The LORD blessed him.²¹ Lamech, Noah's daddy, committed murder, which bothered him, but he said that God would surely defend him since God didn't kill Cain, after all Cain killed his own brother and that was allot worse than what he did! Evaluative Judgment.

A. The Harlot's Attire

The fact that man is self-centered is obvious. No matter how rich or poor, how religious or non-religious, how ancient or modern: man is in service to his own will above all else.

The great whore feasts off the carnal desires of man. Her business certainly revolves around service, but there's no mistaking that it's for others to serve her. She's created a great image of service, but her heart is fixed on what she can get for herself.

Every prostitute can justify herself by use of Evaluative Judgment. Her *will* expresses images of her being valuable and even virtuous but her actions prove her to be an old whore. The actions prove whether the actor used the *tree* or *grace* as the source. She feasts off the depravity of man. Depravity is her diet. It's not hard to recognize the harlot if you know what to look for. She preaches about the things that she's placed before her self in service to her self. These idols might be clothes, cars, houses, buildings, money, influence, deeds, rules, the number of clients she sees each week, or her traditions; she'll spend allot of time taking about the Devil himself because he's her daddy. She sets the name of Jesus as an idol to worship her own heart and she uses His name, but He's not there.¹³¹ If He ever shows up it's to deliver one of His children from her bedchamber and she'll never know He was in the room.

Adam made his decision and then acted on it. Afterward he tried to cover his tracks. He once again used Evaluative Judgment to *decide* to gather fig leaves and they sowed them together to try to hide their nakedness from The LORD¹². No doubt the very first experience Adam had after being created was to behold Life itself -The Living God. He'd been taught by and probably had his job demonstrated to him by the bare hands of The Almighty. Adam *knew* God, yet in a short time after that first use of his Evaluative Judgment to judge what God told him to do, he reasoned again and decided that he and his wife should hide from God behind a bush, then they acted on that decision by hiding. Adam didn't just have a "lapse" in judgment, he fell hard. The LORD kindly confronted them and cursed them both to death as promised.

Even after this, Adam used Evaluative Judgment a third time and this time in regard to the tree of life which was also created with the Garden. The fruit of this tree was eternal Life. Adam could have eaten, and probably had eaten of this tree already; after all he was created with eternal life *in* him. Before his fall he may have eaten of this tree many times. This tree didn't determine his loss or retention of eternal life on the earth, his obedience to The LORD's command to avoid the other tree, did. He could no longer partake of the tree of Life after having disobeyed because he now carried the curse of death and had to pay.

He had just made the second decision trying to hide the first and now a third decision to try to correct the first. He was trying to justify and save himself and had to be ran out of the paradise of God for it. It wasn't that Adam was *wrong*; he was disobedient. He couldn't distinguish between the two and had become incompetent. This tree of Life represents The LORD Jesus Christ Himself. He is and always has been Eternal Life. Here in Genesis three, the record of God's very first interaction with the very first man, we can see that Adam was *not allowed* to evaluate his circumstance, make a decision, and then in an act of self-preservation, attain eternal life. So why do men today in the pulpits of the world's religions teach that in order to attain eternal life man is required to follow the very steps that Adam considered taking -for which God threw him out of the garden? Yes! You got it! They teach a doctrine as an act based on a decision made by their use of Evaluative Judgment—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We have so many religions and denominations, so many opinions and determinations. If it was all *of* The LORD wouldn't He teach all of His children the same message? Of course He would—and when He's teaching *His* Word through man, it is the same message, same gospel, same Saviour.

Personalities differ, deliveries differ, clothes, faces and features change; venues will vary—but the message *is* the same.

In this case Adam may well have been *wrong* but the problem was his disobedience. He'd become incompetent to perform his duties. Surely he was devastated. He'd become aware of the fact that his Evaluative Judgment could result in causing his body to act against the will of The LORD and he was ashamed; surely he was ashamed. He'd come to *know* the knowledge of good and evil. Now this fleshly body that his *will* used to perform that action was cursed to die and return to the dust from whence it came.¹⁴ Adam felt death invade his flesh and his whole environment. It all started by *doing* what he *thought* was best, having *considered* all things. Whether it was right, wrong, good, bad, or indifferent to Adam; it was disobedience to The LORD.

Had The LORD allowed Adam to retain eternal life on earth after disobedience, the results would have been perpetually disastrous. This would have meant that God will overlook disobedience and so His commands are not really important or that man can regain favor with Him through an act based on the use of Evaluative Judgment, i.e., “merited favor”, or maybe after eating of the tree of Life after having eaten of the forbidden tree, Adam would have continued to live on earth using his Evaluative Judgment, habitually judging God to be incompetent, for all eternity! I don't know. We know they were to trust and obey. Adam suffered instantaneous spiritual death (removal of The LORD's breath) and inevitable physical death. Adam lived a total of 930 years before physical death. He saw all of the promise of death passed to all creation due his fatal decision and action. What a load to bear. But thank God—death did come.

God cast Adam and Eve from the Garden primarily, “... to keep the way of the tree of life”.¹⁵ The tree of life is also spoken of in the book of The Revelation.¹⁶ The LORD revoked Adam's access to this tree making it impossible for him to regain eternal life as the result of his *reasoning* that it would be the *right* thing to do in order to make up or having done what he *thought* was *wrong*. The LORD had wanted obedience and He shows us from Adam's example that man cannot attain eternal life by an act based on a decision to do what we think is best. We cannot be justified by *doing* what we *think* is *right* for us in order to make up for having done what we *think* was *wrong* for us. This confusion and misery is part of what The LORD didn't want for them. Eternal life on earth was a *conditional* gift to Adam based on his obedience to that command to avoid the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Jesus. Paul said he was “ready to preach the gospel”,¹²³ the reason for this was because he was spiritually minded. The LORD spent allot of time teaching Paul his job. He'll spend allot of time with us too! He prepares us for the job that he has prepared *for* us to do. We won't feel that we are ready to take on the job He's given us but this is because of Evaluative Judgment. We're always learning to trust Him more. If the LORD says “do it”, we can literally bet our lives on it.¹²⁴ If He says no or nothing -we should avoid it with *all* of our will!

When we're aware of the reality of our minute by minute relationship to Him, we can become spiritually minded. We have to not only believe that Jesus is our only Messiah (Christ), deliverer (Jesus), and Supreme Ruler (Lord), but it has to come by Divine revelation. Then we're not believing, we know it. He is faithful to persuade all who He has foreordained, by grace.¹²⁵

Until a person is fully persuaded they can't be spiritually minded. When someone *is* persuaded -watch out! They will serve The LORD whether they think it right or not; they'll give their testimony of His saving grace at the slightest movement of His Spirit; they'll lay down their life for the sheep even against the will of their old sinful nature, and they'll testify, preach, or teach the gospel every chance they get.

Jesus spoke of the gift of division.¹²⁶ Christians are given this gift. We're not of this world¹²⁷ and so we learn through our adventure with The LORD that we're separate from the philosophies spewed by the Evaluative Judgment of the naturally minded. We're learning to walk with The LORD. We're killing off the works of our flesh and are resolved to obey and proclaim Christ Jesus, *our* LORD.¹²⁸

The Church that Jesus is building is fastened on the strongest Foundation in existence -Jesus Christ Himself. We are what He adds to that Foundation—to Himself! The Divine revelation of Jesus Christ as The Son of The Living God becoming the propitiation and atoning sacrifice for our personal sin -including our acknowledgement of this fact, is so profound that it is unto the regeneration of our will. It brings with it everything the child of God will need in this world for the rest of their life *and* the down payment of the eternal life to come! This is the way Christians are born, borne, and made complete in their adventure with our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

The process of going from man #1 to man #3 can take years but it'll be the joy of our lives to serve Him and we know that our lives are hidden in Christ.¹²⁹

lead him. He may be a “good” person but has no direct knowledge of The LORD and receives no direction from The LORD. His actions are based on decisions made by use of Evaluative Judgment —acting as his own god and savior. This man needs to look into the Mosaic law as his mirror. His will alone is incapable of computing the fact that what he considers to be his “goodness” is sin to God. If any man looks into the Law and justifies himself –run. He is not a candidate for regeneration. He is a vessel created for destruction.¹¹⁷

The carnal man is one who is regenerated but he still yields more to his own will than to The LORD’s divine influence. The carnal man is in the process of the renewal of his mind. The Corinthians were a carnally minded church.¹¹⁸ This is the reason so many who are caught up in the modern Faith Movement follow the doctrines of the Corinthians so closely. The carnal Christian needs to be taught the clarity of the gospel, the nature of The LORD, and learn habitual obedience through spiritual prescriptions and grace. Every Christian has some level of carnality.

The spiritual man has been regenerated and has learned habitual obedience. All he needs is to hear from The LORD. He’s on a mission with a new nature. His mind is renewed, i.e., the will of God in him prevails over his own will more often than not and *usually* without a fuss.¹¹⁹

The LORD’s children are led by His Spirit.¹²⁰ Whether one is the natural man looking unto the Mosaic law for proof as to his being a sinner in need of a Savior, the carnal man learning to obey more than to disobey, or the spiritual man in whom Jesus’ nature is prevalent. The born-again Christian is led by The LORD, from level to level, from beginning to end.¹²¹ Eventually all of God’s people come to know that we’re *not* God and are in need of The One True God and Savior, Jesus Christ

The harlot is *natural* and led solely by Evaluative Judgment. She always holds what’s best for her at heart even though it may appear to be good for others. When she performs an act that’s credited to her as *good* by the will of others, it simultaneously satisfies and fuels her desire for praise and worship. She would never honestly give the glory to The LORD because it’s not in her nature to do so. John said to “try the spirits”¹²² in order to know if they are of The LORD.

The harlot gets her greatest worship when people accept the image she portrays. Her image says that she’s helping them for their sake but her deeds prove that she’s *self-willed*. She’s a liar like her daddy, the Devil.³³ By persuading men that she is their salvation, her objective is met. She is their god.

Christians get the greatest joy in denying our *self* and bragging on

Eternal life on earth today is given to no one. Almost everything we do is a result of our dying process. Everything is dying all the time. Even if we happen to escape taxes we won’t escape death. There are graveyards everywhere to prove it but after witnessing the process of death who’d want to live here forever? Can we imagine not being able to die after 80, 90, 100, 150, or 6000 years in a body that’s cursed! I’ve been with many suffering or older folks who said they were “ready”. They didn’t want to suffer in this flesh anymore. Death’s hard on us sometime and we all fear the unknown but what if there was no end to the process? Considering the shape Adam was in after disobeying, he too would’ve eventually saw death as a gift. Through Jesus Christ and His atoning sacrifice at Calvary, we’re promised the gift of eternal life *after* physical death.¹⁷

Adam was created a “dichotomy”. There were two parts to his being: body and soul. The body was the physical body, the soul was the mental faculty. The soul of man is the intellect, the reasoning faculty, the human will, the conscience. Maybe Adam was physically and intellectually “alive” for a few seconds before The LORD first breathed into him. But God wanted Adam to have *His* type of life. He, “...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a *living* soul... a “trichotomy”. The LORD’s breath in Adam was His Spirit –eternal life. At the time of disobedience, The LORD’s breath was removed. He then became a dichotomy (body and soul) as in those few seconds before The LORD breathed into him. Now he had to live through the physical death of his body not knowing if God would give him a new body after this one died and breath eternal life into him again. He only had a *hope* for eternal life. Through all this process surely he was at war with his own will. I bet he hated himself for what he did but... that fruit probably tasted pretty good. What a mess we are. Adam knew he was at the mercy of his Father whom he loved and had rejected! Sounds familiar.

The death of Adam’s body took some 930 years.¹⁹ Adam had over three hundred thousand days and nights to recall his disobedience. I bet he thought about it all the time. When he looked around, plowed the ground, tasted food, fussed with his wife, saw his kids being born knowing they too would die; when he scratched his leg on a briar, when he felt the need for sleep, when he got a headache, when he felt himself losing the strength of life: when he saw death in the face of his wife; when he missed God and felt the horror of separation from Him -when he buried Abel, his son. He saw the results of his action in a world once perfect, a world that even The LORD God once said was very good.²⁰ Sin always takes us farther than we want to go. It’s not worth it.

The kids I mentioned from the TV show had no doubt used Evaluative Judgment before they acted on what they considered to be the best things for them to do. They probably knew that others would decide that their actions were wrong or evil, but they did what was best for them. Maybe it was spite work. We use Evaluative Judgment everyday. This is what was *wrong* with these kids. I don't believe they had *gone bad* but that they were either dichotomous or they were trichotomous, but carnally minded. Maybe The LORD was using them to call their parents. Maybe they never had anybody teach them the difference between Evaluative Judgment and obedience.

Often children are disciplined or spanked for disobedience without being directly told that is was for disobedience, so the child concludes that they did *wrong*. Whatever they did may or may not have been wrong but it needs to be explained as to whether it was wrong (ness), disobedience or both. People are wrong all the time. There's nothing wrong with being wrong -*wrongness* needs correction; disobedience must have swift and just discipline. Some children are not corrected *or* taught the virtue of a relationship based on obedience.

There are laws against acting on certain decisions. The Law of Moses was created to help the people with their Evaluative Judgments and to reveal disobedience. If everybody drove 35 miles an hour all the time we wouldn't need a law to tell us to. If cars were not built to go faster than 35 we wouldn't need laws about speeding! Since we're capable of doing things that God doesn't approve of -we *will* do them. Man needs the rules and laws of the land to help govern the will of society. Laws are not made to be broken. They're broken because we evaluate, make decisions, and act as we think best. Laws serve the purpose of providing boundaries, revealing trespasses and carrying out penalties.

God didn't want Adam to *know* the fruit of tree of this knowledge but when Adam partook God then passed righteous judgment on him. Adam bit off more than he could chew. God cursed the earth for Adam's sake which threw Adam into such an evaluative tailspin that his posterity offended The LORD worse with each generation. Cain,²¹ Lamech,²² and every character in Scripture, except Jesus Christ, used their Evaluative Judgment, made decisions, and acted them out against the will of God. This is what's wrong with us! Because of this, our will can't be transformed into the image of God until we're born-again.

Many times when I'm out and about I'll randomly ask the question, "What do you think the fruit of the tree was that God told Adam not to eat?" In almost every case I get the same answer --an apple.

E. The Renewed Mind

Divine revelation is the basis of Christendom, individually and as a whole. Every child of God must then go through the process of changing from the habitual use of Evaluative Judgment to obedience.

The Scripture speaks of the renewing of the mind¹¹³. In many cases, after The LORD actually reveals to someone that they belong to Him it can take a long period of time before the fruit begins to bear. This is normal. At the point of regeneration (from this point we'll use the theological term, "regeneration" instead of the common term, "salvation"), The LORD is actually expressing Himself from inside of us. Sadly enough, it can take years for the renewing of the mind to come to fruition because we're so accustomed to our knowledge of good and evil and we rely on it so heavily. This is one's teenier in "spiritual Egypt". Just like the Hebrews wondered around the desert for 40 years, we wander around trying to learn to obey The LORD after having spent a lifetime in bondage to the knowledge of good and evil and our sinful nature.

I'm cautious of a claim that The LORD saves someone one day and they lay down every sin they ever carried in an instant and are never tempted again. I don't mean to imply that it doesn't happen. I know that by the time The LORD has dragged us down the exhausting road to repentance we're intellectually exhausted. I'm just saying that over a process of time we begin to know The LORD in ways that cause us to purposefully deny our will even more as we are increasingly overwhelmed by His goodness;¹¹⁴ a progressive sanctification of the will. That old man is opposite of the new.¹¹⁵ Some die easy, some die hard. We come to understand our relationship with The LORD at an individual pace.¹¹⁶

While it's true that a sheep is born a sheep, sheep will get into habits during their kidhood that must be changed as they draw near to the age when they're sheared. This is the case with each of us. When we lead a life of self-will for so long we must be broken of, and learn to yield to, the breaking of the habits acquired during those years. Only our LORD Jesus Christ can generate and sustain the renewing of the mind.

Liberty is to be able to serve The LORD by divine revelation, instantaneously and faithfully. To try to serve any other way is sin and death.

F. Man #1, Man #2, or Man #3?

The key to understanding a person is to pay attention to the source of their actions. This is obvious in general conversation. People do what they want to do and talk about the things that interest them. There are three types of man: the natural, or "unregenerate/lost", the carnal, and the spiritual. The natural man has *only* his knowledge of good and evil to

Christianity is a result of The Father's influence on a person's heart to reveal that Jesus was, and is, their Messiah. These will follow Jesus and eventually bear the fruit of the His Spirit -not because of a yoke of bondage like the Law, or because they are coerced, or deceived into it, but because of a Divine revelation by The Father, of Whom we are unworthy to speak.

We can neither know The LORD, nor comprehend Scripture apart from Divine revelation.¹¹¹ It's written in such a way as to expose the knowledge of good and evil for it's fruit –the works of the flesh, and to expose the child of God to all of it's marvels and mysteries by grace.

The heart of Christianity is the Divine revelation of the fact that Jesus is Who He said He was: The Son of The Living God. To recognize Him as such is the result of grace. I know the argument as to whether God is one person or three people. Was He The Father in the flesh or literally the offspring? How does The Holy Spirit fit into this? Etc. Those questions are important and there *are* answers to them that I address in more detail in another Quick Study. But! for the purpose of this Quick Study, "What in The World Is Wrong with Me!", let me start by saying that there is something terribly wrong with us and we have no hope in this world -But...

When I recognize Jesus Christ as The Son of God I'm admitting that I deserved the wrath of The Father of the Old Testament and therefore do not deserve comfort from His Spirit. When I confess Jesus Christ as The Son of God I concede to the fact that He lived here on this earth as a man and He lived a Holy life. I'm proclaiming that I believe His testimony was true. I'm acknowledging that He suffered and went to the cross to die, provided the atoning work for sin. I see the Holy Law of God and *have* to accept that man is a sinner and due to the multitude and magnitude of our sin, it *took* The Son of God coming to die on the cross to atone for it; that means He died for *my* sin. Which means I'm a candidate for salvation; a salvation and rest He made effectual in my life, years ago. I also thereby certify that He arose from the dead like He said He would and like the Bible says He did which means that I acknowledge that His record was true and He was seen among men and taught them Himself, after His resurrection. My life is now proof that He ascended to Heaven and He is alive right now at the right hand of the throne of God! He lives in me and I live only because of His living in me.¹¹² So I know Who I'm talking to when I pray. He's my Father, My Holiness, His Highness, my Saviour, The Son of The Living God, and the greatest love I've ever known. I love You LORD. Thank You.

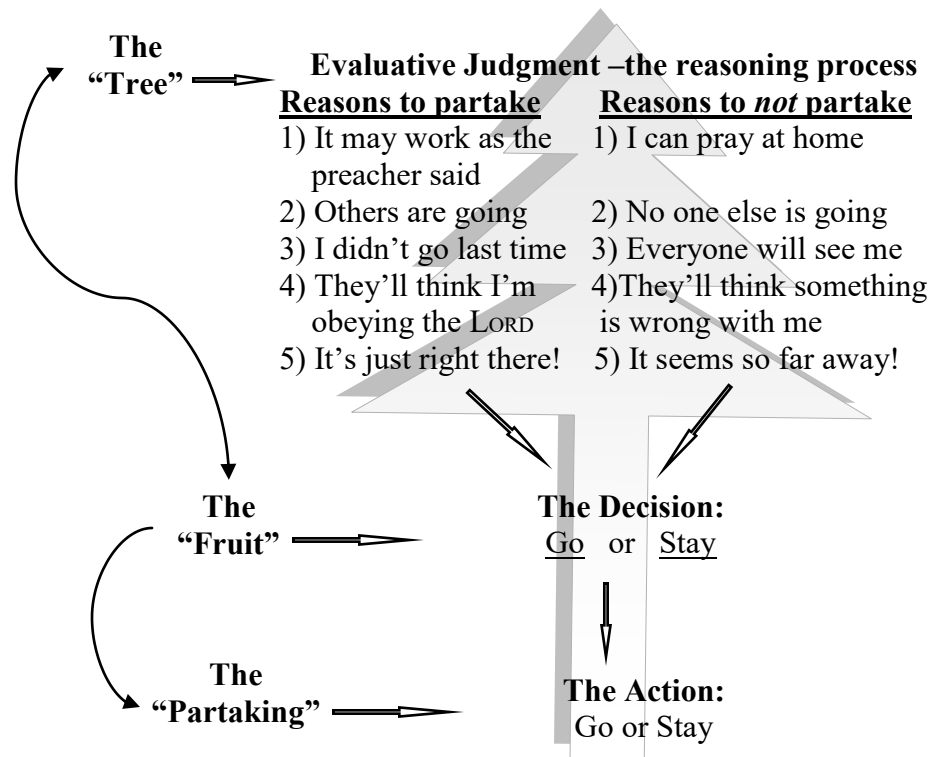
There's no evidence it was an apple. We don't need extensive exegesis to understand that Adam was reprimanded for being disobedient no matter the physical fruit. There's no doubt The LORD wanted a relationship of trust with Adam. Trust is a must as the foundation of any relationship. The LORD was betrayed by Adam, and Adam's nature was passed on to all mankind. The Holy Bible is an accurate record of all that is wrong with us and all that's right with Jesus. The Bible boasts of the holiness of God and the depravity of man and so *naturally* man rejects it or, using Evaluative Judgment, he mentally twists it to bring some level of *self*-satisfaction. This is what's wrong with us.

The nature of every human being is to justify *self*. One who is *spiritually minded*, i.e., doesn't rely on the knowledge of good and evil to lead their life, will know this by their own testimony of regeneration and by observing the nature of the flesh in others.²³ Man lives in bondage to his fallen state, trusting in the nature of human will instead of The LORD's will. The natural human will, hates The LORD.²⁴ Our Evaluative Judgments are always selfish. So what makes us believe that we will obey The LORD apart from grace (the Divine influence upon the heart)?²⁵ Yep. Evaluative Judgment. This body has to die in order for us to escape it entirely. We go round and round and just dig a deeper sin pit.

Thank God for Jesus!! Paul wrote, "...I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."²⁶

When an action is performed as the result of a decision based on an Evaluative Judgment, that action is a work of the flesh. Which is fine – but not concerning God's directives and holy things or the authorities He's set in our lives to govern us -this is the purpose that the Holy Bible was given to us. Paul's not excusing himself for the proclivities of his flesh. He's explaining that his mind is in service to The LORD and in spite of the captivity he feels to his flesh... the next verses say, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, *who walk not after the flesh*, but after the Spirit. For *the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*"²⁷ We do have to suffer with the will of this flesh —But! We don't have to obey it if we're born-again! We *can* obey The LORD.

Below is an example: Someone stands in the congregation at church during the altar call. The LORD's compelling them²⁸ to go to pray. They begin to evaluate: "Should I go or not"? That *pulling* is The Spirit of God ready to deal with them; to salvage their lives, to give them the wonderful life He's prepared for them before the foundation of the world, to satisfy every longing once and for all time and they... evaluate: "Should I go or not"? Remember -Obedience only requires action.



Church leaders might alleviate the altar call. They may call it "doctrinal differences", or tradition, or the lack of the tradition. Human nature is to continue in our carnal-minded comfort zone to avoid facing a war with Evaluative Judgment in front of everybody. It is precisely this war that we must face and in doing so learn to yield to the Spirit of God and not the will of the flesh. God forbid somebody in the congregation sees that the *preacher* needs to go pray! When obeying the call of God is not the purpose of the meeting –go somewhere else. The children of God are smothered by these modern day Pharisees and hypocrites. The LORD has a wonderful life planned for us. Anything that inhibits obedience to the call of God is anti-Christ.

D. The Heart of Christianity

We know The LORD because He first reveals Himself to us. We love Him because He first loved us.¹⁰⁸ We would never know Him unless The Father reveals Him to us. Peter spent many hours in the presence of Jesus. He was a zealot and a stubborn, self-willed man even in his affection for Jesus. Yet he learned who Jesus *was* beyond the shadow of a doubt; not because of hanging around with Him but, because it was revealed to Him by the Father.

Jesus spent allot of time with all of the disciples and so they had come to know Him pretty well. One day Jesus confronted the disciples with a question, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man is?". The disciples replied that some thought He was John the Baptist reincarnated, or Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asked, "But whom say ye that I am?". Peter was quick to answer, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God". Jesus' reply explains how we become a "Christian", He said, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock will I build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it".¹⁰⁹ Wow!

Roman Catholicism declares to be founded on this discussion between Jesus and Peter. Their doctrine says that Peter himself was that rock upon which Christ would build His church and that Peter was the founder of their cult. They claim that Catholicism is *the* church and there's no other way. If their fundamental doctrine is in error what does that say about the rest? Well, was Peter *the* Rock?¹¹⁰ No. Jesus' being the Messiah was *revealed* to Peter by The Father. *This* is the foundation of the church! Jesus knew Peter, and Peter knew Jesus but Peter only knew that Jesus was the Messiah because The Father had revealed it to him. What better way for Jesus to build an immovable church? Talk about a solid foundation! How could I refute a premier doctrine of the largest religious organization in the world? Because it's ridiculous. It's blasphemy. Knowing that Jesus is The Son of God, The Saviour, will build a foundation in person's life that will cause them to stand no matter what! Now that's a church member.

The religions of man, whether "religious" or not, is rooted in Adam's act.⁹ Catholicism was founded in Nimrod's meetings.⁴³ That philosophy is a structure, built and maintained by the will-power of man. It includes all people who evaluate, choose themselves, and then through their actions, crown themselves as their own god. That's not a Church.

The reason many of The LORD's people get hurt in the church is because they can't distinguish between sheep and goats. They might believe that a fancy green yard and a sign out front with the word "pastor" (shepherd) written on it means there's a sheep pasture inside. Every church will have *at least* one or two goats slipping around. Many times a "goatherd" (one who herds goats) appears to be an under shepherd of sheep but sheep can't be treated like goats and goats can't be treated like sheep. Some sheep take longer than others to learn the differences but the more time they spend with other sheep -they'll see. All sheep follow the same Shepherd, Jesus. They're naive, loving, creatures who simply want to be around other sheep and grow wool. They're not satisfied if too many goats are around.

Goats can be mean, spiteful and get mad just because sheep are so simple minded. Goats don't really like each other either, except to take what they want from each other. They grow hard, course hair instead of soft, useful wool -and to top it all off they eat trash. They should never be publicly acknowledged, given a microphone, or an audience in the pasture, and certainly not allowed to join with or hold an office in the pasture (the church). Don't feel sad for them, they're gonna wreck the place as soon as they get a chance. Goats will be goats.

The Good Shepherd cares for the sheep: He's The One for whom the sheep heart longs. There's no harm in Him or His flock. Sheep are shy creatures and they don't want to hurt anybody. They love the pasture and when the Shepherd starts leading and prodding them they will eventually fall in line. If there's a real stubborn sheep that wants to wander off from the flock all the time, The Shepherd carries a rod and a staff to deal with that one. He'll leave the whole flock to go get that one little one that keeps going astray. The sheep don't realize that it can't survive without The Shepherd and the pasture. It don't know there are wolves in all the high grass outside the pasture just waiting for a lost sheep to wander by for supper. The Shepherd knows all these things. He knows His sheep. If He has to, He'll get that sheep, break it's leg and *carry* it back to the flock. He'll bandage the wound and keep that one extra close. He'll feed it and water it Himself until it's healed. That little sheep will sure learn to appreciate it's Shepherd and will love it more than anything else in the world. It'll learn to depend on The Shepherd and it won't ever run away again. In time the sheep realizes that that rod and staff are a comfort to him. A constant reminder to stay close to The Shepherd -Who loves and protects it . Thank You LORD for comin' after me.

(Matthew 18)

So the use of Evaluative Judgment by men sitting as church leaders has robbed untold thousands of congregates of the ability to obey the convicting power of God in the simplest form -the altar call in the church. One of the highest priorities of the church is to facilitate and urge obedience as the vehicle for transforming our lives to the image of Jesus Christ²⁹.

D. "A" god vs "The" God

The LORD came to Adam with kindness and compassion. After seeing the transgression, considering that The LORD is Just; Adam, Eve, and the serpent were judged.

Just before He cast them all from the Garden of Eden, He made this statement about Adam and Eve: "... they have become as one of us, to know good and evil ...".³⁰ The serpent had said Eve would be *as* God. Purposeful manipulation using some semblance of truth to deceive and snare people is more depraved than an out and out lie. Manipulation of truth by someone who's familiar with the truth, as the Devil was - though the truth is not in him; proves malice as well as deception.

Apparently in order for a person be a "god", the requirement is to *know* the knowledge of good and evil. To *know* is "to perceive with certainty; to understand clearly; to have a clear and certain perception of a fact or any thing that actually exists."³¹ Apparently the level of conscience that Adam and Eve used to perform their duties before they disobeyed didn't make them intimate with the knowledge of good and evil. Their disobedience caused the very thing The LORD didn't want for them. Intimacy with this knowledge takes us deeper into disobedience and farther from The LORD. It's the source of all that's wrong in every human life and in our raw nature alone, we do it everyday, all day.

To *know* this knowledge gives us the perception that we are the rulers of our lives -hence the term "god". We are not *The God*, but we believe we are because in *knowing* good and evil we learn how to manipulate our actions to effect our existence. We try to rule. We do effect our existence but The LORD's actions will effect our existence in ways we can't imagine until it happens, as Adam experienced.

Satan made associates with Adam and Eve through this excursion. Satan had earlier been cast from heaven into the earth for evaluating, making the decision, and having the intention to act against God's will.³² He no doubt thought that if he could help Eve *do* something similar that she and Adam would be cast from the LORD's favor as he had been. He's been a liar from the beginning³³. Jesus is The Truth.³⁴

What is good and what is evil? Good and evil to the human intellect is

relative to the individual and the situation at hand, i.e., Relative Ethics. For this reason we have laws to govern an individual's effect on humanity. The fact is that God is God and we're not.³⁵ To Him, good and evil are also relative, which is most assuredly in order -He *is* God. The Bible tells us a whole lot of things that He thinks are good and evil.

As I faced these issues and questions we've addressed in this first chapter, The LORD gave me a startling revelation -the world does not revolve around me! It revolves around Him! He's God and I'm not, though my "old man", my human will, still tries to take the throne.

"Good" in accordance with His will is entirely different than "good" according to man. We cannot perform "goodness" apart from direct obedience as the result of salvation by grace and the expression of Jesus' nature from within. The LORD will never accept or approve of the carnally willed work of man no matter how righteous a man *thinks* he is.³⁶ Obedience is acceptable and required if we intend to live a life of peace: be it with children to parents, wives to husbands, employees to employers, citizens with the law, countrymen with the king, and especially with The LORD.³⁷ Every chance we have to obey anyone in authority or Christian leadership in this life will help train us to obey The LORD. This is why parents are vital to children's training.

Christian primary and secondary schools are critical for kids, as are tertiary and quaternary Christian colleges for adults. The early generations of this nation were raised through every level of education in Christian schools. I know from 3 years teaching seminary level students and 10 years teaching grade level students that when Christian families commit to Christian education their roots grow deeper in the expressed favor of The LORD. We, as Christians, have to protect our families from the onslaught of the will of man. If you have children don't let them spend one single day in a US government school -not a day. Get a second or third job, sell the car, quit smoking, move to a cheaper house, use the savings account, peddle scrap metal, have the *kids* get a job! But don't let 'em spend another day being raised by the pagan gods of this world. Their lives are at stake. Let's teach them Bible doctrine and holiness. Let's help them learn to control their knowledge of good and evil while they're young so they don't make the same messes we did. Let's give our lives for them and stop spending their Christian school tuition payments on toys for grown-ups and eating out.

We all have to learn to obey and be faithful to obey in order to mature spiritually -let's teach everybody we can as soon as we can because we're all gonna die and answer to God. (*Thank you I'm done now*)

C. The Nature of The Sheep

Jesus often describes His people as sheep. This is not a great compliment in the physical application of the sheep's nature, but in the spiritual application it's quite the compliment.

Sheep are timid creatures that lack *self* confidence, i.e., they're genuinely bashful and reliant upon the Shepherd. They're led by The Shepherd and just need to be fed and watered. They need to be tended as they do their job -growing wool! They'll never grow wool because another sheep, or any other animal (such as a goat) prods them: it's just not natural.

Ever gone into a sheep pasture and tried giving them rules? Sheep only follow their Shepherd. Many "under shepherds", i.e., pastors, teachers, preachers, counselors -men and women, have willfully convinced themselves that they are *The* Shepherd. Jesus is The Shepherd. The under shepherd who beats down and starves the sheep will pay!¹⁰⁵

A sheep is born a sheep and it dies a sheep, though it may not begin to understand that it's a sheep until after it sees it's wool -the fruit it's bearing. Even if it doesn't know that it's name is "*sheep*", it loves The Shepherd who cares for it's every need. Our Shepherd tends to every need *because* we are the sheep of His pasture.¹⁰⁶

Go to most any of our local assemblies where the under shepherd thinks he's *The* Shepherd and check for wool. It's easy to spot the fruit of the sheep when open floor testimonies comes from the congregation. Many places are so big now that they don't have time to deal with bragging on The Shepherd in public. Where there are sheep there is wool in due season. The Bible tells the fruit of the Shepherd's Spirit¹⁰³ and His sheep take on His nature.

Where Jesus Christ is preached the sheep grow a little more at every gathering and it's obvious that they love sheep food. A sheep also knows that it's not a goat. It will either go away mad or hungry if somebody tries to feed it garbage, i.e., bad doctrine.

As Jesus compares His people to sheep, He compares all others to goats.¹⁰⁷ Goats are haughty, high-minded, stubborn, selfish, quarrelsome, they always want to be on top of the hill and they have an awful stench about them. Their life revolves around "self" and they expect your life to revolve around them too. In human beings, this is the result of habitual use of Evaluative Judgment, making decisions, and acting on those decisions. They are a cancer on the church; tares among the wheat. Sheep look like goats from a distance, but up close the differences are obvious. Never turn your back on a goat! He'll ram you for the fun of it.

Jesus is called the “last Adam”.⁹⁶ This is because He was the perfect contrast to Adam and The Hero in this story of man’s hopeless war with his own soul. He’s my Hero and my Knight in shining armour!

The point in life commonly called “salvation” is actually where Jesus reveals to us that He’s applied His perfect life as if it were actually our life, this is why we can only be saved by Jesus’ work.⁹⁷ He is the only reason we can have eternal life.

In man’s attempt to be his own god and the god of others he’s created *his own* gospel. When we’re born-again our will is set free to the extent that now we have the ability to obey The LORD whereas before we were bound to the knowledge of good and evil –to evaluate, make decisions, and act based on our own decisions. The truths of Jesus and His Word teach us to use this new found free will to serve and please Him and He enables us to do just that! The great whore and one of her daughters, the religions of man, will enslave us because *her* will-power is in bondage to her knowledge of good and evil and she will not escape it. She’s spiritually dead, forever. The Holy Church of the *Living* God sets us free! We can now offer gratitude and obedience for what He’s done.⁹⁸

Born-again Christians simply need commitment and support from one another as we each learn to obey the still, small voice of our True God; our Chief Cornerstone -Jesus Christ! He teaches His children Himself. He may use us to help each other or clarify for each other but He’s the Teacher.⁹⁹

The Church that Jesus is building is based on the foundation of Jesus Christ Himself.¹⁰⁰ Jesus is our Savior and Justifier.¹⁰¹ Many organizations of group intellect will concede to this fact in theory but when it comes to it’s application in daily life they want to pull out their pride and accomplishments to show off. This is no foundation at all. Most stumble at the finished work Jesus performed at Calvary.¹⁰² Beware them! Jesus paid all that needed to be paid and has done all that needed to be done that we might stand in His marvelous grace and mercy.

The only thing He requires of us is gratitude and this will come *naturally* from His Spirit in us. He will bless us into submission if we truly belong to Him. Beware of men who claim to be Christian because of a relationship with a group, or a preacher, or teacher, or the Bible itself. Christians have a personal testimony of saving grace and the fruit of The Spirit follows.¹⁰³ Jesus addressed the issue of His people following the voice of another -He said they wouldn’t do it.¹⁰⁴ There’s no Evaluative Judgment, decision, or action, made by man that has ever added to or taken away from, the finished work of Jesus Christ, our LORD.

2

The Mind of Man Runs Rampant

After the fall man became more self-conscious which left him less conscious of The LORD. In Genesis chapter 6 the LORD has had enough. Some 1600 years after the fall, He decided to exterminate mankind with all creation that breathed.

There is not even dichotomous life without air to breath and so The LORD caused a great flood to cover the earth in order to halt procreation and kill off the humans which had filled the earth with violence.³⁸ The plants, animals, and every creature on earth suffered death because of man; except one family, “Noah found grace in the eyes of The LORD”.³⁹

Without delving into the wonderful doctrines of Election and Predestination suffice it to say here that Noah had learned to please The LORD at least well enough that The LORD saved he and his family from destruction and used them to start over. Still, we know that “the tree” was aboard the ark because humans were there. After the flood, Noah and his sons were commanded to “... be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”⁴⁰ As time passed, the corrupt intellect of man comes to fruition in each and every account. Noah's great-grandson, Nimrod was a mighty hunter and powerful man.⁴¹

A. Here We Go Again!

Nimrod was the first ruler of Babylon. He was known for ridding the country side of wild beasts and so making the people feel safe, like they could trust him. He eventually used their allegiance to enslave them to his will. He was given four cities to rule but was not satisfied with these. He’s responsible for causing the people to build the Tower of Babel. His actions based on decisions by use of Evaluative Judgment through the knowledge of good and evil *ruled* his life and ruled throughout what the Bible calls his “kingdom”. He loved his own name above all else. The Tower was to be a monument to magnify his name.⁴²

Under his leadership, the people created a counsel and decided to build a city for themselves that would reach all the way to heaven. What about the LORD’s command to replenish the earth? In one accord they consulted with each other instead of consulting with The LORD. Individually, Adam, Eve, and all others had done the same thing. This was bigger.

The first meeting of “The Tower of Babel Counsel”, if you will, was man’s first recorded attempt to organize a system for will-power. No record before this indicates that a leadership organized individuals with a purpose of doing something that was in direct disobedience to God. The Harlot’s bed was made and she had conceived her first born.

The rulers of Babylon understood that a God of creation may exist. The history of Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Noah and many others had no doubt been passed down as well as this command to replenish the earth. The flood had occurred just a few hundred years before yet they used Evaluative Judgment to try to prove whether The LORD even existed. Babylonian rulers intended to "... build a city and a tower, whose top may reach into heaven; ...". In the Hebrew tongue the remains of this site are called, "the gate of God".

To humble their will and petition their Creator through honest prayer and then watch for His direction or permission to proceed *or* simply obey His command to replenish the earth, at this point, would have been *unnatural*. They were so intellectually driven that the entire group spent many years on the tower without The LORD's permission and against his command. They may have fallen so far from the influence of Noah and any Godly men that existed at that time that they didn't even know that acting on their "group will-power", meant provoking The LORD to intercede and stop them -they soon found out. The Scripture says that the LORD came down to see what the people were doing. He saw the tower and confounded their language so they couldn't communicate. It became impossible to perform the duties necessary to continue the project. The LORD destroyed the action which they performed by the power of their will –with the power of *His* will. He had to *act* against them to attain obedience and they scattered as He'd first commanded.⁴³ If they had obeyed The LORD to begin with they would have had a closer relationship to him as they went throughout all the earth. After disobeying and having the experience with the Tower they now had a deeper relationship to their fallen nature -and they took that with them instead. This great whore, the mother of harlots, i.e., the philosophy to systematically magnify human will-power as a group effort, spread her diseased seed across the earth.

Today we'd think it foolish that a building might reach to Heaven but I bet that during the invention of planes and spacecraft many people evaluated the idea of flying to The LORD's doorstep. Some probably still deny The LORD's existence because we can't fly to His throne. Man needs an image of the object he wants to worship. Whatever physical element is involved only serves as an image of our own will. For man to voluntarily stop will-worship and begin to worship The LORD is *unnatural* and man will not accept the only image of God given by God, the only image worthy of worship; –Jesus Christ; "the brightness of (God's) glory and the express image of his person...".⁴⁴

The testimony of every born-again Christian confirms it. The LORD becomes so real to us that every time we turn around -there He is! We're totally immersed. John's life was overwhelmed by God. This is the process of being born-again; being "saved". Jesus' life was surrounded by, and His body indwelt by, the Spirit of the Father. He was baptized in water as a witness to the world and symbol of that fact, as are we.

The second characteristic of John the Baptist was that he obeyed. While we can be certain that John was not perfect, his heart was set on obedience. I'm persuaded that this is what it means to be a Baptist. Many say, "The LORD never intended for man to break off into all of these religions and these denominations of Christianity". This is true. To be "Baptist" is to be born of the Spirit, no matter where we go to church. Every child of God will eventually be overwhelmed by His Spirit. Next we learn to obey His still, small voice⁹² *inside*. In habitual obedience, The LORD will begin to trust us with more and more of His business and revelation of Himself, which is what He wanted with Adam from the beginning.

Jesus was a Baptist in the truest sense the word and lifestyle. "Baptist" is not a denomination and Baptists are not "protestants" from the Catholic church. They never joined them to start with. These were the targets of Rome for annihilation –just plain old saved folks.

B. What Can We Add to Calvary?

Under the Old Covenant it was impossible for man to consistently obey The LORD unless He took up an abode inside of the man. The LORD would do this but then He would remove Himself after His will was accomplished in that man because mankind was such a rank sinner. There was no sacrifice or advocate –quite yet.

Later on John questioned if Jesus was indeed the Messiah.⁹³ This question undoubtedly came because the Spirit of God had left him. John was only human again. Thanks be to God -we won't suffer this experience since the day of Pentecost has come: Jesus' Spirit *abides* within forever!

The Law of Moses was given as a mirror to reflect sin. The righteousness of God beheld Jesus without sin everyday, all day. The requirement for eternal life was perfect obedience. Jesus never once judged God's will with His will. He was One with The Father –and the perfect man. He did only what the righteousness of God required, nothing more and nothing less. Of course Jesus performed thousands of good works but He wouldn't make willful evaluations He acted as He was led to act and as He was told.⁹⁴ His interest was in living the life that God had required of Adam⁹⁵ and every other man; the life that no one had been able to live.

3

The Church That Jesus Built

John the Baptist was a man who obeyed The LORD. He was a Levite and in the lineage for priesthood, yet when he was told by God to go live like a vagabond he did it! Then He was told to go to the Jordan river to preach and baptize and he did that too!

The Pharisees, Sadducees and Scribes (religious hierarchy of Israel) gave him a hard time. When asked questions about his work he said that he was "...not the Christ", but was "... the voice of one crying in the wilderness...".⁸⁸ John was simply doing what God commanded. He didn't need approval by the religious sect and wasn't looking for it. We are most assuredly to be in subjection to our Elders, but these were not *his* elders. John's life was overwhelmed by God in such a way that all he wanted to do was please Him. The Religionists couldn't see it and didn't like John because they couldn't be *his* God.

One day as John was baptizing, Jesus came. John immediately perceived that Jesus was The Christ and he proclaimed Jesus to be so!⁸⁹ Jesus came before him to be baptized. John asked Jesus to allow him to *not* baptize Him because John's Evaluative Judgment could not compute the fact that God Almighty was standing before him waiting to be baptized! Jesus forgave and consoled him.

John baptized The LORD that day. The Spirit descended upon Jesus and a voice of confirmation was heard from the sky as unmistakable evidence to every witness that Jesus was indeed the Christ!⁹⁰ John was soon retired to prison where he was beheaded.⁹¹ His job was finished. John had done all that The LORD had asked him to do.

A. So What Is A Baptist?

I've searched for some resource other than the Scripture to specifically explain what a "Baptist" *is*. There's allot of information about sacraments, doctrine, immersion, etc. If you live in the South and you're a Baptist most everybody thinks you're a Southern Baptist but there are dozens of denominations of Baptists. I found a source to explain what made John a Baptist. It was the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

The word "Baptist" is the Greek word "bap-tid-zo". The definition is to be whelmed, overwhelmed, or made fully wet. While it's true that "Baptists" are known for fully immersing born-again Christians in water; fresh water in the Bible is always figurative of the Spirit of God. To be "Baptist" means that The LORD has overwhelmed someone with His Spirit –His presence. This is what happens when a person is born-again.

B. The Religions of Man

In 1997 I was working the night shift at a local hotel for a man who's been a life-long Hindu. He knew I was in Baptist seminary, in fact he let me study at work during the slow hours and many times we'd have discussions about religion. He taught me a lot about Hinduism: Brahman, the universal spirit; Reincarnation, when the body dies the soul of man is reborn as another person –or animal; the law of Karma, every action man takes plays a role in determining how the soul will be born in Reincarnation; Yoga, a habit of mental and physical exercises that help free the soul from the body so the soul can unite with Brahman; he told me about Yogi's and Guru's and paying homage to living and dead saints (Are you feeling dirty inside yet?). My most prevalent feeling during these times was sadness. I really liked this guy as a boss.

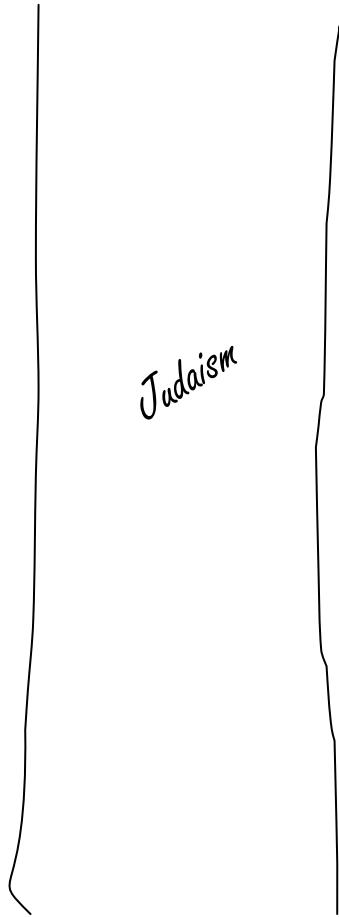
He lived on the hotel property and one time he took me to his shrine in his home. He had a bunch of idols and pictures of famous Hindu's and Hindu gods around the small room and then he took me to a corner in the living room. He had a nice family; small children and a wife, and this is where his family would come to bow before their images in worship. He opened a cabinet that sat on the floor which was about three feet high and three feet wide. Inside were engraved plates with religious figures, incense, incense holders, evidence of meal offerings from the past, and a host of little figurines –these were his gods. I had a working knowledge of his religion but he started explaining each god to me: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Shiva's wife who has many names; there was a cow, a monkey, and of course, a snake. I was sad for his whole family.

The other folks we worked with saw that he and I were friends and they all knew how we loved to discuss and debate religion. Over the 18 months I worked there I explained the gospel to him many times coming at him from many directions. When The LORD decided it was time to let me pastor this little church in October of '98 I put in my two week notice at work. I hammered this guy for two weeks hoping The LORD would save him but finally I'd had all I could take.

One night he was explaining to me that his religion had to be *the* true religion because it was much older than mine. I listened patiently and painfully as he made his intellectual discourse. He had earned his Bachelor's degree in business from a secular college and still today he's the owner/operator of at least one brand name hotel –he's an "intellectual". This time when he'd finished his message I took a blank sheet of paper, grabbed a pencil, drew two lines all the way down the front, and said, "Look, the religions of the world are not complex. They're very simple."

There are three religions in the world

*The religions
of man*



Judaism

Christianity

but God only made two

E. There Are No Rules for The Child of God ⁸⁰

The Old and New Testaments teach us the nature of The LORD. His divine influence and providential care also teach us His nature. If we truly love The LORD we'll find out His preferences and convictions and ask for help to know the difference. We'll learn to follow His perfect will. If we're truly in love with Him we'll stay in close contact with Him so we can honor and obey Him –and love His people. The Law is for the lawless and disobedient but a born-again Christian doesn't need them in order to *be* a Christian or to *stay* a Christian. Paul wrote a response for The LORD's people about this issue. Some of the Pharisees and other Jews who believed on Jesus were teaching that if Gentiles were gonna be Christians they needed to follow the rules of Judaism (The Law). Paul made some suggestions for the Gentiles: "...abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well."⁸¹

The Bible is our GPS and score key for life⁸². It's a letter from our Father to us –His children. It's to help us learn to love and understand Him; to find the wonderful life He planned for us before we were ever born. We *will* suffer needlessly and *will* waste at least part of our lives if we don't learn all we can and can all we learn about Jesus.

Religious leaders are particularly dangerous so we "Study to show ourselves approved unto God..."⁸³ and we are "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as (we) see the day approaching..."⁸⁴ because "... (He) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive..."⁸⁵ If we forsake the Way⁸⁶ He's provided for us then we'll get what we deserve in this life because "... God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."⁸⁷ If we refuse to follow Jesus we will suffer loss but our eternal destiny is secure in Him. There are no *rules*. It's matter of learning to trust and obey –there is no other way...

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(See how you do...)

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

EXODUS 20

God has created only two religions: Judaism and Christianity. How could I possibly know this? I asked The LORD and the Bible told me so.⁴⁵ I'll briefly cover Judaism later on but considering that the Bible covers the history of Israel (Judaism) as well as Christianity, I won't try to go into detail about their history. God intentionally designed, organized and executed two religions, the others are not divine. They are the express images of the will of man through the use of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So yes! All things considered my ex-boss's religion is older than mine. He thinks it's by about 2000 years — but it's actually about 4000 years older than mine because his dates back to the Garden. I see my old boss once or twice a year. He's still a Hindu and our conversations are kind, pointless small talk but I learned a wealth of knowledge from him years ago, through The LORD, and I'm thankful.

I've gone on and on about Hinduism but I've had run-ins with evolutionists, atheists, agnostics, New Agers, many sects of contemporary Christians — I'm hoping for a Buddhist or Muslim soon. These are all the same. They're the religions of man. In every religion and every denomination, except for born-again Christians which seem rare, those same practices of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden rule and reign in their hearts.⁴⁶

We all have to be mindful every day to submit to, obey, and walk with The LORD in order to keep from spewing our fallen nature all over our families, neighbors, and congregates. The LORD's people, as a general rule, try to keep the necessary arrangements made in our hearts every-day so we can serve the children of God according to *His* will, not ours.

Man has organized his religion with the same Evaluative Judgment he exercises in every other issue of conscience (self-knowledge). Religion, by definition is "...to bind, signifying an oath or vow to the gods, or the obligation of such an oath or vow."⁴⁷ I'm persuaded that a primary reason man creates religion is to bind his conscience to something he deems worthy other than to nothing at all, i.e., to alleviate loneliness. We've all suffered that war with loneliness that eats us like a malignant cancer anchored in the walls of the soul, i.e., the will. It effects everything a person says, does, and is. A person without Jesus Christ is both lost *and* alone. The reason man searches for a relationship with "a" god is to alleviate this loneliness. We go to great lengths and trust in all sorts of people and things, which all become idols, to relieve our minds of the horror of the reality of loneliness, if only for awhile. Man's religion is a hard drug.

Loneliness is jet fuel for Evaluative Judgment, decision making, and action. The history of the human race proves that neither power, money, marriage, alcohol, drugs, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, idolatry, robbery, reviling, religion, nor any other device created as the expression of the intellect of man to alleviate loneliness can permanently satisfy the insatiable abyss in the human soul.

Loneliness is the result of a spiritual distance from, or absence of the proper relationship with, our Creator. We can be the “life of the party” while we ache and throb with loneliness. On the other hand, a person who’s born-again and living in the will of God can be alone on a desert island and rejoice to tears at the over-whelming comfort of an eternal Saviour. I’ve lived in both places.

Our will-power and image worship can be used to alter our reality and temporarily satisfy the *self* but there’s no permanent fix for loneliness apart from our Creator’s influence. I believe that most, if not all of God’s children have a “soul mate”. Men have a *rib* made just for them. The LORD’s women are created for *their* men. Loneliness will drive us to *act* when we should trust. I can tell you from personal experience that when we marry the one God made for us, life is a beautiful place. It’s worth the wait. Anyone can get married but only God creates Holy Matrimony. I can’t express this strongly enough –our soul mate is worth the wait. Waiting will make you worth it to them as well. When we act to deliver ourselves through willful determination, or “Hard Determinism” –as we’ve all done, it’s confirmation of the presence of the knowledge of good and evil in the situation. Any result will be a work of the flesh. The person God made for you will find you.

The modern Faith Movement is a religion of man and product of Hard Determinism. It goes something like this, “I’ll believe it and it’ll happen!”. “Be all you can be!”, “Name it, Claim it!”, “Speak it, receive it!”, “*Make Jesus The LORD of your life!*”, “Let God.” These are statements of Hard Determinism, i.e., the harder we try, the harder we believe, the harder we work at it, the more likely our goal will be reached. This is a philosophy of our fallen nature and these ideologies are neither divine nor Christian, they’re human. There may be degrees of truth in these statements but if we’re not very careful we’ll set our own heart as an idol through Hard Determinism, as Adam did when he was going for the tree of Life after disobeying. This makes for a longer and harder fall when The LORD de-thrones us –but he can catch us too!

When we take the advice of men, who are cursed with The Knowledge of Good and Evil, and we don’t seek the witness of the Lord Jesus

He loves us into submission.⁷⁴ We *can* live in the joy of our LORD.⁷⁵

Jesus lived under the Old Covenant and fulfilled the commandments.⁷⁶ Now He Himself is the standard. The New Covenant was written in His blood.⁷⁷ Man couldn’t meet the standard of the Law, we surely won’t meet the standard of The Perfect Person. Christians are *counted* worthy and Jesus’ perfect life is credited to our account because He was the only worthy sacrifice. Even our death on a cross wouldn’t be enough to pay for our sin. He forgives our sin and then teaches us one-on-one to mortify the sin nature we inherited from Adam. Salvation is free to us but cost Him everything.

Jesus leads, guides, and directs our will from inside us. We live in a New Covenant relationship with Him everyday. If we’ll just preach New Covenant doctrine we won’t need to create new rules for people. The nature and expectations of God are laid out clearly in the New Covenant and the gospel message will convict the hearts of His people. We can most assuredly preach New Covenant doctrine from Old Covenant Scripture. That’s how the apostles did it. God’s precepts and expectations must be taught in the church but they speak for themselves. The Law is made for those without Christ and the disobedient children who frustrate His grace.⁷⁸

Jesus gave instructions for the way to structure His Church. The church consists of two offices: Elders and Deacons. Elders are spiritually maturing men held responsible for the spiritual needs and financial stability of the church. Deacons are committed men full of the Holy Ghost held responsible for the physical needs and fellowship gatherings.⁷⁹ This is the structure for the church that The LORD said He would build and bless. Church structure reflects theology and vice versa.

Without Biblical structure how can a church have Biblical theology? Faulty structure is a breeding ground for the Babylonian philosophy – “let’s build a name for *self* and reach God through the fruit of the will-power of man”. Many assemblies are led by men like Nimrod who only want to build a name for themselves and work their way to Heaven. Many claim to preach, “the word of God, the word of God”, while using the Word of God and His Holy Law to enslave the born-again Christian. Jesus gave His life on the cross to save us from the wrath incurred by falling short of the Law. These “little Nimrods” offer a sense of peace and safety or security while imposing rules to dominate the people, just as Nimrod, the first king of Babylon, did to his people.

There is no redemption, no liberty, no joy apart from the preaching of the cross and the free grace of God.

those sacrifices became meaningless and God got sick of them too.⁷⁰ They couldn't maintain the desire to please Him. There were those who believed they were justified by the Law, justifying themselves by their own will. Yes, the whore was in Israel too.

Over and over The LORD was merciful though they had forsaken their promise. As time passed they, as a nation, completely lost track of the Law more than once. The Law was given to reveal sin and to prove to them that they were guilty before God. This should've provoked them to humility and to seek Him out all the more but they forsook Him.

The Law is a Holy tool²⁶ for governing unholy people. It serves the same purpose today except that when we see ourselves as sinners through the Law, we have Jesus to turn to. There are no sacrifices to be made, only to humble ourselves and ask forgiveness. Jesus was our sacrifice because we treat our Father the same way Israel did. He secured our favor with The Father and the only requirement we have is to humble ourselves asking forgiveness as sinners in need of a Saviour. They had men –great men like Moses, but men. We have Jesus –God in the flesh. They continued in their Evaluative Judgment, decision making, and actions until The LORD divorced them.⁷¹

Societies need to be aware of the Old Covenant Laws of God. The last six commandments deal with man's relationship to man in order to reveal offense and facilitate peace. Can you imagine the effect on the Evaluative Judgment of a man who walks up to rob a bank and instead of a "no guns" sign, he sees, "thou shalt not steal", "thou shalt not kill", and "thou shalt not covet" highlighted in a list of The Ten Commandments? He might commit the crime anyway, He may stop and think about it long enough for the scene to change which causes him to be unable to proceed, he might turn and walk away, or he might call on God to forgive him for being a thief at heart. In which case Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross for our sin nature will come to His mind. He can then ask forgiveness and believe that Jesus died for him because that Law showed him he was a sinner in need of a Saviour. People are gonna make decisions and the Ten Commandments should be made available so they can see and condemn themselves. Then run to Jesus.

However, the born-again Christian doesn't need The Ten Commandments to govern his life. Long before he leaves to rob the bank The LORD'll convict his heart and give him a way out -before he ever gets to the Law written on the door. They're written in his heart. He's led by the Spirit of God living in his flesh.⁷² Let's preach The Ten Commandments everywhere! Except for the church.⁷³ He leads us and enables us.

in their words; if we don't get the necessary education and prayer life to understand the Word of God, we will eventually practice Hard Determinism. How often have we read passages of Scripture and "made up our mind" to follow them? How often have we heard a great message that was "just for us" and determined to do better? How many messages have we heard instructing us to *do* better? Jesus has to hold the preeminence in our lives. Apart from a personal and close relationship with Him we will always revert to our fallen nature. We will even pervert Bible doctrine. Beware this modern Faith Movement. For much more on this subject and a list of these false prophets I strongly suggest, "Christianity in Crisis" and "Counterfeit Revival" by Hank Hanegraff (see the bibliography). They're available on the Christian Research Institute website and all of the examples you'll need of these false prophets can be found on TBN TV any time of the day or night.

The religions of man are driven by Hard Determinism because their "partaking" will not let them rest in the redemptive work of a perfect and Holy Saviour.⁴⁸ Remember, due to our fallen nature, we think we're God. Not all who preach Jesus are called of God and the only way to know if they *are* is to know God ourselves. "For false Christ's and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were* possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things."⁴⁹

Plato taught that to *know* God is to be fully transformed into His likeness; thereby man attains righteousness, holiness and wisdom – completion. While this *will be* true for His people in the future -the Scripture teaches that "...when we shall see God... we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is";⁵⁰ we can't become *as God* by intellectual awareness of Him; in fact, we *can't* come to know The LORD through will-power. We first come to know Him through the preaching of His Word⁵¹ and we're persuaded to follow Him through His Divine influence on our will (grace), the Bible, and interacting with Him. The people we love suffer when we're manipulated by the religions of man. They teach the same philosophy as secular humanism –the Babylonian philosophy –the knowledge of good and evil. Our own will teaches us to , "... put forth (the) hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat ..." ⁵². In other words, make better evaluations, better decisions, and better actions to compensate for the *bad* ones. Man's religions are ungodly. We can waste our lives and leave a path of destruction behind trying to deliver ourselves *from* ourselves using Hard Determinism. If we can just get folks to call on Jesus! He *came* to deliver us!⁵³

The expression of The LORD's nature in us is the effect of His Spirit; Evaluative Judgment is the opposite. One could only be fooled into believing that a human can be as *The God* in this physical realm by way of their actions, based on decisions, made by the use of Evaluative Judgment. To create an image of God and or His attributes for our *self* and then govern our actions in accordance with that image, is the definition of sin. It's also idolatry; treating The Almighty as a dead idol.

Gryllus taught that a man who exists with no perception of God is a brute beast, yet more miserable. I agree. I believe by the examples in Scripture, my observations of these beasts, and in living with my own fallen nature, that a person having no relationship to their Creator *is* a miserable beast. The only creature more miserable is the one who has "...escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, (and) are again entangled therein..."⁵⁴

Man has devised an image of The LORD. As in any *relationship*, we must interact with Him in order to get to *know* Him. The religion of man is comprised of nothing more than individual cults. As a whole it's a cult. A "cult" is any organization that differs in even one point from sound Bible doctrine.⁵⁵ We can't worship The LORD as an idea or an expression of our imagination, we must worship Him in His personage, Jesus Christ. We, as human beings, have erred in every perception of The LORD's Kingdom from our human point of view. I'm afraid that many only *know* Him as a fruit of their own Evaluative Judgment, and this is to not know Him at all.

An organization can portray itself as Christian while it subdues the will of the people through feigned piety. This is the religion of man, I believe it's a sect of that great whore of Revelation. This whore is not a mystery to the born-again child of God. They may not know what to call her, they may not even know she's a whore, but they know something's wrong. Though they meet in her chambers Sunday after Sunday they're uncomfortable when she starts servicing them. She's so boisterous and arrogant. She's impertinent and gaudy. She's disfigured or deformed or something! She looks so beautiful but feels... nasty. To the untrained eye her exact malformation might be hard to determine. It's really very simple, she's a whore. She screams, "come back next week or I'll be hunting you down", and "You know you want me", yet you never feel like she loves you when you're with her. I'm talking about the assemblies of the religions of man. Don't let them intimidate you – The LORD has a people and a body of churches. Leave the whore, stop looking for a church, and when The LORD sends you one –go!

The Roman harlot is not only the largest daughter of the great whore and a religion of man but it's a universal church of man. It's accepted by more humans than any other. It's now commonly accepted as Christian. Her closest competition in size are her sister harlots, Islam, then Hinduism, then Buddhism, then Taoism and the Chinese folk religions, then Atheism⁶⁴ –but it's all the same thing– The harlot daughters of the whore of Babylon, organized by Nimrod, started by Adam, who acted based on a decision, based on his Evaluative Judgment instead of obeying The LORD. They are the religions of man.

I certainly haven't done justice to the history of Rome's atrocities toward Christianity but this is just a "Quick Study". I hope you'll look through the bibliography and use some of the books for yourself. I particularly recommend, "Christianity through the Centuries" by Earle Cairnes.

D. Here Are The Rules

Long before Rome merged the Christians into itself, The LORD knew that man had become unable to obey due to his habitually exercising the knowledge of good and evil. Wickedness was so widespread even after the great flood that The LORD turned against the world at large but chose a certain people to love. The man chosen was Abram, his descendants were the Hebrews,⁶⁶ who were later named after his grandson, Israel⁶⁷.

In approximately 1450 BC, The LORD used Moses to deliver the children of Israel from 430 years of bondage to Egypt. He gave Moses a conditional covenant, including The Ten Commandments, so that the people would know when they were offending The LORD⁶⁸. They could then humble themselves as His bride and make the appropriate sacrifices to appease His wrath. Many times they felt bad for not keeping The Ten Commandments but they couldn't keep their will bent toward God faithfully enough to stay concerned with the Law –even after He'd written down what He wanted so they could see it with their own eyes. The Commandments were to be a mirror for their conscience. Their habit of exercising the use of Evaluative Judgment, which was handed down through former generations, had made the knowledge of good and evil so strong in them and had drawn them so far from God's image that, as a nation, they *couldn't* humble themselves, even with The Ten Commandments. They had promised to keep every Law and obey His voice in order to be His peculiar treasure⁶⁹; His bride, but purpose of the Law proved to be a burden they wouldn't bear. Many could admit they couldn't keep it but they wouldn't respond righteously. God made provision for animal sacrifices for their offences to appease His wrath but even

A study of The Two Babylon's, by Alexander Hislop (1959) will bring a wealth of understanding. This book is still blacklisted by the Vatican today and until the Internet came along, was hard to find. An anti-Christ is not one who only places “self“ in opposition to Christ Jesus but also *instead of* Christ Jesus. The Roman Empire is hailed as being Christian, yet the edicts that come forth from it’s emperor with a new name -the Pope or “preferred one“, are held as divine. He’s accepted as God’s representative on earth, the son of God. Every good “Cat-holic” defends the image of the Pope –the “top cat”. He’s hailed as man’s god on earth – and holy. The same philosophy the Roman Emperor has had since it’s conception long before the Christian persecutions and the merger.

The “papacy” is the system of government, or group intellect. It’s shrouded in meaningless, monotonous, ritualistic sacrifices because there’s been no act of God to reveal Himself *as* God or to expose this whore -yet. The only sacrifice ever acceptable to God was Jesus.

Freedom is to be without dominion by the Evaluative Judgment, decisions, and actions of ourselves or others. This idea doesn’t go over well with the Roman Empire. To control one’s will is to control their life . Why? To satisfy the desire of man to be “God“.

Catholicism is it’s mother’s pride and joy. Like Babylon, it reaches far beyond the realm of the original government. It’s now recognized as a sovereign nation within itself whose filthy fingers reach into every crack of the world. The name of Jesus is her flag and she sells it like a drug to turn the masses into “tricks”. They even portray Jesus as being dead on the cross and the masses still don’t get it. Catholicism proves that a groups will-power can dominate an individuals will by exposing faults and offering forgiveness; this is antichrist, they oppose and place themselves in His stead. It’s an illusion of redemption and an abomination.

One reason I’ve spent so much time on Catholicism is that the world teaches that 33% of it’s population is Christian,⁶⁴ but 20% of the world claims to be Catholic!⁶⁵ While there may be a few Christians in Catholicism, it’s far from a Christian religion. If these figures are even close to the truth, that means that 13%, or less than 1 in 8 people, claim to be Christian. When we take away from that number due to those who call themselves Christians because they “believe”, the cults who pervert Biblical doctrine for personal gain, or the will-power-hungry leaders, and those who think they’re Christian because they repeated a prayer, go to church regularly, pay tithes, or have “accepted” Christ, then throw out the nut cases (Copeland, Dollar, Duplantis, Hinn, etc.) –we’d be mighty blessed to find a born-again Christian in a crowd of hundred people!

C. The Universal Church of Man

The first order of business for the Babylonian Empire was to intellectually dominate ignorant men. The beginning of the Babylonian system has it’s root in Adam (4000BC) and was organized as a group by Nimrod (2300BC); since then it’s become a mother many times over.

Babylon was once the most splendid city on earth. The actual city is now only a mound of dirt but the philosophy that empowered her system of government was scattered across the globe. The Roman Empire, because of Babylonian philosophy, became the symbol of organized idolatry long before the first century of Christianity.

Many emperors and governors of Rome were responsible for the murder of Christians. Most of the apostles were killed during Nero’s reign (54-68AD) and Nero first *organized* the persecution of the church. Paul and Peter were martyred during this time. Domitian began the second persecution and was the emperor who exiled John to Patmos where John wrote The Revelation in the 90’s. In 112AD the third persecution began under Trajan. Legislation was written to make Christians enemies of the state and thousands were slain. Ignatius was martyred during this time. The fourth persecutions came under Marcus Aurelius, in 161AD, who decreed that the natural and man-made destruction during the middle of the second century was entirely the fault of the Christians and ordered them all to be slaughtered, including Justin Martyr, the famous Christian apologetic writer and Polycarp, a bishop who when begged by the tribunal to deny Jesus because they didn’t want to burn an old man, said, “Eighty-six years I have served Him and He never once wronged me. How can I blaspheme my KING Who saved me?”. These emperors, to name a very few, led a group intellect to try to control the will of Christians. It was *God’s* will they were fighting.

The Emperor Constantine (306-337) offered freedom and concessions. The term *Christian* was a derogatory term and a by-word in Rome. They were considered to be below dogs but Constantine was kind of a “human rights” advocate, if you will. He didn’t want people to be tortured or killed no matter their religion or philosophy. He claimed to have become a Christian along the way and according to his actions and testimony he may well have. He said that a cross appeared to him in the sky with the Latin words, “in this sign conquer”. He replaced the flag they usually sent before them in battle with a cross. That day they won. The following year he ended the organized persecution of Christians and they rested for a awhile. He ruled of half of Rome but was subject to a senate and imperialistic government which never intended to *become* Christian.

Rome needed to conquer Christianity because Christians, for three hundred years, had been multiplying and taking over the economic world faster than the empire could extinguish them. Since Rome couldn't kill 'em all, they *merged* the Church with the government in the 4th century. The rulers were worshipped as gods and intended to maintain their rule even if it meant giving concessions in exchange for the Christians "piping down" and backing off the dogma. After the merger Rome polluted the innocence of thousands of Christians by exposing them to a host of pagan idols and that old Babylonian philosophy of will-worship -they still do. The result of this merger was the Roman Catholic Church. The emperor was called the Pope.⁵⁵

Christians who refused to let Rome dictate a privilege of worship were still murdered. This was the original job description of the office of the Roman Catholic Knight. Many citizens of Rome knew of this treachery and pled ignorance while others were slaughtered for their opposition. The greater part of the conspiracy was *decided* in secrecy under the guise of unity and safety. Jesus was the reason for Christian prosperity. The purpose of the Roman Empire was to try to kill the gospel Light, Jesus Christ Himself,⁵⁶ again.

A harlot, or whore, gives of herself for the purpose of self-satisfaction—including money. She allures with feigned piety and promises. She's hauntingly pleasurable but eloquently veiled in confusion. The outside may be enticing but the inside is a rotting disease. The character of "the Mystery" spoken of by John the Revelator⁵⁷ looks allot to me like the human will running rampant in the world as man's philosophies and religions. Any organization that disguises it's will-power as the Divine will in order to dominate the wills of individuals and bring them under subjection is a cult and a harlot. John described her as being beautiful outside but inside, just a whore.⁵⁸ She offers herself conditionally. Only the privileged among her know her secrets and these privileged few are deemed to be so by those who are more privileged: a clandestine coalition disguised in the cloaks of false piety. The merger of the Roman Empire and Christendom had to be constructed in this manner in order to filter Truth.⁵⁹ In open Truth there's no secrecy, no bondage. Truth makes the whore sidestep and go about her business elsewhere.

In *deciding* they could either extend or deny the privilege of Christendom's open worship they were *deciding* to become the *god* of Christianity. In this, many temporary believers⁶⁰ in Christ were turned to the philosophies of the Rome; the philosophy of Babylon -the mother of harlots. Rome added Jesus to it's list of acceptable idols and for 1,000

years after Constantine the persecution of Christians, while still widespread, was not *officially* sanctioned by government, most of the time.

The private and/or public policy of Rome toward Christianity, depending on the Pope at the time, was to "kill the seed", at least through 1808. Christians met in private. They'd been accused of crimes such as incest, cannibalism, and child sacrifice. Christians knew well of these false accusations and many counted it all joy to have the chance to suffer aspersions and die for Jesus at the hand of Rome. Millions were slain for what ultimately was, their obedience. Many were slain who, after agreeing to the combination of church and empire, refuted the tyranny.⁶¹ We must never forget those accounted to the slaughter for refusing to deny The LORD Jesus Christ and those who refused to join the pagan empire. "Foxes Book of Martyrs" is a humbling study in the history of Christian persecution around the world. It has never stopped and won't stop 'til The LORD comes. The day of judgment will prove them faithful. The elect of God cannot be deceived.⁶²

By persecuting Christians, Rome tried to place itself on a throne as *The Christ*. This is one reason for the institution of the Confessional. The Bible states that we "... Confess ... faults one to another ...",⁶³ yet in the Confessional there is never a confession by an imperial representative (a priest) to a parishner. These perversions are so numerous and deep rooted that we can't begin to address them all in this Quick Study.

The term "Catholic" comes from two words. "Cat" is the English translation of the Latin word "Felix". They chose this prefix because of the cat's nature: sly, self-edifying, sensually promiscuous, yet distant. The original pagan idol was a Felix and these were the ways they subverted Christians. The suffix "holic" has the Latin origin, "wholly given over to". To be a Cat-holic is to be wholly given over to the ancient, idolatrous, pagan worship of the nature of the cat. A "Cathedral" is a place where Cat-holics perform the rituals of worship. The suffix "hedrel" has the Latin meaning "to mount up", or "mound". A cathedral was and is the seat, or throne, where the Felix sits. They're so bold as to proclaim these facts in their name and the place they worship yet the masses are so easily fooled by the images of piety. They "turn tricks" by playing on man's Evaluative Judgment and persuading them to ignore history, discount facts, and justify idolatry by offering a sense of security and a part to play in the pomp. "I *have* to go to Mass" and "I *feel* so much better after confession" are prime examples. Rome's plan was and is to replace Jesus Christ in our lives, or murder us. Now-a-days they do both on a much wider scale, slowly, from the inside out.