

The Narrow Way and the Final Cost

Testing Doctrine and Exposing Deception

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry
Bixby, Oklahoma



Book 4 - Chapter 02 – Study 02

***The Gray Area Church: Returning to God's
Revealed Pattern***

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Brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

I am not writing to comfort you. I am writing because there is a danger that many sincere believers never stop to examine. The Gospel has not been destroyed by open attack. It has been weakened by quiet alteration. Truth was not removed in one moment; it was adjusted in small places until the original pattern became almost unrecognizable.

Scripture reveals something most overlook. God's glory is revealed in the details, and Satan's deception also hides in the details. The difference between life and destruction is often not found in open rebellion, but in slight alteration. From the beginning, this has been the battlefield.

When God commanded the tabernacle to be built, nothing was left to human imagination. Every measurement, material, color, and placement came from a heavenly pattern. Change the details, and the message becomes distorted. God's glory is seen in precision because truth is never careless.

Christ confirmed that not even the smallest mark of the law would pass away until all is fulfilled. Heaven does not consider any command insignificant. If the smallest letter matters to God, then no part of our life is exempt from obedience. The details are not optional; they are where faith is proven.

God measures faithfulness in places most people ignore, how we speak when no one is listening, whether we keep small commitments and how we treat those who cannot repay us. The great assignments of God are given to those who remain lawful in the unseen places. But this is also the exact place where deception enters.

Satan rarely arrives denying God. He repeats God's words with a slight twist. In the garden he did not erase the command, he questioned it. A small shift opened the door to death. A message

that is mostly true but slightly altered becomes fully corrupted, like poison in clean water.

One of the clearest examples is found in a single added word. Scripture teaches that we are saved by grace through faith. Yet modern teaching often says we are saved by faith alone. That word “alone” does not appear in the passages used to support that claim. One added word removes obedience from the covenant pattern and reshapes the entire structure of the Gospel.

Another example is the claim that a person is fully saved the moment they believe. Yet Scripture says our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. Belief begins the journey, but it does not complete it.

Another alteration replaces remission with forgiveness. Change the word, and the timing and meaning of cleansing is changed. Another change turns baptism from the appointed act connected to remission into a symbolic ceremony. One shift in meaning transforms obedience into tradition.

These are not dramatic denials of truth. They are small edits. Yet small edits produce massive consequences. Jude warned that believers must earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. That warning exists because the original pattern can be replaced by a common salvation, a version widely accepted, simplified, and made comfortable. The danger is not that it sounds false. The danger is that it sounds familiar while key instructions have been removed.

A common salvation replaces the narrow apostolic path with a broad version that removes required obedience. When consensus replaces Scripture, truth is traded for agreement.

Now we must address what may be the most important and most dangerous alteration of all, the change and confusion surrounding the true Name of the Messiah.

This is not a minor linguistic discussion. Scripture repeatedly connects authority, salvation, healing, deliverance, and covenant identity to the Name given from Heaven. The apostles did not preach a vague title. They proclaimed a revealed Name, because power was attached to that Name.

From the beginning, God has always placed covenant authority within names. The Name given to the Son carried the declaration that God Himself is the source of salvation. The meaning of that Name reveals identity, mission, and authority.

Over time, that revealed Name was filtered through languages, traditions, and institutional systems. Some changes happened through translation limitations. Others through tradition. But the most dangerous part is not pronunciation alone, it is the loss of meaning and identity tied to the original revelation.

When the meaning of the Name is removed, the understanding of who the Son truly is becomes blurred. When identity is blurred, authority is weakened in the mind of the believer.

This is why this alteration is not just another doctrinal detail. It strikes at the center of the Gospel itself.

If salvation is tied to the Name given from Heaven, then confusion about that Name is not harmless. It is strategic. And here is a pattern that most people miss. Deception often comes in layers.

A lie is introduced and becomes common. Then a second version appears that seems like a correction, but it still does not restore the full truth. This becomes a lie within the lie. People feel they escaped deception, yet they are still standing inside a refined counterfeit.

That is why surface-level correction is not enough. We must go deeper until our conclusions are built on Scripture, not on popularity, tradition, or reaction.

This same layered deception appears everywhere.

Faith becomes faith alone. Obedience becomes optional. Remission becomes symbolism. The narrow path becomes a common salvation. The revealed Name becomes tradition.

One layer hides the next. And if a believer stops at the first correction, he may still be trapped inside the second. Scripture is precise because salvation is precise. The blood cleanses. The washing applies to what was purchased. The Spirit seals what has been cleansed. Remove one part, and what remains is no longer the same covenant.

When we trace spiritual failure back far enough, it always reaches the same root. Lack of faith comes from lack of understanding. Lack of understanding comes from lack of knowledge. Lack of knowledge comes from neglecting the Word. Neglect produces disobedience. Disobedience is the seed of every fall since the garden. The collapse begins in the details.

Satan's first and most effective attack is identity. If he can distort who Christ is, he can distort how people follow Him. Once identity is blurred, obedience begins to feel optional. Many resist these truths because examination creates discomfort. Yet discomfort is often the moment where God exposes what must change. If correction never produces discomfort, transformation never occurs.

Examine your faith honestly. Are you living by God's exact words, or by an adjusted version shaped by tradition and repetition? Test every teaching. Do not defend something simply because it is familiar.

Guard your life against small compromises. Open rebellion is obvious. Almost right doctrine is what destroys many. So, I ask you plainly, in the details of your daily life, whose voice are you following?

Are you walking in lawfulness before God, or drifting into acceptable forms of lawlessness?

And let me ask you something even more personal.
Are you being obedient to the command to test every spirit, whether it is from God?

Are you verifying what is being taught to you, or simply trusting the voice that sounds confident?

Are you examining the Scriptures for yourself, or relying on what you have always been told?

And do not exclude what you are reading here.
Are you verifying what I am showing you, or simply agreeing because it sounds convincing?

I do not ask for your agreement. I am asking for your investigation.
Search the Scriptures. Test every claim. Measure every doctrine.
Verify what you receive and verify what you think you know.

I pray that you verify all things, especially what I am placing before you now, because truth does not fear examination, and error cannot survive it.
Stand firm. Walk precisely. Let your life reflect the unaltered truth of the gospel of Christ.
For God's glory is revealed in the details that honor Him, and Satan's deception hides in the details that replace Him.
Truth does not adjust itself to comfort. Salvation is not discovered by majority agreement.
It is found where obedient faith meets the unaltered Word of God.
With urgency and love for your soul, written in truth and instruction by John, servant and disciple of Christ, Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry.

The Pattern God Established

The Scriptures reveal that God has never dealt with His people through uncertainty or human imagination. From the beginning, He established patterns and expected them to be followed exactly as He had given them. Whenever God revealed His will, He also revealed the manner in which it was to be obeyed.

Noah was not instructed simply to build an ark. God gave its measurements, its materials, its design, and its construction. Had Noah altered the pattern, the ark would no longer have been the ark God commanded.

The same pattern appears in the construction of the tabernacle. Moses was not permitted to build according to personal preference or human wisdom. God warned him,

"See... that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." (Hebrews 8:5)

Every measurement, every vessel, every sacrifice, every garment of the priesthood, and every act of worship served a purpose established by God. Nothing was left to assumption because every detail testified of Christ and the covenant that was to come.

This principle did not end with the law. Christ declared,

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." (Matthew 5:17)

His life fulfilled the pattern the Father had already revealed. He spoke the words the Father gave Him, accomplished the works the Father sent Him to perform, and became the fulfillment of the Scriptures concerning the Messiah. Even His death, burial, resurrection, and priesthood unfolded according to what had already been written.

The apostles continued in that same pattern. They did not establish a new faith according to the customs of men, but delivered *"the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)*.

The churches continued steadfastly "*in the apostles' doctrine*" (**Acts 2:42**), preserving what had been received rather than creating something new.

From Genesis to Revelation, the testimony remains unchanged. God establishes the pattern. Man is called to receive it. Faith is demonstrated by submitting to it, not by altering it. If this has always been God's way, then every alteration, no matter how small it may appear, deserves careful examination.

Before we can understand how error enters the church, we must first understand that God has never treated His revealed pattern as something open to revision.

The Pattern Man Alters

If God establishes the pattern, then every departure from that pattern begins with man, not with God.

The first alteration did not begin with the denial of God's Word, but with a question about it.

"Yea, hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1)

The serpent did not present Eve with an entirely different message. He began by casting doubt upon what God had already spoken. Once doubt entered, the command was reinterpreted, the consequence was minimized, and disobedience appeared reasonable. The pattern God had established was not rejected outright. It was altered.

This same pattern appears throughout the Scriptures.

Nadab and Abihu did not reject the priesthood. They offered "strange fire" before the Lord, something He had "commanded them not" (*Leviticus 10:1*).

Uzzah did not despise the ark of God. He touched it in a manner contrary to God's command (*2 Samuel 6:6-7*).

King Saul did not refuse sacrifice altogether. He altered God's instruction by sparing what God had commanded to be destroyed (*1 Samuel 15:22-23*).

In every case, the judgment did not fall because God's commands were completely abandoned. It fell because His revealed pattern was changed.

The same warning continues into the New Testament.

Christ warned of false prophets and false Christs who would deceive if possible even the elect (*Matthew 24:24*).

Paul warned that "grievous wolves" would arise, "speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (*Acts 20:29-30*). He also declared that "the mystery of iniquity doth already

work" (*2 Thessalonians 2:7*), showing that corruption had already begun while the apostles were still alive.

Scripture therefore presents one consistent testimony. Error rarely announces itself as error. It appears as a modification of what God has already revealed. A word is added. A command is redefined. A doctrine is softened. A practice is given a different purpose. What begins as a small alteration eventually produces a different message altogether.

For this reason, every doctrine must continually be measured against the pattern God has already established. The question is never whether a teaching appears sincere, ancient, or widely accepted. The question is whether it remains faithful to what God has spoken.

When Examination Stops

If God has established the pattern, and man has altered that pattern, then one question remains: Why do those alterations continue?

The answer is not that God has left His people without instruction. Neither is it that the Scriptures are unable to reveal the truth. More often, the examination ends before the Scriptures have been allowed to answer the question.

This pattern is not new. Throughout the Scriptures, God called His people to seek His counsel whenever questions arose. The Bereans "*sought the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*" (**Acts 17:11**).

Paul commanded, "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (**1 Thessalonians 5:21**).

John wrote, "*Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God*" (**1 John 4:1**). These are not suggestions. They are commandments.

Yet when doctrine is examined, the discussion is often turned away from the Scriptures before the matter is settled.

One says, "That is not essential."

Another says, "Good believers disagree."

Another appeals to tradition.

Another warns against division.

Another accuses the one asking questions of being legalistic.

Though the words differ, the result is the same. The doctrine itself is no longer examined. The examination ends before the evidence has been fully considered.

From that moment, uncertainty begins to replace conviction. What could have been resolved by the Word of God is left unresolved, not because the Scriptures failed to speak, but because they were no longer permitted to continue speaking.

This is how gray areas are preserved. They do not remain because God delights in uncertainty. They remain wherever believers become satisfied with stopping the search before the whole counsel of God has been heard.

The apostles followed a different course. When questions arose, they reasoned from the Scriptures, corrected error, and instructed the churches until the truth was established. They did not preserve uncertainty where God had spoken, nor did they leave doctrine to rest upon opinion or tradition.

If the church is to remain upon the foundation laid by Christ and His apostles, it must follow the same pattern. Every doctrine must be examined by the Scriptures, every tradition tested, and every conclusion submitted to the authority of God's Word. Only then can the pattern God established remain unaltered.

The Apostolic Pattern

When questions arose concerning the doctrine of Christ, neither Christ nor His apostles appealed to tradition, popularity, or religious consensus. They appealed to the Scriptures.

When the Pharisees questioned Christ concerning marriage, He answered, "*Have ye not read...?*" (**Matthew 19:4**).

When they challenged Him concerning the Sabbath, He answered from the Scriptures (**Matthew 12:1-8**).

When they defended traditions that contradicted God's commandments, He exposed their error by saying, "*Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*" (**Matthew 15:3**).

Christ did not avoid difficult questions, nor did He leave doctrine unresolved where the Father had spoken. He distinguished between the commandments of God and the traditions of men, calling His hearers back to the authority of the written Word.

The apostles continued in that same pattern.

The Bereans did not receive Paul's preaching without examination. They "*sought the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*" (**Acts 17:11**), and the Holy Spirit commended them for doing so.

When controversy arose concerning circumcision, the apostles did not preserve the disagreement for the sake of peace. They examined the matter in light of the Scriptures and declared what seemed good to the Holy Ghost (**Acts 15:13-29**). The question was settled by seeking God's revealed will, not by leaving every opinion equally acceptable.

Paul reasoned with both Jews and Gentiles "*out of the scriptures*" (**Acts 17:2**). He charged the churches to "*prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (**1 Thessalonians 5:21**).

John commanded believers to "*try the spirits whether they are of God*" (**1 John 4:1**). None of these instructions permit believers to accept doctrine without examination.

This is the pattern preserved throughout the New Testament. Questions were answered by the Scriptures. Error was corrected by the Scriptures. Doctrine was established by the Scriptures. The authority rested neither in the teacher nor in the hearer, but in the Word of God itself.

If this was the pattern delivered to the churches, then it remains the pattern for the church today. Every doctrine must be measured by the Scriptures. Every tradition must remain subject to the Scriptures. Every believer must be willing to receive correction from the Scriptures. For the church is never strengthened by protecting error, but by continuing steadfastly in the truth once delivered to the saints.

The Choice Before the Church

Every generation of believers inherits teachings from those who came before them. Some faithfully preserve the doctrine delivered by Christ and His apostles. Others preserve traditions that have never been fully examined by the Scriptures. The responsibility of the church is to distinguish between the two.

This is why the apostles repeatedly commanded believers to examine what they received. Their confidence was not in the wisdom of men, but in the certainty of God's Word. They expected the church to continue proving all things, holding fast to what is true, rejecting what could not be established, and growing in the knowledge of Christ.

Whenever that pattern is abandoned, tradition gradually occupies the place of doctrine. What began as an explanation becomes a requirement. What began as an assumption becomes a certainty. What began as a small alteration becomes the accepted pattern for another generation. In time, the teaching remains, but the biblical foundation beneath it is forgotten.

This is not merely a danger of the past. It is the responsibility of every generation. The question is never whether a doctrine has been believed for many years, but whether it can still be established from the Scriptures. The authority of a teaching is not found in its age, its popularity, or the number of those who defend it. Its authority is found in whether it remains faithful to the Word of God.

For this reason, no believer should fear honest examination. If a doctrine is true, the Scriptures will establish it. If it cannot be established, then no amount of tradition, sincerity, or consensus can make it true.

The church has not been called to preserve every teaching it has inherited. It has been called to preserve "*the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*" (**Jude 3**). That faith is preserved, not by

repeating what has always been said, but by continually measuring every doctrine against the unaltered Word of God. Only then can the church be certain that it is following the pattern God established rather than one that man has altered.

When Obedience Is Called Legalism

If examination is discouraged, one question remains: How is it discouraged?

One method repeatedly appears. The discussion is no longer centered upon the doctrine, but upon the person asking the question. A desire to examine the Scriptures carefully, to test a long-held teaching, or to obey a command of Christ is answered with a single accusation: legalism.

This accusation changes the discussion without answering it. The doctrine is no longer measured by the Scriptures. Instead, the desire to examine and obey the Scriptures becomes the issue. Yet the Scriptures repeatedly command believers to examine what they hear. We are told to "prove all things" (1 Thessalonians 5:21), to "test the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1), and to study the Scriptures carefully (2 Timothy 2:15). Examination, therefore, is not evidence of unbelief, but of obedience to God.

Yet this is not the pattern found in the Word of God.

Christ did not condemn obedience to His Father's commandments. He condemned those who *"lay aside the commandment of God"* in order to *"keep your own tradition"* (**Mark 7:8-9**).

He also said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* (**John 14:15**)

Likewise, the apostle John wrote, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* (**1 John 5:3**)

Obedience, therefore, is not legalism. It is the fruit of loving God.

Scripture consistently presents obedience as the evidence of faith, not its enemy. Christ warned that many who called Him "Lord" would be rejected because they practiced lawlessness rather than doing the will of His Father (**Matthew 7:21-23**). The danger

presented by Scripture is never that believers may become too obedient to God, but that they may become comfortable with disobedience while believing themselves to be secure.

Legalism is often used today as an accusation against those who seek to obey God's commandments carefully and completely. According to modern dictionaries, a "legalistic" person is one who is very strict or very concerned with rules and details. If those rules and details are the commandments of God, then Scripture repeatedly calls believers to exactly that kind of careful obedience. Christ said, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments*" (**John 14:15**). He also commanded His disciples to teach believers to observe "*all things whatsoever I have commanded you*" (**Matthew 28:20**). Scripture never condemns careful obedience to God's revealed commands. Instead, it repeatedly condemns lawlessness, the traditions of men that nullify God's commandments, and every attempt to add to, subtract from, or alter what God has spoken.

Throughout Scripture, God has never accepted approximate obedience. He has always required His people to follow His revealed pattern. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire, but not according to God's command. Saul obeyed much of what God commanded, yet spared what God had commanded him to destroy. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it. Uzzah reached out to steady the ark contrary to God's instructions. In each case, the failure was not outright rejection of God, but falling short of complete obedience to His Word. Partial obedience remained disobedience because it departed from the pattern God had established.

The same principle is seen throughout God's creation. A manufacturer does not produce a perfect product by following only part of the blueprint. A computer program cannot function correctly if portions of its code are omitted, altered, or replaced. Even one incorrect instruction can produce an entirely different result. Likewise, God is forming His people according to the perfect image of Christ. Every command He has given contributes

to that work. Every omission, every addition, and every alteration produces something different from the pattern He intended.

To confuse careful obedience with legalism is therefore to confuse two very different things. Scripture does not condemn those who diligently obey God's commandments. It condemns those who replace God's commandments with human traditions, those who alter His Word, and those who practice lawlessness by falling short of what God has commanded. Where God has spoken, faith does not negotiate, approximate, or redefine. It simply obeys.

When obedience is treated as legalism, the church is no longer encouraged to ask, "What saith the Scripture?" Instead, believers may become hesitant to examine, hesitant to question, and hesitant to obey where correction is needed. Scripture encourages correction, reproof, and instruction in righteousness (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). If doctrine may be corrected by the Word of God, then believers must remain willing both to examine their own beliefs and to receive biblical correction when it is warranted.

The issue before the church is not whether obedience should be avoided just because we do not understand it or because we feel we have a good excuse, but whether every doctrine and every practice can be established by the Word of God. Where God has spoken, faith submits. Where God has not spoken, man has no authority to bind the conscience. Every believer therefore bears the responsibility to test what he has been taught by the written Word of God rather than accepting a doctrine merely because it is familiar, inherited, or widely believed.

The Gray Area Church

A gray area is not created because God has failed to speak. It is created when what God has spoken is no longer pursued to its biblical conclusion.

Not every unanswered question is evidence of error. Some matters require time, study, and spiritual growth. The danger begins when the search itself comes to an end while the question remains.

The church is commanded to search the Scriptures, prove all things, and test every spirit. These commands assume that God has revealed truth and that His people are responsible for seeking it. When that responsibility is replaced by contentment with uncertainty, what should have been resolved by Scripture remains unresolved.

That is the condition of a gray area church.

It is not identified by its name, its size, or its denomination. It is identified wherever doctrines are allowed to remain uncertain or in gray areas without a continued desire to examine them by the Word of God.

Some appeal to tradition, others appeal to consensus, others appeal to peace and most conclude that no one can truly know.

Whatever the reason, the result is the same. The examination ends before the Scriptures have finished speaking.

The apostles did not leave the churches in that condition. They reasoned from the Scriptures, corrected error, answered objections, and exhorted believers to continue growing in the knowledge of Christ. Their purpose was not simply to preserve harmony, but to bring the church into *"the unity of the faith"* (***Ephesians 4:13***).

The church therefore fulfills its calling, not by defending uncertainty, but by continually submitting every doctrine, every

practice, and every tradition to the authority of the written Word of God.

The Cost of Leaving the Pattern

Throughout the Scriptures, departures from God's revealed pattern are often presented as small changes. Yet their consequences reveal that no departure from God's will is truly insignificant.

The serpent did not deny that God had spoken. He questioned and altered what God had said, introducing uncertainty where there had been clarity (**Genesis 3:1-5**). The temptation succeeded because the command itself was no longer received exactly as God had given it.

Nadab and Abihu offered fire before the LORD, but *"which he commanded them not"* (**Leviticus 10:1**). Their worship was directed toward the true God, yet it departed from His revealed instruction.

King Saul spared Agag and preserved the best of the spoil, believing his actions could still honor God. Samuel answered, *"To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams"* (**1 Samuel 15:22**). Partial obedience was still disobedience because it departed from what God had commanded.

Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark when it appeared to be falling (**2 Samuel 6:6-7**). His intention may have seemed honorable, yet God had already revealed how the ark was to be carried. Good intentions did not replace God's instructions.

In the days of Christ, the Pharisees continued to worship, pray, fast, and teach. Yet Christ rebuked them because they had *"made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition"* (**Matthew 15:6**). Their greatest error was not that they rejected God outright, but that they elevated human tradition alongside His Word.

These accounts reveal a consistent principle. The danger has never been limited to open rebellion. More often, it begins with a small

departure from God's revealed pattern. What appears insignificant to man is never insignificant when God has spoken.

For this reason, no doctrine should be accepted merely because the difference appears small. Every teaching deserves to be measured carefully against the whole counsel of God, for faithfulness is demonstrated not only in the great matters of Scripture, but also in the careful preservation of all that God has revealed.

The Verdict

This study has not sought to defend a denomination, promote a tradition, or win an argument. Its purpose has been to ask a single question:

Has God revealed a pattern worthy of preserving?

If He has, then every disciple bears the responsibility of examining every doctrine, every practice, and every tradition by the authority of His Word.

The Bereans were commended because they *"searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (**Acts 17:11**).

Jude exhorted believers to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"* (**Jude 3**).

Paul instructed the church to *"prove all things; hold fast that which is good"* (**1 Thessalonians 5:21**).

These commands were not given only to teachers, but to the people of God.

The question, therefore, is not whether a teaching has existed for centuries, how many hold it, or how sincerely it is believed. The question is whether it agrees with the Scriptures.

Where the Word of God speaks plainly, faith has no authority to alter, diminish, or expand what He has revealed. Where correction is needed, humility requires us to receive it. Where truth has been preserved, it should be held firmly and passed faithfully to the next generation.

The preservation of God's revealed pattern is not an exercise in legalism. It is an expression of reverence toward the One who has spoken.

May every reader follow the example of the Bereans, continuing to search the Scriptures with an honest heart, willing to abandon

every tradition that cannot be sustained by the written Word of God, and willing to embrace every truth that God has revealed.

"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." Psalm 119:89.

Final Consideration

Throughout this study, one truth has appeared again and again.

God has never asked His people to build their faith upon uncertainty, tradition, or majority opinion. From Genesis to Revelation, He has revealed His will, established His pattern, and called His people to walk in it.

The greatest danger facing the church is not always open rebellion against God. More often, it is becoming comfortable with questions that God has already answered, allowing doctrines to remain in gray areas because they have become familiar, popular, or inconvenient to examine.

The issue is therefore not whether a teaching has existed for centuries, nor whether sincere people believe it. The question is whether it can be established by the whole counsel of God.

Every believer will one day stand before Christ. On that day, our traditions will not judge us. Our denominations will not judge us. The opinions of respected teachers will not judge us. The written Word of God will stand as the standard by which every life is measured.

For that reason, do not be satisfied with inherited beliefs simply because they are common. Search the Scriptures. Test every spirit. Prove every doctrine. Hold fast only to what God has revealed.

If this study has exposed an area that requires further examination, do not ignore it. Continue searching until the Scriptures have spoken. Where God has made something clear, let your life agree with Him. Where correction is needed, receive it with humility. Where truth is found, hold it firmly, regardless of the cost.

The gray area church is not overcome by stronger opinions. It is overcome when believers return to the authority of God's Word and refuse to stop searching until His revealed pattern becomes their own.

May we never settle for what is almost right when God has
spoken plainly.

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

John 17:17

For in the end, the question will not be whether we sincerely
followed religion.

It will be whether we faithfully followed Christ.

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.

