

The Narrow Way and the Final Cost

Testing the Spirits and the Teachings

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 4 - Chapter 05 – Study 05

***In the Details Is Where God's Glory Is Revealed
and Salvation Is Either Preserved or Corrupted***

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READ THIS FIRST

This study was not written to be skimmed, rushed through, or treated lightly. It was built through prayer, Scripture, examination, and careful attention to detail. What you are about to read is meant to be tested, followed, and taken seriously.

This book is not designed to be read as a casual collection of pages, nor does your understanding depend on reading every study in numerical order. Each study is written to stand on its own, but none of them should be approached carelessly. Every claim must be examined by the Word of God. Every point must be tested in Scripture. Nothing should be accepted merely because it is written here. It must be proven.

Do not read just to finish. Read to understand. Do not read only for information. Read for correction, clarity, and truth. If something confronts you, do not explain it away too quickly. If something exposes you, do not rush past it. Stop, examine, pray, and search the Scriptures.

These studies are written for those who are willing to be honest before God. It does not matter whether you have studied Scripture for many years or are just beginning. What matters is whether you are willing to listen, willing to examine, and willing to follow the truth once it is shown to you.

Truth is not dishonored by examination. It is confirmed by it. Error is what fears being tested. So read carefully. Read prayerfully. Read with an open Bible and an honest heart. The issue is not whether these words sound right, but whether they agree with the Word of God.

What you do with the truth matters. To hear and not obey is not safety. It is self-deception. So before you continue, settle this within yourself: you are not here merely to read words, but to test them, understand them, and submit to what is true.

B4-C05-S05 - In the Details Is Where God's Glory Is Revealed and Salvation Is Either Preserved or Corrupted.

There is a danger that many sincere believers never stop to examine, and it is not a small danger. It is subtle, which is what makes it destructive. It does not appear as rebellion, and it does not feel like deception while it is happening. It exists quietly within a person who believes they are right with God. Christ Himself warned that not everyone who calls Him Lord will enter the kingdom, but only those who do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21–23). This warning is not directed at those who reject God openly, but at those who speak His name, act in His name, and believe they belong to Him. They are involved, active, and appear spiritual, yet they are rejected. This reveals a hard truth: it is possible to be sincere and still be wrong, to be active and still be rejected, and even to believe you know God while being unknown by Him.

This condition does not appear suddenly. It develops slowly through repeated moments of hesitation and quiet resistance. A person hears truth, agrees with it, and feels conviction, yet instead of responding immediately, they delay. That delay is not harmless. It is not caution, and it is not wisdom. It is resistance.

When truth has been made clear, obedience is no longer a matter of understanding, but of submission. Scripture does not treat delay as neutral. It treats it as disobedience.

A person may believe they are still considering, still processing, or still seeking clarity. But when God has already spoken, continued hesitation is not humility, it is refusal.

This is why Scripture ties obedience to immediacy. When conviction comes, the response is not meant to be postponed. Delay trains the heart to argue, to negotiate, and eventually to ignore.

What begins as hesitation becomes a pattern. And that pattern weakens conviction over time.

They tell themselves they will deal with it later, that they need more time, or that it is not that serious. That delay becomes a pattern, and over time conviction weakens, not because God has stopped speaking, but because the person has trained themselves not to respond. Eventually they continue confidently, feeling stable and even at peace, but that peace is not the result of alignment. It is the result of a silenced conscience. This is how a person can stand before God convinced they are right and still hear, "I never knew you."

The Gospel has not been destroyed by open attack but weakened by quiet alteration. Truth was not removed all at once; it was adjusted in small places until the original pattern became difficult to recognize. This is how deception works. It does not begin with denial, but with adjustment. A word is softened, a command is reinterpreted, a requirement is explained away. Nothing appears removed, yet everything begins to shift. A command is heard, it conflicts with desire, and instead of being obeyed it is reconsidered, then redefined, then delayed. Eventually it is no longer practiced and finally ignored or defended. What begins as discomfort becomes reinterpretation, what is reinterpreted becomes tolerated, what is tolerated becomes protected, and what was once clear becomes negotiable.

Scripture shows that God's glory is revealed in the details, and deception also hides in the details. The difference between life and destruction is often not found in open rebellion, but in slight alteration. God is not vague; He is precise. He commands that nothing be added to or taken from His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2), that nothing can be added or removed from what He has

established (Ecclesiastes 3:14), and that not even the smallest part of His law will pass away (Matthew 5:18). God does not deal in approximations. What He establishes is complete, and what He commands carries intention down to the smallest detail.

The problem is that people rarely reject everything outright. Instead, they adjust something small. A person may obey in many areas while holding onto one. They may forgive most but not all, or follow many commands while avoiding the one that costs them the most. On the outside they appear obedient, but obedience is not proven by what is visible. It is revealed by what is withheld. Scripture teaches that faithfulness in small things reveals faithfulness in greater things (Luke 16:10), and that breaking even one point reveals a deeper issue (James 2:10). This does not simply speak of failure, but of selective obedience. When a person chooses what to follow and what to ignore, they are no longer submitting, they are deciding. And when a person becomes the one who decides, they have placed themselves above what is written. That is why Scripture says that to obey is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). Saul did something that appeared good and justified it, but it was not what God commanded.

This same pattern continues today. A person may serve, give, speak, and participate in many ways, yet still resist in the areas that matter most. Doing something for God is not the same as doing what God commanded. Obedience must be exact. Partial obedience is disobedience, and altered obedience is rejection. The details are where obedience is either proven or corrupted.

When God's instructions are ignored, the result is not neutral. The heart begins to lead instead of the Word. Scripture says the heart is deceitful above all things (Jeremiah 17:9), and this shift is subtle. A person reads a command and begins to reason around it, saying, "I know what it says, but..." or "That does not apply the same way today," or "God understands my situation." These thoughts feel small, but they are decisive. In that moment, authority shifts. The Word is no longer final, and the heart becomes the

interpreter. Scripture warns that trusting in one's own heart leads to error (Proverbs 28:26). Once this shift happens, it becomes easier each time, until truth is no longer received as written but reshaped into something more comfortable.

Over time, a person no longer wants truth that confronts, but truth that agrees. What feels right begins to replace what is written (Proverbs 14:12). A person may continue in something they know is wrong. At first they feel conviction, but they delay, continue, and eventually that conviction weakens. In time, they feel peace and conclude that God must be okay with it. But that peace did not come from God; it came from the absence of resistance. Scripture shows that it is not always that truth cannot be understood, but that it is no longer received (John 8:43). This is why Christ asks why people call Him Lord yet do not do what He says (Luke 6:46), and why Scripture commands believers to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22).

Hearing without obeying creates a dangerous illusion. A person may hear truth, agree with it, and even speak about it, yet remain unchanged. Over time they begin to believe that agreement is obedience. This creates a cycle where truth is heard, conviction is felt, obedience is delayed, and eventually conviction fades. Scripture describes people who are pure in their own eyes while remaining unclean (Proverbs 30:12). False confidence is built slowly as a person continues in compromise while maintaining outward spiritual activity. What is resisted becomes avoided, and what is avoided becomes rejected, until the heart is no longer subject to the law of God (Romans 8:7).

This condition leads a person to view God's commands as unreasonable or extreme, but the issue is not with God, it is with a heart that refuses to submit. This is how a person can ultimately hear the words, "I never knew you." Ignoring the details leads to deception, emotional reasoning, selective obedience, false assurance, and ultimately separation.

This corruption is often not hidden but taught and repeated. Many do not deny Scripture outright; they redefine it. A command is read and then softened, a requirement is stated and then adjusted. Obedience is labeled as legalism, holiness as extreme, and correction as judgment. Yet Scripture commands examination, showing believers who searched the Scriptures daily to test what they heard (Acts 17:11). Despite this, many are discouraged from examining truth and instead given labels that replace the need to test anything.

At this point, the word “legalistic” is often used as a defense, not as a truth. It is used to avoid examination rather than to define error.

Some will say that focusing on obedience, on commandments, and on details is “too legalistic,” as if careful obedience to what God has said is something to be avoided. But this raises a simple question: how can doing what God commanded become a problem?

If “legalistic” means giving attention to rules and details, then the issue is not with the person obeying, but with the person resisting what is written. God Himself commands that nothing be added to or taken away from His Word (Deuteronomy 4:2), and that even the smallest part of it remains (Matthew 5:18). That is not a loose instruction, it is precise.

So, what is really being rejected? Not legalism, but obedience.

Consider the warning of Christ: “Depart from me... ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:23). The word “iniquity” does not simply mean general wrongdoing. It carries the meaning of lawlessness, a refusal to remain within what God has established. It is not the presence of effort that condemns, but the absence of submission. This exposes the flaw in the accusation. A person who strives to obey carefully, word by word is not moving further from God, but closer to what He has commanded. The greater danger is not in doing too much of what God requires, but in doing less while convincing oneself it is enough.

In reality, calling obedience “legalistic” is often a way to protect what has not been surrendered. It allows a person to remain unchanged while avoiding the weight of what God has clearly said.

When questioning is removed, tradition replaces truth, and error is protected.

As a result, clear commands become unclear, and what was once direct becomes debatable. This allows people to remain unchanged while feeling justified. Yet Scripture says that those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh (Galatians 5:24). The flesh does not want to die; it wants to remain. So, teachings are shaped to allow it to survive, and sin is managed instead of removed. But Scripture is clear that there is no peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22). What many call peace is often nothing more than the absence of conviction.

Christ calls for self-denial and daily surrender (Luke 9:23). The cross does not comfort the flesh, it crucifies it. When the cross is softened, the Gospel is altered. Because of this, correction is not optional. Scripture commands believers to expose, identify, and reject error. Yet correction is often avoided because of fear, fear of losing relationships, being labeled, or facing conflict.

Another reason correction is resisted is because it makes a person uncomfortable. But that discomfort is often misunderstood.

The world has trained people to believe that feeling uncomfortable is something negative, something to avoid. But when it comes to truth, discomfort is not always a problem. Many times, it is a signal.

A person may feel uncomfortable when their beliefs are questioned, when their understanding is challenged, or when something they have accepted is exposed. That feeling is often not caused by error in the truth, but by resistance within the person. So, the question is not, “Why do I feel uncomfortable?” but “What is this discomfort revealing?”

Is it a lack of knowledge? A lack of understanding? A lack of humility? Or is it a resistance to letting go of what has already been accepted?

When truth confronts error, it will not feel neutral. It will create tension. But that tension is not meant to be avoided. It is meant to be examined.

If discomfort leads a person to search the Scriptures more carefully, then it has served its purpose. But if it leads them to withdraw, dismiss, or reject what they have not tested, then it becomes a barrier to truth.

In many cases, what is called “discomfort” is not pain, but conviction. And conviction is not given to harm, but to correct. But Scripture declares that open rebuke is better than hidden love (Proverbs 27:5). Avoiding correction allows error to grow, and silence allows deception to spread. Truth must be spoken, because failing to speak transfers responsibility.

Scripture teaches salvation by grace through faith, yet many reduce it to belief alone. The Bible defines love through obedience, saying that those who love God keep His commandments (John 14:15, 1 John 5:3).

This is not symbolic language, it is a direct definition.

Love for God is not measured by words, emotion, or intention. It is measured by obedience. Scripture does not present love and obedience as separate ideas, but as one.

If a person claims to love God but does not keep His commandments, the claim does not stand. Not because love is absent in feeling, but because it is absent in action.

There is no alternate expression given. No secondary path. The only way Scripture defines love toward God is through obedience to what He has said.

Faith without obedience is dead (James 2:17), but when lived out it is made perfect (James 2:22). Faith begins the journey, but it does not perfect it. Scripture shows progression, stating that salvation is nearer than before (Romans 13:11). Yet people can

begin and still fall away, as seen in those who turned back (John 6:66) or forsook the path (2 Timothy 4:10). Just like those who will take the mark of the beast (666) and will forsake their path.

Some profess to know God while denying Him through their actions (Titus 1:16). Scripture provides tests, not just statements, showing that knowing God is revealed through obedience (1 John 2:3–4). Christ Himself questions those who call Him Lord but do not obey Him. He is the author of salvation to those who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9), and the path to life is narrow, with few finding it (Matthew 7:13–14). Believers are commanded to be doers of the Word, to produce works that reflect repentance, and to endure to the end. Works do not replace faith; they reveal it, and **in the end each person is judged according to their works** (Revelation 22:12).

God's truth is detailed, and when those details are neglected, meaning is lost. When meaning is lost, identity becomes blurred, and when identity is blurred, authority weakens. Deception works in layers, beginning with neglect, moving to reinterpretation, then acceptance, and finally defense.

This process does not happen randomly. It follows a pattern.

A lack of obedience leads to a reliance on the heart. A reliance on the heart leads to distorted understanding. Distorted understanding leads to weakened faith. And weakened faith leads back into further disobedience.

This creates a cycle. The less a person obeys, the less clearly they understand. The less clearly they understand, the more they trust what feels right. And the more they trust what feels right, the further they move from what is written.

Scripture warns that the heart is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9) and that leaning on one's own understanding leads to error (Proverbs 3:5, Proverbs 28:26). This is not a minor issue, it is the root of the problem.

What appears to be confusion is often the result of this cycle. It is not that truth is unavailable, but that it is no longer being received correctly.

This is why deception becomes harder to recognize over time. It is not only believed, but also reinforced.

What is not tested will be believed, which is why Scripture commands believers to test everything (1 John 4:1).

A person is not deceived when they openly reject truth, but when they believe they are following it while avoiding it. If there is a command that is constantly explained instead of obeyed, that reveals resistance. The question is not whether truth has been heard, but whether it has been followed. Agreement without obedience is not faith, it is self-deception.

At this point, the issue is no longer understanding, but response. The truth has either been examined or avoided. It has either been accepted or explained away. What remains is not a question of knowledge, but of submission.

A person can continue hearing, continue agreeing, and continue believing they are right, but if what has been revealed is not followed, nothing has changed.

This is where many remain, not because truth was hidden, but because it was not obeyed.

God's glory is revealed in the details, and deception hides in those same details.

Salvation is found where obedient faith meets the unaltered Word of God.

Final Consideration

You have now seen what Scripture says, not what is commonly taught, not what is assumed, but what is written. At this point, the issue is no longer understanding, it is response. God does not measure what you agreed with while reading, He measures what you obey after seeing it. If something in this study exposed an area of your life, that was not accidental, that was light, and Scripture is clear that light brings responsibility. What you now know, you are accountable for.

This is where many fail. They read, they agree, they feel conviction, and then they delay. But Scripture does not treat delay as neutral. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” So the question is not whether this study was correct, the question is simple, what will you do with what God has shown you? Will you obey immediately, or will you explain it away? Will you remove what He has exposed, or will you manage it? Will you submit, or will you delay? There is no third option.

God is not asking you to fix everything at once, but He is requiring that you stop defending what He has already revealed. Repent where you must repent, cut off what must be cut off, and obey what you already know. Do not wait for a better moment, do not wait for stronger feelings, do not wait for more clarity. Scripture has already spoken, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.” This is that moment.

If the fear of the Lord is present, obedience will follow. If obedience does not follow, fear was never received. The line is clear, and the responsibility is now yours. Choose.

Additional Studies Available

These studies are provided freely so anyone may examine the Scriptures carefully.

All studies follow the numbering system shown below.

Letters are connected to specific study numbers and are meant to be read together with the corresponding study for deeper understanding.

The complete list and description of studies are available at: zionsroar.org/biblical-studies.

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B3-C02-S01 - Letter - How much is God worth

B2-C03-S03 - Letter - Examine Yourselves for an Indwelling

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B4-C02-S02 - Letter - The Gray area church - how unity became and excuse to avoid truth

B4-C02-S03 - Letter - Psychology within the church - When the Cross was replaced with comfort

B4-C05-S01 - Letter - Open Rebuke Is Better Than Secret Love

B4-C05-S05 - Letter - In the Details Is Where God's Glory Is Revealed and Salvation Is Either Preserved or Corrupted

VOLUME III

B3-C01-S03b - Love, Allegiance and the First Command

B3-C06-S01 - The Loneliness of Obedience

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B4-C05-S05 - The Rapture – Biblical Truth or Modern Doctrine?

More letters will follow!

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A deeper examination of doctrine, deception, obedience, and final judgment.

Topics include:

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Examining marriage, leadership, and accountability within the covenant family structure.

Book 6 - Spiritual Warfare

Understanding the believer's battle against sin, deception, and spiritual opposition.

If you would like guidance while working through these studies, you are welcome to contact me for help and direction at any time. All studies including my time are provided freely for every disciple of Christ.

Do not delay this examination. Open your Bible today and test everything you have been taught.

Do Not Keep This Message to Yourself

If this study has caused you to examine the Scriptures more carefully, do not keep that examination to yourself.

Truth spreads when it is shared.

Consider passing this booklet to someone else who may also need to ask these same questions.

You may:

- Request another booklet and give it to someone you love
- Give this booklet to a friend or family member
- Leave it where another person may discover it
- Share it with someone who sincerely desires to understand salvation according to Scripture

The apostles did not hide the truth. They spoke it openly so that others could hear it and examine it.

You can do the same.

Continue Studying the Scriptures

This booklet is only the beginning.

Additional Bible studies that examine salvation, obedience, and the teachings of Christ and the apostles are available here:

<https://zionsroar.org/biblical-studies>

Take time to search the Scriptures carefully and test everything that you have been taught.

Do not accept or reject anything without examining the Word of God for yourself.

Truth never fears examination.

Test Everything by Scripture

Do not believe this booklet simply because you have read it.

Open your Bible.

Search the Scriptures.

Examine every claim carefully.

The Bereans were called noble because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify whether the things they heard were true.

Follow their example.

Test everything by the Word of God.

NEED HELP?

You were not meant to figure this out alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you, step by step, so that what you learn is clear, proven, and grounded in truth.

**If what you believe is true, it will stand.
If it is not, it must fall.**

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.



