

# The Right Path

The Truth About Faith The Gospel of Salvation



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## Announcements

But Jesus demurred, and said: “My teaching is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man **willeth** to do his will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from myself” ([John 7:16-17](#)). Jesus’ point to the devout temple Jews was no different than the one He had made earlier to the legalistic Pharisees. God has imbued mankind with the ability to **choose**. If a person **wills**, he can accept God and His teaching, but God never will force Himself on that person. As the apostle John brought the book of Revelation to a close, he wrote: “He that will, let him take the water of life freely” ([Revelation 22:17](#)). The operative phrase here, of course, is “he that will.”

But what of he that will not? Freedom is accompanied by responsibility. With freedom of choice comes the responsibility to think carefully, choose wisely, and act forcefully. Freedom of choice always works best when tempered with wisdom and good judgment. Thus, in every human activity the process of recognizing, believing, and properly utilizing truth is vitally important. Especially is this true in the spiritual realm. Jesus tried to impress this upon His generation when He said: “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” ([John 8:32](#)). What we as

humans so often fail to realize is that we are not involved in a search for truth because **it** is lost; we are involved in a search for truth because without it, **we** are!

Some, however, have elected to employ their freedom of choice to ignore the truth regarding God's existence and to disobey His Word. They are the spiritual descendants of the first-century Pharisees; they **could** come to a knowledge of the truth, but they **will not**. The simple fact of the matter is that we are responsible for what we choose to believe. Using the personal volition with which God has endowed us, we may choose freely to believe in Him, or we may choose just as freely to disbelieve. The choice is up to each individual. And once that individual has made up his mind to disbelieve, God will not deter him, as Paul made clear when he wrote his second epistle to the Thessalonians. In that letter, he spoke first of those who "received not the love of the truth" ([2:10](#)), and then went on to say that "for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie" ([2 Thessalonians 2:11](#))

What, exactly, was Paul suggesting? Was the apostle teaching that God **purposely** causes men to believe error? No, he was not. Paul's point in this passage was that we may choose to accept something as the truth when, in fact, it is false. Because God has granted man personal volition, and because He has provided within the Bible the rules, regulations, and guidelines to govern that personal volition, He therefore will refrain from overriding man's freedom of choice—even when that choice violates His law. God will not contravene man's decisions, or interfere with the actions based on those decisions. The prophet Isaiah recorded God's words on this subject many years before when he wrote:

Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations: I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did that which was evil in mine eyes, and chose that wherein I delighted not ([Isaiah 66:3-4](#)).

Concerning the people who refused to have God in their knowledge, and who exchanged truth for error, Paul repeatedly stated that "God gave them up" ([Romans 1:24,26,28](#)). In his commentary on the Thessalonian epistles, Raymond C. Kelcy addressed the fact that men often prefer the consequences of a certain belief system, and that as a result God gives the man over to the belief of the lie which he prefers. In a sense it might be said that the means by which a person is deceived is God's permissive agency—not God's direct agency (Cited from Apologetics Press.org "[The Many Faces and Causes of Unbelief](#)", Bert Thomson Ph.D.)

## A Prayer

Pray to God daily for the wisdom, understanding, knowledge and insight that comes from the Father, His Son Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit from the inspired written Word of God, God's Holy Word ([Proverbs 1:1-7 NASB](#), [Proverbs 4:5-9 NASB](#), [Romans 15:14](#), [1 Corinthians 1:4-9](#), [2 Corinthians 2:14](#), [James 1:5,17,3:17](#), and this will help us to grow as we study God's Holy Word ([Psalms 111:2](#), [2 Timothy 2:15 KJV](#), [2 Peter 1:3-11](#)), and pray for help in doing His

will ([Matthew 7:21](#), [Matthew 17:5](#), [Matthew 21:28-31](#), [John 9:31](#), [Acts 3:22-23](#), [1 Thessalonians 4:1-8](#)), and help with discerning between good and evil ([Genesis 3:22](#), [Proverbs 2:6-11](#), [Proverbs 14:8-9 NASB](#), [Proverbs 16:21 NASB](#), [Proverbs 17:24 NASB](#), [Philippians 1:9](#), [James 1:5-6 NASB](#), [James 3:13-18](#), [Hebrews 5:12-14 NASB](#)), and help with discerning what pleases them ([Proverbs 16:7](#), [Matthew 5:43-48](#), [Romans 8:1-14 NASB](#), [Romans 12:17-21](#), [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#), [Colossians 3:20](#), [1 Thessalonians 2:4](#), [1 Timothy 2:1-6 KJV](#), [2 Timothy 2:4](#), [Hebrews 11:6](#), [James 2:5](#), [1 John 3:18-24](#)). And pray to be a light of His Son Lord Jesus Christ ([Matthew 5:14-16](#), [Luke 11:33-36](#), [Philippians 2:15-16](#)), and to be salt of the earth ([Matthew 5:13](#), [Mark 9:50](#), [Luke 4:21-22](#), [Luke 14:34-35](#), [Ephesians 4:29 NASB](#), [Colossians 4:6 NASB](#), [1 Peter 3:15 NASB](#)), and protecting us and our loved ones from evil men and the evil one as we seek His kingdom and His righteousness ([Matthew 6:33](#), [John 17:15](#), [Philippians 2:12-13](#), [2 Thessalonians 3:1-3](#), [1 John 3:4-10](#), [1 John 5:18](#)), and pray for our daily bread ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#), [Proverbs 10:3](#), [Matthew 6:11](#), [John 6:27](#)), and that we may not enter into temptation ([Matthew 26:41](#), [Luke 22:40](#), [1 Corinthians 10:13](#)), pray for the forgiveness of our sins ([Psalms 32:5](#), [Proverbs 10:3](#), [Matthew 6:12](#), [Matthew 6:12](#), [1 John 1:9](#)), and pray for our strength and courage every day ([2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#), [Philippians 4:13](#), [2 Timothy 4:17](#), [1 Peter 4:11](#)), and pray for peace of Christ to rule our hearts ([John 14:27](#), [John 16:33](#), [Philippians 4:6-7](#), [Ephesians 2:11-17](#), [Colossians 3:12-17](#)), and be thankful ([Romans 6:17](#), [1 Corinthians 15:57](#), [2 Corinthians 2:14](#), [Philippians 4:6](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:13 ASV](#)), and pray always, that we may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” ([Luke 21:36 KJV](#)).

## War & The Early Church - Eureka church of Christ

*Nevertheless, Christian writers tended to oppose Christian participation in war even when they accepted the institution of war. Roland Bainton’s comment is apt: “The age of persecution down to the time of Constantine was the age of pacifism to the degree that during this period no Christian author to our knowledge approved of Christians participation in battle.”[1]*

Professor George Kalantzis (an Evangelical author and Director of The Wheaton Center for Early Christian Studies at Wheaton College), after having thoroughly studied all of the pertinent texts, comes to the conclusion that there is no ambivalence in any of the pre-Nicene writers on this issue. He concludes that ALL the Ante-Nicene Fathers who speak on the topic consistently oppose killing because of the teachings of Jesus. For example, he says:

*Only then are we able to evaluate the oppositions of the earliest Christians to war, and killing, and of serving in the armies of Caesar from within their own social location and ask questions of theology and practice. When we do that, we see that there is no polyglossia among the Christian writers. With remarkable univocity they speak of participation in the Christian mysteries as antithetical to killing, and the practices of the army, whether in wartime or peacetime. The dominical command to love one’s enemies and pray for one’s persecutors is a common thread woven throughout these documents. Greek and Latin writers alike speak of this uniqueness of the Christian communities.[2]*

Dr. Everett Ferguson, the Professor of Church History (Emeritus) at Abilene Christian University, comes to this conclusion about the early Christian attitude toward participation in military operations: “The opposition of the theologians was to killing. The sayings of Jesus and the whole of his teaching were felt to be contrary to active participation in warfare.”[3] And in his discussion on Tertullian (c. 160-230 A.D.), who wrote very plainly against Christians killing in the military and against Christians entering the army after conversion, Ferguson says that, “Tertullian’s views were often highly individual, but on the question of a Christian serving in the army his thought appears to have been in harmony with that of the other leading thinkers and spokesmen of Christianity at his time.”[4]

Dr. Lee C. Camp, professor of ethics and theology at Lipscomb University says, “All extant Christian writings prior to the fourth century reject the practice of Christians killing in warfare... They rejected killing in warfare, in short, because it violated the way and teaching of Christ.”[5] Camp’s evaluation of the ancient Christian faith on this matter is in perfect harmony with the understanding of the founder of Lipscomb University, David Lipscomb (b. Jan 21, 1831 – d. Nov 11, 1917). In David Lipscomb’s discussion on civil government and the kingdom of God, he argues that the teaching of separation from civil government including the Christian abstaining from killing for the government is apostolic and says that this was the position of the early Church.

*We have noted these things from the days of the apostles down to one hundred years ago, to show that the idea of separation from the state and from all participation in civil affairs, was universal among Christians for the first two or three hundred years.* [6]

David W. Bercot, the editor of *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, who has read all the writings of the Ante-Nicene Fathers available, reports in his audio CD entitled *What the Early Christians Believed about War*, that...

*Every single writer who discusses the subject of war or violence or anything like that, they all present the same view, that we are to love our enemies, that war is wrong, that a Christian cannot take up the sword no matter what the evil is on the other side. We do not combat evil using the means of evil. And this went against everything that the world at that time knew, against Roman culture, against Jewish culture because it was revolutionary. It was from the teachings of Jesus Christ. And you will not find as I said even a singlewriter who takes a contrary view.* [7]

War & The Early Church - Eureka church of Christ

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### [Matthew 5:44-48](#)

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### [Luke 23:34](#)

<sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.

### [Romans 12:17-18](#)

<sup>7</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

### [Romans 12:19-21](#)

<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

And so now, in this time of war, when people are being killed, we must not take up arms. We must call for peace. Right now Satan is trying to put hate and anger into our hearts. We have to keep the peace.” (Cited: [Luke 23:34](#) Christian Chronicle March 23, 2015, Krezhanovsky)

### [Ephesians 6:12](#)

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Can you help if you can, to donate to any of these committed Christians that are proclaiming the gospel and helping men, and women, and children so they can survive today and Lord willing tomorrow?

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- [Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort](#)
- [Healing Hands International](#)
- [Hope for Haiti's Children](#)
- [Caring For Kenya](#)
- [Orphans Lifeline](#)
- [ICRC](#) International Committee of the Red Cross

- [UNICEF](#) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- [UNWFP](#) United Nations World Food Programme

Can you help with funds for the spread of the Gospel through faithful teachers and preachers around the world?

- [White Rock Fund](#)
- [In Search of The Lord's Way](#)
- [Herald of Truth](#)
- [Apologetics Press](#)

#### [Hebrews 6:10](#)

10 For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

#### [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

A link to daily devotional from [In Search Of The Lord's Way](#) the bible in a year

A link to a weekly devotional [Good News Today](#)

#### **Encouragement and Guidance Articles** [Northwest Church of Christ](#)

- [“Christ & His Church”](#)
- [“There Is No Condemnation In Christ”](#)
- [“God Demonstrated His Love”](#)

#### **Lord’s Day Worship Service and Bible Studies**

##### [Edmond Church of Christ](#)

##### [Sunday](#)

- 10:40 AM Central Standard Time – Worship service

##### [Wednesday](#)

- 7:00 PM Central Standard Time - Bible study

## Verse 24

**Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.**

The key to everlasting life is in Jesus' saying, "these words of mine!" Throughout the New Testament, the final, ultimate and exclusive authority in true religion is the word spoken by Christ. Jesus commanded the church to teach "whatsoever I have commanded you" ([Matthew 28:20](#)). He declared that the words he spoke would judge men at the last day ([John 12:48](#)). The true religion was "first spoken" by Christ ([Hebrews 2:3](#)). "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God ([2 John 1:1:9](#)). Apostles warned that men ought to learn how "not to go beyond the things which are written" ([1 Corinthians 4:6](#)). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" ([Colossians 3:16](#)), Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" ([Matthew 24:35](#)). The most important fact to know with reference to Christianity is that it is "of Christ"! Not even the apostles were commissioned to go beyond the word of Christ. Even the reception of the Holy Spirit in their hearts was not for the purpose of imparting additional truth but for bringing to their remembrance the things Christ taught ([John 14:26](#)). The current notion that any man in whom the Holy Spirit is supposed to dwell may properly determine the true nature and content of Christian doctrine is emphatically denied in the affirmation of Christ that, even in the apostles, the Holy Spirit did not speak "of himself." "For he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak ... for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you" ([John 16:13-15](#)).

**Wise man who built his house upon the rock.** The "rock" is nothing more nor less than "these words of mine," namely, the words of Christ.

## Verse 25

**And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock.**

Rains, floods, and winds, in this place, suggest oppositions from above, beneath, and all around. The stability of the wise man's house was due to the fact that it was built, not upon "a rock," but upon "THE rock"! Only the life founded upon and guided by the principles of Christ shall stand. His teaching is the rock; all else is shifting sand.

## Verse 26

**And everyone that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof.** All this is a recapitulation, in the negative, of what was said immediately before. The focus of attention here should be upon the revelation of what the true rock actually is, namely, the words

or teachings of Christ. This is the point so many seem to miss. (Cited from: [Coffman's Commentaries on the Bible Matthew 7](#) [StudyLight.org](#)).

A link to the directory of the "[Churches of Christ](#)", if you would like my help with guidance and or prayers, please send me a message through my "[contact](#)" page.

In this world there is darkness, Satan and his allies ([Matthew 13:36-43](#), [Luke 4:3-8](#), [Acts 26:18](#), [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#), [Ephesians 6:10-18](#), [1 Peter 5:6-11](#)) that are trying to do their best to keep you and your loved ones from the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ ([2 Corinthians 4:1-6](#)).

#### [John 8:12](#)

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

#### [John 14:6](#)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you are seeking God and his salvation through his Son and have not obeyed the gospel of salvation, and you have read or heard the gospel, believe in the gospel, repentant of your sins, and ready to confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and to be baptized please pray from your heart for the guidance as you seek a Church of Christ near you. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me thru the contact page.

Please share this site with others so they also can be helped to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

I would like to say thank you first for visiting the site, this site is dedicated to help the lost and the misled to the one true God and Father through His Son our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and to help encourage any of the brothers and sisters that are in the body in Christ.

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