



BOOK 03 – CHAPTER 02 – STUDY 04

Truth or Deceit Testing What You Believe

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Truth or deceit?

Sadly, the world has various ideas about who and what a “Christian” is or isn’t. Some believe a Christian is anyone born into a Christian-professing family and or christened by a priest or minister. Others say a Christian is one who has “given his heart to the Lord” and is “born again” or perhaps a Christian is one who simply claims to be a believer!

It is a sad fact however, that some live and die assuming that he or she is a “Christian”—only to find out in Judgment Day that God never recognized their brand of “Christianity”.

Christ, in fact, warned us of that.

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work **iniquity**.

So, which are you?

Are you a Christian, a believer, or a disciple of Christ?

In reality it does not matter which one you choose to call yourself, because everyone is in danger of losing their salvation.

In reference to believers: Believing alone does not save anyone. As a matter of fact, believing only gets us closer to salvation. **Romans 13:11 (KJV)** and that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for **now, is our salvation nearer than when we believed**.

In reference to disciples: the gospel is also quick to show us that even disciples are in danger of losing or giving up their salvation. Paul gives us the story of a disciple that forsook him because he loved this world. **2 Tim 4:10 (KJV)** For **Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

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In **John 6:66** The gospel is quick to tell us that “Many” disciples walked no more with Christ.

You Can read the whole chapter to understand why many left, but you will have to go back and start in chapter 5 to get the full story.

There is a BIG difference between being a follower of God, following His example and being an imitator. **Ephesians 5:1 (KJV) Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children. Please check your bible and see what it says.** Small changes in words here and there does not seem much, but it makes major differences when it comes to the word of God. It becomes the difference between eternal life and death.

There is a difference in this world between accepting the truth of “Christ” or the lies, which will maintain you in a worldly, empty spiritual life, where your soul will always be seeking, wondering, and never finding rest.

We are NOT to imitate God, we are NOT to be God, we are not even to be like God. We are to be Godly, we are to follow Him, honor Him, worship Him and love Him.

Study and verify everything you know and learn because your eternal life depends on it.

You shall eventually know that I am not your regular daily preacher, that there is always more to what God has to say through me.

Whether anyone wants to hear what God has to say, teach, or correct through me is a different story. We all have free will and our flesh/feelings tend to do the opposite of what He created us to be or do. **Gal 5:7 (KJV) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

I know most of the time I can make people uncomfortable. Some of the reasons that I have heard is because I am too serious or straight to the point. I have heard that I am a very devout believer and say it “how it is”. Some have even said that I am too harsh and opiniated on delivering the truth. Some have even dared to call me **legalistic**, because I follow the 10 commandments or try to be obedient to everything, He commands us to do. **So, Am I really legalistic?**

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In all truth and reality, my obedience to the Lord, my love for the brethren, my good intentions, my devotion to preach and teach truth, and the burden I carry for those lost or stuck with erroneous teachings does not mean ANYTHING for those who choose to be blind to the word of God and/or have chosen their own doctrine according to their family tradition or personal understanding.

The word of God says, **Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: **14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it.**

Luke 13:23 (KJV) Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, **24** Strive to enter in at the strait gate: **for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**

Matthew 22:14 (KJV) For **many are called, but few are chosen.**

The big question is “why will only a few be chosen or only a few will find this gate?” and Why are pastors teaching a salvation plan that is so contradictive to what the Gospel says?

Jude 1:3 warns us of a false faith, a false salvation. He tells his brethren to go back to the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Some of them were influenced and were following doctrines other than the Apostles doctrine. Ladies and gentlemen, this was TWO THOUSAND years ago and things have gotten worse and harder to find the truth since then.

Have you guys ever heard of anyone teaching the apostles doctrine?

Who or what makes us believe that we are truly saved?

-A pastor that tells us what we want to hear and makes us feel good?

-A family member with a long Christian tradition record that has the gospel down-right to their understanding.

-A church whether big or small where we feel happy, safe, and **comfortable**?

-Or an easy-to-read Holy Bible like the NIV, NLT, NASB or Jehovah witness bible?

1 Peter 4:18 (KJV) And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Hmm, “righteousness”, another study. You

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can find it in B3-C04-S04- “Righteousness and Holiness Obedience That God Recognizes”.

Our heavenly Father has warned us for the last two thousand years of those things to happen. And some brethren do not know, do not care or are just naive to think that Satan will not creep into their homes with his poisonous teachings, just because they choose to “believe” otherwise.

2 Timothy 3:1 (KJV) This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. **2** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **4** Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. **6** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

God tells us that we are not to be dependent on anyone for our salvation and even then, He tells us that we have to work it out with fear and trembling **Philippians 2:12 (KJV)** Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

I'm pretty sure most of us need more understanding about the meaning of fear and trembling to God but that's another study. Here are clues on how and what to do when we have questions.

1. **2 Timothy 2:15** will tell you how to find that answer.
★ **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God,
2. **2 Tim 3:16-17** will show you what to do, how, why, and where to find that answer.
★ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction** in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
3. **1 John 4** will tell you what to do with everything you read, hear or learn.

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★ Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

4. If you have any issues, or get stuck, go back, and start with #1 again.

Getting back in track, the one thing I can see in common with all the reasons that stops them from listening and receiving what I present is that I make them feel “uncomfortable”, and sadly we have learned through the knowledge of the world that **un·com·fort·a·ble** is an adjective that means causing or feeling slight pain or physical discomfort or distress; painful; irritating. in a state of discomfort; uneasy; conscious of stress or strain. (This is from an oxford dictionary and google). And sadly, we are always hearing that no one needs to feel uncomfortable.

In reality being uncomfortable can be both a bad and good thing. Like being uncomfortable to speak in front of others about Christ, Right? Or maybe even like being uncomfortable when we tell our non-believing family that we have chosen to follow Him. Or someone feeling uncomfortable when they are invited to a bible study and they don't want to hear or care about it. Think about it! When it comes to confessing Christ as Lord and saviour, or studying or sharing the gospel, is it really about being in pain, and distress, or in a state of discomfort, stressed out? Or could it also be a state of being afraid or ashamed?

So, we can add to the definition of being uncomfortable the feeling of being afraid, shameful, or ashamed, (for whatever reasons it may be).

So, with the above said we can conclude and truly say that when our faith or doctrine is questioned, it can be a good sign. But It's only a good sign if it can show us where we need to grow as a believer.

Whether it be having more courage in talking to other people about our God and His salvation, or whether it is having more courage to correct others. A lack of courage could also be a sign of the fear of failure due to the lack of knowledge.

Another VERY important question is; What are we lacking, or what is the issue that blocks us when we choose not to listen and receive possible correction?

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Hmm, A penny for your thoughts! _____.

Maybe a lack of humbleness, meekness, love, or maybe indoctrination?

So, we must go deep and ask ourselves, “what are we lacking?” is it a lack of courage, a lack of Godly knowledge, a lack of Godly understanding, a lack of faith, a lack of humility, is it too much unbelief, or are we just ashamed of the gospel?

You might find this hard to believe or connect, but whatever that block may be, it boils down to unbelief!

Matthew 13:58 (KJV) And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 17:20 (KJV) And Christ said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

And this “unbelief” is something we must check within ourselves daily!

Like I said, there is always more to it! The main thing we must see and understand is that the first thing Satan attacks through unbelief is our identity. And if that works for Satan, then he will continue attacking us with it until the death of our bodies. This is another study B3-C03-S02- “Called and Chosen Set Apart Through Obedience”.

There is always more to it than just “faith alone”.

More than the watered-down “by faith alone you are saved”, that is sold by most Pastors. More that the watered-down faith that God simply will answer all of our prayer requests just because we ask. More than “God’s love for everyone” is automatic because someone just chooses to believe!

There are many and I say many staggered (hesitant) and unfruitful brothers in Christ because of their lack of believing and Godly faith. **Romans 4:20**

★ A “**lack of faith**” is brought through the lack of **Godly understanding**. **2 Tim 3:16-16**

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- ★ A lack of “**Godly understanding**” is because we lean to **our own understanding** instead of God’s understanding. **Prov 3:5, Prov 28:26.**
- ★ We lean to “**Our own understanding**” because of the lack of **Godly knowledge**. **Prov 3:5-6, Prov 10:13**
A lack of Godly knowledge brings death. Hosea 4:6
- ★ A “lack of “**Godly knowledge**” is due to a lack of **studying the word of God**. **2 Tim 2:15**
- ★ A “**lack of studying**” is because of plain laziness or of an overflow of **faith and trust to false teachings**, through the acceptance of the knowledge that the world gives through false teachers and false prophets. **Proverbs 24:32, James 4:17,**
- ★ A “**trust to false teachings**” because we listen to our **deceitful hearts** and run with it because it just feels right. Most do this without even taking their time to verify their teachings being disobedient to when God tell us to “TEST EVERY SPIRIT” whether is from Him or not. **1 John 4,**
- ★ A “**deceitful heart**” is because of a **lack of obedience**. Disobeying God’s commandments such us to study, test every spirit, to correct, be corrected, instruct, reproof, etc. **Matt 15:19, Mark 7:21, Luke 12:24, Luke 6:45.**

Lack of obedience! The exact same reason Adam and Eve got kicked out of the garden of eve. **Man’s first sin!**

So, it’s just another big circle on which all boils down to **DISOBEDIENCE**.

So, **a lack of faith is a lack of obedience!**

Did I just hear someone say.... “WOW. All that sermon just to say that obedience to God’s commandments is important?”.

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Yes, but Not exactly 😊, The gospel says that the end of the commandment is sincere faith. **1 Tim 1:5 (KJV)** now the end of **the commandment** is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of **faith unfeigned**.

But **James** says that **perfect faith is brought by our works! 2:24** Sees thou how faith wrought with his works a man is made perfect?

Good works, that's another class! B3-C02-S02- "Good Works Evidence, Not Earning".

Now. Remember earlier when I said, "Some have even called me **legalistic**, because I follow the 10 commandments or try to be obedient to everything, He commands us to do"?

Well, there is always more to it! 😊

What does too legalistic mean to the world? Here is the google definition of "Being too legalistic" = **giving too much attention to legal rules and details**: a legalistic interpretation of the facts.

Britannica's Dictionary definition of LEGALISTIC. [more legalistic; most legalistic] disapproving.: too concerned with legal rules and details.

Well, I guess the world is right. Even some of the Pastors are correct. **I AM LEGALISTIC** 😊, but I will not apologize for that.

One of the reasons I will not apologize for it or change in any way, is because worst case scenario, I will be doing more of what God asks of me. And doing more will not hinder my end goal of being an eternity with Him. But, not being legalistic CAN mean being short on obedience to Gods commandments, and that may hinder many from entering heaven.

The above information was my answer to the world. **The real answer to our brothers and sisters who are truly seeking the truth is the following:**

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**

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Google says: in·iq·ui·ty = noun, immoral or grossly unfair behavior. 🤖

Biblical definition of **INIQUITY** = Strong's Number: **G458**

Greek Word: ἀνομία. Strong's Definition: **illegality that is violation of law** or (generally) wickedness.

INIQUITY G458 comes from the root word LAWLESS or WICKED= Strong's Number: **G459**

Greek Word: ἄνομος. Strong's Definition: **lawless that is (negatively) not subject to (the Jewish) law; (by implication a Gentile) or (positively) wicked.**

So, let's rephrase the verse with the correct definitions:

Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work **illegality.**

OR Matthew 7:21-23 (KJV) then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work **lawlessness.**

Seems that our Heavenly Father does not like illegality. On which He also sees as wickedness.

And the opposite of illegality is **legality**.

So, would it not being legalistic when it comes to God's commandments be a good thing?

And NOT BEING LEGALISTIC be a bad and *wicked* thing?

We all need to understand that the more obedient we are to God's commandments, the more we show our love to Him and because our love grows, our obedience also grows, and because our obedience grows, our love continues to grow! **It is just another big circle!**

See B3-C02-S01- "Love Proven Only Through Obedience".

Have you ever heard Pastors tell EVERYONE "God loves you, and you and you?"

I see that as giving candy to babies. It's not healthy!

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Some will even dare to say: God loves you just the way you are. “Christ loves sinners”.

Did you know that there are only 2 ways to receive our heavenly Fathers’ love?

His love is NOT automatic, neither is His saving grace.

We “earn” His love by being obedient to His commandments!!!!

John 14:23 (KJV) Christ answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him**, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:21 (KJV) **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him**, and will manifest myself to him.

Have you ever heard; God does not hate people? Or God hates the sin, not the sinner? That God only hated the deeds of the people like the Nicolaitans?

Well, some of us used to strongly believe that.... UNTIL our Lord showed us and we searched the scriptures and verified it! What does God really say?

Well, seems that HATE is a harsh word and the world does not like it. But our Heavenly Father is not a respecter of people and seems He preferred to use a different deeper meaning word. The word “Abhor”:

*Strong's Number: **H1602**, Hebrew Word: גָּעַל. Strong's Definition: **to detest**; by implication to reject.

* Strong's Number: **H8581**, Hebrew Word: . תִּעַב. Strong's Definition: to {loathe} that {is} (morally) **detest**.

Lev 26:11 H1602 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not **abhor/detest** you.

Lev 26:30 H1602 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcases upon the carcases of your idols, and my soul shall **abhor/detest** you.

Ps 5:6 H8581 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will **abhor/detest** the bloody and deceitful man.

Lets put the John 14 verses in a different perspective.

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John 14:23 (KJV) Christ answered and said unto him, **If a man does not love me, he will not keep my words: and my Father will not love him,** and we will **not** come unto him, and make our abode with him.

John 14:21 (KJV) **He that does not hath my commandments, and does not keepeth them, he it is that hateth me: and he that hateth me shall be hated of my Father, and I will hate him,** and will not manifest myself to him.

When it comes to what God commands us to do, even though we are to love our neighbor and our enemies (**Luke 6:27, Luke 6:35, Matt 5:44**), the gospel is also quick to tell us that we are to detest that which is evil.

Romans 12:9 (KJV) Let love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil;** cleave to that which is good.

In other words: Let love be sincere. **Hate/detest that which is evil;** stick to or glue to that which is good.

So, again, what is truth and what is error?

Think about this verse: **Luke 13:23-24 (KJV)** Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, **Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**

“Many will seek and shall not be able”.

This is mostly due to blindness and lack of knowledge in the word of God. It is due to lies and indoctrination. It is brought by Satan through unbiblical teachings by our family members, friends, pastors, ancestors, and their customs. And we are at fault because we allow it, by not studying, questioning, and verifying every doctrine that is presented to us!

Maybe you feel that the Jehovah witnesses have it wrong, or the Catholics, or the Mormons, or the Methodist, Lutherans, Calvinists, etc. (They are all Christians).

Do you feel empowered or believe your church has it all right, just because you keep the Sabbath?

What makes you certain that you are not on the same boat?

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Your sabbath is wrong also! See B4-C03-S01- “The Sabbath God’s Covenant Sign and Appointed Rest” and find out why!

It is my prayer that you are seeking truth and are open to listening and verifying what you listen to and read here. And I also pray you take **2 Tim 3:16** to heart and abide by it. That the same way you may correct someone, that you may be able to also receive correction.

2 Tim 3:16 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The reality is that “Pastor X” is not alone with his teaching of salvation! There are many churches and denominations that teach a **belief alone or faith alone salvation** plan! (To understand this Pastor X comment, you will need to read B2-C01-S07- “A Common Salvation Story Examined”).

Some examples of their teachings are:

- Salvation is a gift of God's grace through Christ received by faith alone. Baptism does not save a person; it is a symbol and celebration of salvation, they quote (**1 Peter 3:21**).
- Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It is a public declaration of how Christ changed your life. Being baptized shows others that you have decided to follow Christ, and allows them to celebrate this decision with you, they quote (**Acts 16:31-34**).
- God's Word says that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ and not by our own efforts or works, they quote (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).
Grace Alone. ... Our best efforts can never be good enough to earn salvation, but God declares us righteous for Christ's sake.

Thanks to John Doe, now we have more good questions added to the initial ones we had! We have combined both sets of questions and placed them in order to be answered. The study number and page number on the study will be found on (**RED**) at the end of the question.

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1. Why does the bible say that if we do not believe and are baptized, we will not be saved in **Mark 16:16**? (B2-C01-S10- “Believing Nearer to Salvation”, Not Saved”)
2. Are we truly saved by believing ALONE or by faith ALONE? (B2-C01-S10- “Believing Nearer to Salvation”, Not Saved pg. 01)
3. Does God require more of us than just believing or faith? (B2-C01-S10- “Believing Nearer to Salvation”, Not Saved pg. 05)
4. Do we need remission of sins for salvation and how do we attain it? (B2-C03-S01- “Remission of Sins When God Erases the Past”, pg. 03)
5. Why does the bible say, baptism also saves us in **1 Peter 3:21**? (B2-C03-S02- “Baptism God’s Appointed Moment of Remission”, pg. 03)
6. Why do the NIV and NLT do not have the word remission and instead change it to forgiveness? When in forgiveness: you forgive, but you still remember and in remission you forget and let go as it never happened! (B2-C03-S02- “Baptism God’s Appointed Moment of Remission”, pg. 04)
7. Is water baptism necessary for salvation or is it only an outward expression of our faith? (B2-C03-S02- “Baptism God’s Appointed Moment of Remission”, pg. 12)
8. Why does **Acts 2:38** say that baptism is performed for the remission for our sins? (B2-C03-S02- “Baptism God’s Appointed Moment of Remission”, pg. 13)
9. Why did Paul baptize some disciples again in order to receive the Holy Ghost in **Acts 9:18**? (B2-C03-S03- “The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant”.)
10. Was Apostle Peter saved during the first two years that he walked with Christ? Because in **Luke 22:31-32** Christ says that Peter was not converted and denied Christ 3 times by the time of the resurrection & then in **Matthew 18:3** Christ Himself also tells us that if we are not converted, we will not enter into the kingdom of heaven? (B2-C03-S03- “The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant”.)
11. When and how do we receive the indwelling of the Holy Ghost? (B2-C03-S03- “The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant”.)

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12. Is conversion needed for our salvation? Was Peter saved before Christ's Crucifixion? (B2-C03-S06- "Conversion From Belief to a Changed Life", pg. 02)
13. Why does it say in **Titus 1:16**, that if we do not do good works we deny professing God, and are abominable in the eyes of God, and we are disobedient to God and reprobates or not pure unto every good work? (B3-C02-S02- "Good Works Evidence, Not Earning", pg. 06)
14. Do we need any type of good works to be saved or maintain our salvation? (B3-C02-S02- "Good Works Evidence, Not Earning", pg. 08)
15. What is the apostle's doctrine? (B3-C02-S03- "Continuing in the Apostles' Doctrine", pg. 03)

The sad truth is that there are many, many churches that teach a **common salvation plan**. According to the word of God there is a common salvation plan on which is not of the true faith, just like Buddhism and Hinduism.

You must **NOT** accept or allow anyone to preach to you a common salvation plan that is **NOT** from God. Even God speaks about those that have received a false plan of salvation in **Jude 1:3 (KJV)** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

So, in all truth and layman's terms, this is what Jude is saying:

It was needful to write to you of the common salvation and appeal to you that ye should, (leave that common salvation plan and) with sincere and intense conviction, strive for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

Salvation through Christ by itself is the greatest gift of all. But if you have been lied to and have accepted a common salvation plan or doctrine, then you are on the exact same road to damnation! Just like the people following the Buddhism and Hinduism religion.

We are going to break it all down and be as orderly as possible. Because we should be able to prove to you that if we go and do what "Pastor X" said is NOT biblical and left unchecked and uncorrected, it will lead anyone straight

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to hell! We are going to use John Doe as the guinea pig here as an example to find out if he went to heaven or not!
If you haven't read the story of John Doe and Pastor X, please go and read it. It is on Book 2-Chapter 01-Study 07- "A Common Salvation Story Examined"

John Doe:

- ✓ He believed Christ is the Son of God.
- ✓ He believed Christ died for all our past sins.
- ✓ He believed Christ resurrected 3 days later.
- ✓ He believed that Christ is sitting on the right-hand side of the Father interceding for us!
- ✓ He confessed Christ as Lord and Savior (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He confessed himself as a sinner (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He repented of his sins. (Let us just say he truly repented when he believed!)
- ✓ He asked for forgiveness (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He called upon the Lord into his life (Through sinner's prayer).
- ✓ He was baptized as a baby, by sprinkle!

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