

Welcome to Thine Universal Church of the Holy Spirit

I am the worst sinner because I disobeyed God and led a sinful life, and I will always regard myself as the least among others who sin. However, I chose to repent for all my sins with godly sorrow, in tears and shame for disappointing my Creator; I turned away from sin and received forgiveness and salvation from God by the blood of Jesus Christ. I was redeemed and claimed by Christ with a grace that is powerful enough to forgive any sin! God has shown me great love, mercy, and kindness, which has deepened my faith and love of Him. God saved me because He loves me; we are all His children. Our Father is our Creator and the King of the Universe, and I'd like to share my personal path to salvation.

I wrote these discourses for my family, friends, and anyone else interested in learning about the Word of God, my path to redemption of sin, and the key to finding eternal life. I desire to live forever, and I want my entire family to join me; this is a desire of most Christians. I'm not attempting to convert atheists, nonbelievers, and those of other faiths, but I'd like everyone to read my testimony; they can choose what to believe. One lesson of the Gospel is that God is pro-choice in all things; that means anyone and everyone are free to reject everything I believe in and choose their path. I'm a servant of the Lord; my duty is to share my testimony as a pattern for other sinners that feel they're beyond redemption and salvation. My goal is to shorten and smooth out the path to salvation and the kingdom of heaven for other sinners; mine was rocky.

Luke 5:31-32

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

I want to help other believers who are seeking God and a path to forgiveness for sin and salvation. My words are not intended for my brothers and sisters in Christ who hear the same Shepherd's voice. I rely on the Gospel, using the words of Jesus Christ as my doctrine and voice, highlighting the key points and important scripture. I always pray for guidance and understanding when I read something I don't comprehend. It's important to pay close attention to repeated words and themes within scripture. Adultery is a commandment and a sin that God consistently condemns and hates over other sexual sins because it destroys and separates families. I don't judge those who have sinned more than I have, and I humble myself before those who have sinned less. No person would want to be judged by corrupt people who sin or commit crimes. Jesus Christ is the ONLY One who can judge our sin righteously, because He can read our hearts and minds to determine the truth without error; He is the perfect judge to execute justice.

Romans 3:23—for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We all have sinned and face certain death unless we repent for our sins and obtain forgiveness and salvation from Jesus Christ before we die! I choose life! I'm ashamed and embarrassed, and most importantly, I'm remorseful about my past life and my sins; I know my wicked deeds outweighed the good ones.

I was destined for the judgment and punishment of God. My first sin was taking lunch money from a classmate at Bethlehem Lutheran Elementary School in third grade. My father, a police officer who spoke to children in schools about drugs, was embarrassed when he found out. I'll never forget that first whooping. Shamefully, I was an occasional thief until I repented at the age of 46. I called out to God and began praying when the consequences of my sins became evident. I started reading the Bible, but I struggled to understand it.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Universal Church teaches that Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they're approved by Jesus Christ and that it's not an automatic spiritual event at baptism for everyone, but it can be if Jesus knows you're ready. I was one of the believers who were not yet prepared to receive the Gift. I was baptized in 2009 at Macedonia Baptist Church in Temple, Texas. I wasn't expecting anything to happen when I was submerged under the water, but I knew that I'd made a commitment to God to be a real Christian, which is much easier to say than to do! It took me fifteen years to learn that emotions, like excessive anger, pride, and hubris, are also sins. Sin repels the Holy Spirit and leaves the soul vulnerable to influence, manipulation, and even possession by evil. To walk with Christ, who is sinless, a Christian must also be sinless. This truth is repeated in the scriptures.

1 John 5:18

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

Baptism is one of the five essential steps to salvation for Christians, yet I did not fully grasp its significance at the time of my baptism. Religion has always been a part of my life. I grew up in a Baptist church but also attended a Lutheran elementary school and a Catholic high school, where I participated in school Mass as a requirement, which was particularly confusing since I wasn't Catholic.

I never felt compelled to join our church during my youth, and I am grateful that I waited until I truly understood the meaning of baptism. My past experiences with Christianity mainly revolved around dressing up and attending church for two hours on Sundays. In fact, in the past 47 years, I've only gone to church one year, when I was baptized. I was seeking God to help resolve my life problems when I met and married a Christian woman, but I left the church after a year; like many believers, I fell away when my life issues persisted. I didn't understand why I faced so many challenges and setbacks, unaware that my lack of knowledge about God and the Bible was my error. Now that I've read and studied it, I realize that I never walked the righteous path after baptism, and I continued to sin. I was expecting God to help solve my problems and bless me when I was the main reason that He couldn't help me because I held on to my old ways. God will not answer your prayers or help you if you continue to disobey Him. Would you?

1 Corinthians 2:13

These things we also speak, **not in words which man's wisdom teaches** but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

I chose to skip reading the Bible and instead explored other religious texts, such as the Book of Mormon and various writings from the Apocrypha. I was starting to identify as "spiritual," yet I still believed in God as our Creator. I was on a quest for answers and truths, convinced that I had the insight to comprehend God's mind and creation. I was naive and foolish! I was using information that I discovered outside of the Bible to attack its credibility. In one heated debate with my wife, I said some things about the Bible that were shameful and wrong. When I began to study the scriptures and learned of my error, I prayed and repented in tears for all of the mistakes and assumptions I had made about God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. Many of those errors were from old church doctrines I was taught about sin and the law. I'm pro-life personally and pro-choice for everyone else. The death penalty never made sense to me even before I became a Christian and I've known that some people are attracted to the same sex since I was 12.

My greatest error after baptism was my ignorance of God's law and what He requires of all believers: obedience, if we choose to follow Christ. I wasted many years floundering in my faith because I didn't read the Bible and instead read other books. I continued living in sin, weighed down by selfish emotions such as hubris, pride, ego, arrogance, and anger. In 2023, God exposed the corruption within me that I had been blind to, forcing me to confront my mistakes. As a result, I lost my garden of Eden and my home, growing increasingly distant from my family, friends, and wife. However, God opened a door and set me on a righteous path. First, He had to humble me, revealing how wrong I was about everything I believed regarding Him, Jesus Christ, salvation, and the Messianic kingdom. God brought me to my knees in repentance, shame, regret, and humility. I committed to studying the Word of God fifteen years after my baptism, in March 2024, when my education by the Holy Spirit truly began.

I spent countless hours reading Bible scripture every day. To be honest, I struggled at first and didn't know where to begin. However, after praying to God for guidance and understanding, I began by reading the Gospels, Proverbs, Psalms, the Prophets, and the New Testament. I found an online resource, <https://www.biblegateway.com>, which allowed me to access every version of the Bible with just a click; I chose the NKJV as my family Bible. This invaluable tool enables me to display biblical text on a large monitor for easier reading, as I have old eyes. It felt like I was praying to God every day for clarity when I encountered passages of scripture I didn't understand. Somehow, I was guided to answers in scripture for nearly every question I posed for clarification and explanation, I'm so grateful for the Holy Spirit who helped me. It was like following a trail of breadcrumbs up a mountain; each day brought me closer to the summit, but, I also know that we never stop learning as Christians who love to read the Bible.

Acts 5:32

And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

I'm a humble servant of the Lord, and I view myself as the least among sinners, redeemed and forgiven by the loving grace of Jesus Christ and the mercy of God. I do not claim to be a messiah, savior, or prophet. I do not hear voices in my head, nor have I experienced visitations in dreams or in person. My gift is to teach the Gospel of Christ by relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reveal what I need to see, read, and understand. I pray for truth and wisdom daily to help me understand scripture as God intends it. He answered my prayers by guiding me to the answers I sought. There have been times when I read the same verses multiple times without grasping their meanings; then one day, the same scripture suddenly becomes relevant, and the meaning is clear. Over the past two years, I have been reading and studying the NKJV Bible every day, and I continue to uncover new insights, lessons, and hidden wisdom each day.

You'll learn that prayer unlocks the ability to read the Bible as if it were an ordinary text. It has become my favorite book, rich with hidden messages, wisdom, and valuable lessons on how we should conduct ourselves as Christians. In many ways, the Bible serves as a treasure map, leading us to unimaginable peace, joy, and eternal life—realities that we have yet to fully comprehend. We can see that God appreciates beauty, as evidenced by the splendor, complexity, and artistry of creation. He's promised us eternal life in the Messianic kingdom, a Garden of Eden, appointed for those who love and obey God and then in the New Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit is the key for the living and dead to enter the first kingdom. The remaining dead will be judged after 1,000 years by Christ. The souls who are written in the Book of Life will enter the New Jerusalem kingdom.

The Bible is our guide for living the Christian life as Jesus Christ intended, utilizing parables, metaphors, and allegories to convey the Word of God. Visual stories are not restricted by language barriers. The Gospel of Christ teaches believers that to attain a greater inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, we will have to make personal sacrifices during our lives on earth. However, most people like me will choose immediate gratification instead of having the patience, will, and self-discipline needed to achieve something far greater. My life story is that I was impatient, impulsive, undisciplined, and unwilling to be righteous and good.

I was taught in church that after we die, we go to heaven or hell; at least, that's what I remember from church. But my Bible study shows that my beliefs about heaven and hell were wrong. The Bible does not depict Hell in the way it is often portrayed, and I learned that there are two judgments and two kingdoms, each with different requirements for entry. The Messianic kingdom is a gift and our reward for obedience to God, so you must know the laws of God and cease from the sins you repent for. The Scriptures repeat over and over that if we love God, we have to obey His commandments and love one another as Christ loved us.

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We know the types of people who will not inherit the kingdom from these verses. The temporary Messianic kingdom will be established on earth right after the tribulations, following the binding of Satan and his companions in the pit for 1,000 years. This kingdom is the one Jesus mentioned when He told His disciples that He would drink wine with them again. The meek inherit the earth!

Matthew 26:29

But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.

Jesus gave clues about the type of bodies we will possess in His kingdom by showing the disciples His wounds. They were able to touch and feel Him.

Luke 24:36-43

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

Jesus also showed us that we will be able to eat food in our new bodies

John 21:12-13

Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

It shouldn't surprise Christians that we will be restored as God designed us.

Revelation 2:7

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

The first father and mother, Adam and Eve, were created to live forever and never experience death. They consumed food and communicated directly with God. After being cut off from access to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, Adam lived for nearly 1,000 years. However, with each successive generation from Adam, human lifespans decreased. This scripture indicates that we will be like Adam and Eve and will need to eat from the Tree of Life to sustain our new bodies. The sealed members of the Church with the Holy Spirit, both living and dead, are the Christians who will inherit the Messianic kingdom. The only other way to enter the kingdom is by martyrdom for Jesus Christ. It will be a new Garden of Eden and our home for 1,000 years as a reward for blind faith in Christ, obedience to God, loving one another, and overcoming sin in the flesh.

Ezekiel 43:7

And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.

Revelation 20 describes that Satan will be bound and sealed during the reign of Christ, a period of rest symbolized by the 7th day, which corresponds to 1,000 years in celestial time, designated for the elect people of God. The phrase "Messianic kingdom" refers to the rule of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as our King, Lord, and Savior. Some biblical scholars believe that this period lasts for 600 years, while others reference texts that suggest it is 400 years.

The second kingdom, known as the New Jerusalem, will descend to earth after the first has concluded. In this kingdom, God and the Lamb will be our light, and sin will be eradicated from the world. I don't want to go into too much detail, but I do want to share my beliefs, the love of God, the promise of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, and eternal life in paradise. What do I mean by paradise? God will establish a new Garden of Eden in the land promised to Abraham and his descendants, on a desolate earth, following the tribulations and the wrath of God.

I wish I had been taught everything that I know now, as a youth, or maybe I didn't pay attention to the sermons and lessons. I always assumed that righteous Christians would be raptured at the end of days and taken to heaven, while everyone else would face judgment and end up in either heaven or hell. Learning that the Messianic kingdom would be on earth surprised me, but scripture is clear.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 describes the types of people who will NOT enter the kingdom after death. **Who is allowed into this kingdom?** Another well-known Bible verse identifies the type of person who will inherit this kingdom and live on earth.

Matthew 5:5, "Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth."

When I want to learn the meaning of a word, I Google it and look at the top results, comparing the definitions. I really love this AI definition of "meek."

"a person who is gentle, humble, and patient, displaying quiet strength and self-control rather than harshness or arrogance. Often misunderstood as weak or timid, true meekness is considered a form of controlled, submissive power "strength under control"—that enables calm forbearance under provocation."

Self-control is the most important trait, and the reason is straightforward.

Obedience to any law, person, or God requires self-control. Most of our sinful acts are committed in the darkness, hidden from the eyes of others. My mistakes and sins stemmed from a lack of self-control and discipline; when I encountered an opportunity to profit and believed I could evade the consequences of my actions, I would seize it. I was capable of behaving properly when the spotlight was on me, and during those times, I accomplished many good things. Like many others, my sins eventually caught up to me, and I ran to God to help me. When I was baptized, I had no doubt that God was real, and I understood that He would observe everything I do, know my every thought, and that nothing I do is ever concealed from Him. This new Christian awareness enabled me to stop sinning in the shadows and strive to become a righteous person and servant of the Lord.

John 14:21

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

I've learned that the only way to truly express our love of God in the way that He desires and rewards is by obedience to His laws. God commands us to love and obey Him by following His commandments in **Deuteronomy 30:15–18**. I am a new Christian compared to many others, but I have been a believer my entire life. One Bible lesson that has always stayed with me is that God is love to all of His children who love and obey Him and that everything good comes from Him. Furthermore, Jesus reinforces what love means under the New Covenant.

John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John repeats this same theme, obedience to the law is how we show our love.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

The laws of God are not burdensome or difficult to obey. The Ten Commandments form the foundation of these laws. When a disciple asks which commandments we should follow, Jesus Christ clearly indicates which ones we should obey.

Matthew 19:18-19

Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

The Ten Commandments are the foundation of Christian law and the Gospel. Jesus Christ expanded on the old laws, such as saying we are to love one another as He loved us and not just our neighbor. He taught us that we don't kill people for their sin and that we should learn to forgive them as Jesus forgave us. The ability to love the stranger in need is one way we identify the followers of Christ.

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Paul instructed the disciples to teach the gospel exactly as they were taught. God knew the Gospel would sound foolish to people who seek to attack it and tear it down; to us, it's the power of God! Paul would never condemn another believer to death for their sin because he was taught that we forgive other sinners by the example of Jesus Christ. Paul did not endorse the death penalty in **Romans 13:4**.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Joining the body of Christ and becoming a Christian is like joining any other group, organization, team, club, or workplace; there are rules that must be followed for membership. Obedience to the law is how we show our love to God.

2 Timothy 2:5

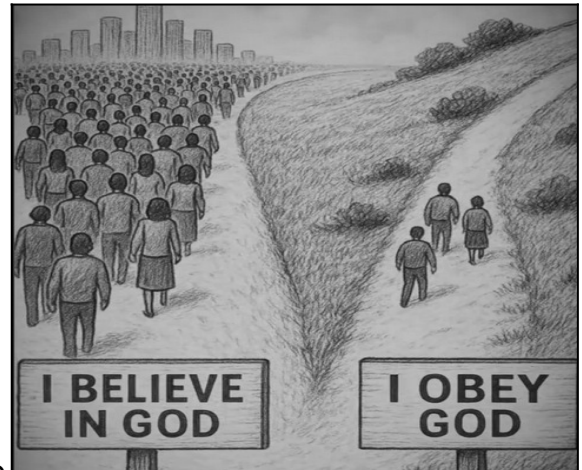
And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

This picture illustrates the reality of the Christian life and why so few will be saved. Belief in God or Jesus is simply not enough to obtain salvation; it's a 5-step process. The Christians who can cease from sin in the flesh walk the righteous path into the kingdom.

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

Numerous scriptures express that obedience to God's commandments demonstrates our love for Him. God, Jesus, and the apostles repeat this theme because it's so important to obey, to love God above everything. In the past, I believed, but I didn't genuinely fear God or the consequences of my sins; I ignored God, until I needed Him to save me.



You cannot claim that you truly love God if you continue in sin and disobey Him. Christianity and service to the body of Christ are voluntary commitments, like the military. You are NOT drafted or forced to be a Christian. I was in the recruitment process for the Air Force when I got caught stealing and was facing jailtime for felony theft; they dropped me like a hot potato. My father was the chief of police and worked out a deal with the judge for me to join the military or go to jail. I chose the Marines over the Army; the Navy wouldn't take me either and served for 10 years. It was the best decision I ever made, with jail as the alternative. The moment I stepped off the bus at 1am at MCRD San Diego for boot camp, I became subject to their rules and laws and became their property. Joining the military was still a choice, but I wasn't quite ready to conform to their ways. I brought some of my old habits with me and broke their law, the UCMJ. I suffered the consequences and lost rank, respect, and lots of money. However, I learned from my mistakes and finished my career as a competent Marine and a combat veteran with an honorable discharge. I owe everything I am today to the God I serve, my mother and father, and the United States Marine Corps!

Becoming a Christian is similar to joining the military in one special way. You still live among civilians, but now you have separate laws that you must follow to wear the uniform and represent your country. When you decide to become a Christian and wear the cross, you have to obey the rules! Being a Christian in a world filled with sin and all types of temptations such as pornography, easy access to sexual partners, and social media can be challenging. For most people the rules around sexual immorality, monogamy and celibacy, are the hardest to obey, idolatry is celebrated, and lying is punished only when you're under oath.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Marines are required to adhere to dress codes and conduct standards, whether in uniform or not, 24/7. I strive to live my new Christian life in the same way, as if God were observing me at all times. If you decide to become a Christian, the understanding that nothing is hidden from God should inspire you to refrain from sinning. Believing in an invisible God truly requires the faith of a child, especially during that first time you kneel alone in a quiet room and pray to God for forgiveness of your sins. I know that He is real without needing to read the Bible by simply observing His creation. Human beings can never fully grasp the thoughts, mind, or ways of their Creator. We are like ants attempting to build a car in our effort to understand God and why He does what He does. He's God, our Savior, King, teacher, guide, confidant, and friend, and I love Him as a father.

When you decide you're ready to embrace the teachings of God by following the Ten Commandments, the Gospel, and the Golden Rule, you embark on your journey with Christ toward salvation and eternal life in His kingdom. I chose to be a Christian because I desire to live forever with my Creator and, ideally, with my entire family. The first step toward God begins with a heartfelt prayer. When you pray, do so aloud—not for God's sake, but so you can hear your own words. Now you're on record with God; He already knows your heart and mind, capturing every word, thought, and action since your first breath, so you must speak the truth in prayer. You can't lie to God; your prayers are when you bare your soul to Him and admit to ALL your sins, not just the ones you choose. NEVER lie to God! You must remember the sin you're repenting for and acknowledge the hurt, harm, or pain that you caused by your words, actions, and deeds. When you pray to God, treat every thought as if it were public information, He knows your thoughts the instant you give birth to them. God is our Creator, the Builder, and Potter who formed us; we are His creations. Our Father, like most fathers, experiences pain and sorrow because His children reject, disobey, and deny Him.

Romans 9:20

But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"

What if you created children who deny, curse, mock, disobey, and ignore you? What would you do? Would you choose to destroy them and start over? God was angry that humans became wicked and violent beings, and He chose to destroy mankind, sparing only a few to repopulate the earth after the great flood. Then, when the sacrifice of animals for sin became corrupted, God created a new way to save us from the death we deserved for sin: by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

My mother always had a calendar hanging on the wall in the kitchen where we could easily see it. Every date on the calendar was filled with tasks—her to-do list for our family and the church—while she worked long hours as an elementary school teacher. I remember that she stayed up most nights grading papers or completing other school-related tasks; she was truly a working woman. My mother never complained and often wore herself out, thanks in part to my antics and troubles. After she retired, one might expect her calendar to be filled with empty days and plenty of free time; however, she simply took on more work for the church and the community. My mother served others in a way that always reflected the teachings of Jesus Christ, and I was amazed by her energy and ability to get things done also while caring for our family.

Now I understand why she served God with such joy and enthusiasm as a devoted servant. When you walk with the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ becomes your endless source of strength and energy as a born-again Christian. Every person has a spiritual gift from God, which is revealed as you begin your journey with Christ. My mother dedicated her time and resources to serve the church and her community, helping those in need because of her love for God. While I have the ability to teach, I struggle with afflictions and anxieties that keep me behind a computer when I speak. I prefer smaller gatherings and tend to avoid crowds, enjoying time with my wife and dog instead. I teach the Gospel of Christ as I was taught and have left my testimony of faith for my family church and for others to read if they wish. Although my mother and I possess different spiritual gifts, we are both members of the same body, the Church, with Jesus Christ as the Head. How we serve the Lord with our gifts is guided by the Holy Spirit within us. When this happens for you, you'll serve God with a joyful heart and endless energy.

One of the most common initial questions asked by new believers is.

Do I have to go to church every Sunday? No, it's a personal decision, not a law.

Matthew 18:19-20

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

A church requires at least two people who love God to gather for praise and worship, but you can always pray and worship God alone in the privacy of your home at any time. This could also include two people talking on the phone or connecting on social media. Any Christian church should feel like home, a place where you feel welcomed, wanted, and loved. Attending church every Sunday should never feel compulsory or mandatory; it should be a joyful gathering for worshipping God, enjoying fellowship, and taking communion. Baptism is another sacrament that Christians practice. If you do not experience real joy, love, and happiness while praising God in church, you should consider leaving to find another church where you feel welcomed and can sense God's presence.

Matthew 7:13

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Christians are either saved and walk with the Holy Spirit, or they are on the path to salvation. The illustration on page 8 represents both groups. The individuals on the left are those who believe in God but continue to sin, while the three people on the right path are obedient to God and do not sin; they are the very few who are approved and redeemed by Christ and will inherit the kingdom. If I were to use a military metaphor for these three individuals, they would represent the Special Forces, Navy SEALs, Recon, and Army Rangers—the best of the best, the elite, the few in our military. Being a Christian is not difficult according to the man-made definitions we've created; however, it is much more challenging to become a saved Christian who is approved by Christ and accepted as a member of His body. He promised us eternal life if we obey Him, but like the elite military units, Christians have stricter rules and laws that we submit to voluntarily.

The individuals on the left path are Christians who will be left behind because they were unprepared for the return of Jesus Christ. Upon their death, they will 'sleep' until the final judgment of God after 1,000 years, then Christ will weigh their righteous deeds against their unrighteous ones. These Christians who were not raptured will be judged alongside all unbelievers and followers of other faiths. God seeks those few who would rather die than sin, disobey Him, and forfeit their reward of eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. True Christianity is defined by Jesus Christ in the Gospel; Paul serves as my example of a servant and teacher of the Gospel. I expect to suffer in this life as a Christian and understand that I will face constant attacks from the ruler of this world and his disciples.

You must obey God to be a Christian who can overcome sin in the flesh and the evils of this world. If you can cease from sin and attain salvation, Jesus Christ will welcome you into the body of Christ as an approved member of the Church. You will receive the Holy Spirit as your personal guide and teacher, leading you in all aspects of life. With the Helper, you will gain the ability to cease from sin because you will know, love, and obey God. When you are born again and become a new creature in Christ, you'll begin the work God has appointed for you. You won't question whether you need to attend church or how to serve Christ on earth. The Holy Spirit will direct your path and order your steps, ensuring you have everything necessary to live, thrive, and fulfill God's plan and purpose for you. These are my personal experiences, faith, and the example set by my mother, a devoted servant of God. When you walk with Jesus as a member of His Church you will no longer sin or be tempted to sin because you know the kingdom is real.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

My online discussions have taught me that I share many of the same complaints and criticisms with atheists about Christianity and God. In the past two years, I have gained 90% of my knowledge about my faith by reading the Bible every day without any interpretation or teachings from others. The Bible was meant to be read and understood by everyone, and that is why Jesus used so many parables to teach us about the law. Visual images and stories speak for themselves.

I once responded to an atheist who claimed that one doesn't need a god to be a decent person, and I found myself agreeing with her. I explained that the Bible teaches that God will punish Christians who sin more severely than atheists who commit similar offenses because the Christian knowingly breaks the law, whereas the atheist is not bound by it. While the atheist will still face judgment for their sins, the Christian's deliberate disobedience to God constitutes an additional serious violation. The Christian can repent for their sins in prayer, but how many times can someone repent and be remorseful for the same sin? The sins committed by Christians will carry the heaviest weight on the scales of judgment.

Our God embodies choice and free will so we can be judged or rewarded based on our own decisions and choices, and not other people. Christianity at its core is a choice and not something that can be imposed or forced upon anyone. We are commanded to share the true gospel of Christ with those who are open to listening and accepting the message. God seeks the few who are prepared to make sacrifices in this life in order to inherit a kingdom and eternal life in the next. Whatever the sin you've committed; God's grace is sufficient to forgive you!

Can you practice monogamy if married or in a union? Or celibacy if you're single?

Can you commit to never lying or stealing from anyone?

Can you display your love of Jesus Christ by your actions, words, and deeds?

Can you see through the flesh and learn to love the spirit within all peoples?

Can you obey God and commit to righteousness and truth?

The Sabbath was designed as a day of rest for humanity after six days of work, meant for worshiping, honoring, and praising God. You can choose any day as your Sabbath; that's what I teach based on this scripture. While some Christian churches may debate this topic, I do not. God has commanded us to set aside one day out of seven as a holy day of rest from our labors. Some people must work on Saturday or Sunday so that Christians can go to their church. The specific day you select for your Sabbath is less important than how you observe it. God wants you to focus your heart and mind on Him on this holy day.

Romans 14:5-6

One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes *it to the Lord*; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*.

2 Corinthians 3:4-6

And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

If you don't want to be a Christian and think this is your only life, pursue earthly joys, pleasures, and wealth; you made your choice. Christianity is for those who can love, obey, and serve God and the true Church, the body of Christ. The Bible verse above labels the old covenant as the 'letter' (of the law) that kills, while the new covenant is described as the 'spirit' (of the law) that gives life. This passage is a beautiful scripture that addresses the Christian law we should obey. If you read verses 7-11, Paul refers to the old law as a *ministry of condemnation and death*, while the new law is a *ministry of the Spirit and righteousness*. These are accurate descriptions of both. Jesus Christ is our authority under the new law.

I believe that I know the true Gospel of Christ and the Word of God. Thine Universal Church is a church of the Holy Spirit, and I teach as I was taught, serving God as a minister of the gospel. I know that many people label Christianity as a foolish cult and attack the Bible for any inaccuracy. Everyone debates over its words and interpretations; I prefer to let others judge what I've learned, comparing and testing it against other doctrine. My path to salvation was long and rocky and didn't involve attending church every Sunday. I committed myself to developing a personal relationship with Father God through repentance, Bible study, and daily prayer. Prayer is how we deepen our understanding of the Gospel by asking God to help us; I can ask Him anything. Without praying for answers and guidance, the words may sound like foolishness, as they did for me.

My discourses and statement of faith reflect everything I've learned about God. I know that I'm not a good writer or speaker; I use AI tools to help me. I feel that most people will be able to understand my simple words because I strive to communicate my experiences and beliefs in a relatable manner. I do my best to speak clearly, and I'm getting better at writing my thoughts. My story is that I was a wretched sinner who found salvation by faith and the grace of Jesus Christ. I was sealed with the Holy Spirit, my Helper, for repenting for sin and for my love, obedience, and service to God; His everlasting mercy saved me from death.

I can't place myself above any other sinner, including those who are learning to obey God while still struggling with sin, because I was one of them for 15 years after my baptism. My great error was not committing to reading the Bible and learning about salvation and God, but I chose to obey the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule and prayed daily. What I didn't realize is that there are other behaviors that God also sees as sin. Emotions like anger, pride, hubris, hate, and ego prevent us from uniting with the Holy Spirit. I still had a temper and would curse when I became frustrated or upset, and I didn't place God first in my life. Hopefully my mistakes will help others avoid the same pitfalls and snares.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves the evil person.

I love the guidance and wisdom of Paul in all of my discussions. He serves as a model for me as a teacher of the gospel, and his words resonate with the power of God. After his conversion, Paul studied the scriptures, receiving instruction from the Holy Spirit before Barnabas mentored him. As Saul, he was educated by the esteemed Jewish teacher Gamaliel and in many respects was ideally suited to teach the gospel due to his vast understanding of both Jewish and Christian law. However, it is important to note that Jews and Christians also lived under the laws of the land, which included Romans, Greeks, and barbarians. Additionally, society at that time was extremely patriarchal. For the law of God, I draw from the same source as Paul: Jesus Christ, who has complete authority over sin and judgment.

The laws within the Ten Commandments and the Gospel of Christ remain relevant in every age and generation. It's important to note that neither of these prescribes any punishments for violations of Christian law. Under the old covenant, established over 3,000 years ago, the Mosaic law condemned and sentenced individuals to death for various sins that we no longer punish today. However, I know that Paul would not have condemned an adulterer to death, as he was taught by the Gospel as I was, which instructs Christians not to impose death sentences for sin. The authority over judgment and sin rests solely with Jesus Christ, who is a righteous judge and the only One capable of discerning the truth. We are under the new covenant of faith, love, and hope in Jesus Christ. Logic, common sense, and, most importantly, the gospel instruct us that Christians are called to follow the 'last words of God' spoken by our Savior.

Jews no longer stone adulterers to death because the law was updated and changed. Jesus Christ abolished the penalty of death for sin in **Matthew 5:38-39**, the Beatitudes, and the parable of the woman who was forgiven for adultery. Christians should never support the murder or execution of a prisoner who could serve a life sentence. These individuals should be provided the opportunity to seek salvation before they die a natural death. Additionally, executing them does not condemn them to hell, according to scripture, and they will face God's judgment regardless of when they die. Every Christian who loves Jesus Christ should oppose the 'death penalty' and not call it 'capital punishment'; it's murder.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 reveals that Christians who continue in sin are no different than unbelievers who also sin; they're both bad influences for Christians who are trying to become righteous. We're supposed to leave our old life and separate ourselves from our past influences, lusts, and desires. Sacrifices are necessary.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Christians do not have any mandate or authority to sentence another sinner to death. This conviction is grounded in the gospel and can easily be defended using the words of Christ. Christians who choose to use **Romans 13:4** as their justification for supporting the death penalty should learn the actual definition of "wrath," which is falsely used as a substitute for death. A ruler's "sword" can symbolize verbal authority through commands and punishments. However, a true minister of God who serves Jesus Christ does not carry out or endorse executions, even if they are sanctioned by our law. We believe in the sanctity of life and the possibility of redemption for all prisoners of sin. Capital punishment is not justice but retribution and revenge for murder and other crimes. We love our enemy.

I choose the words of Jesus Christ to understand what sin means under the new covenant. I'm new to Christianity, and I'm following the guidance of the Bible by reading the scriptures and not preconceived narratives or man-made doctrines. God has given us a valuable tool—our conscience—to help us to detect sin.

James 4:17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Cognitive empathy also helps us use the Golden Rule in our daily lives and helps Christians understand the choices, decisions, and actions made by others.

The death penalty is easy for me to oppose as a Christian, drawing on the teachings of Christ. However, it is more challenging to find scripture that supports LGBTQ+ rights, homosexuality, and gender identity. That was my assumption until I explored the Bible more deeply. I identified three examples of homosexual behavior in the scripture. In **Genesis 19**, the men of Sodom sought to rape Lot's two guests, who were angels, but were struck blind. In **Judges 19**, the men of Gibeah were depicted as violent, bisexual and abusive, with a desire to rape a man; instead, they were given his concubine, whom they raped and abused. The third example in **Romans 1** is used as the new covenant justification that homosexuality is a sin. The individuals described here are Satan worshippers—wicked people who have rejected God and are consumed by lust and vile passions. I agree that the sexual immorality represented by these examples is definitely a sin, 100%. There is no love found here, only lust and wickedness.

I learned by reading the gospel that love for one another is required to be elected and approved by Jesus Christ; that's the most important point! Without the ability to love, you cannot enter the kingdom. The choice to love another human being of the same sex in a monogamous union or marriage is never a sin. God blesses monogamy and celibacy for all of His children, including the gay ones He created. The biggest revelation I learned is that Jesus told us that people can be born gay! All I've ever heard is that being gay is a choice by opponents of LGBTQ+ rights.

Matthew 19:10-12

His disciples said to Him, “If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry. But He said to them, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.””

I have a high school grade education and technical military training. I’m not an educated man, scholar, or theologian, but I can read and comprehend most things if I read them enough times. In this scripture from Matthew, Jesus is describing the three types of eunuchs (men) who will not marry a woman. Jesus is speaking directly to anti-gay people by saying they won’t be able to accept his words. I don’t need anyone to interpret what a eunuch from the womb means; they can be gay, intersex, or have congenital deformities. Jesus and Paul didn’t have access to scientific data about DNA, hormones, and chromosomes that we have today. Jesus expected them to believe that homosexuality was a pagan sin of Gentiles. Jews were forbidden by God to participate in pagan sexual practices.

There aren’t any examples of two men living together in a monogamous, loving relationship in the Bible because it was against the law. But we have examples of gay couples today who have lifelong relationships. The only reason someone would know if two men who lived together were intimate and in love is if they told you or expressed their affection publicly. There is nothing wrong with two same-sex people living together for life. We actually have an example of two men in love, David and Jonathan, in **1 Samuel 18 & 19**; they love each other as their own souls, and they even kissed. It doesn’t mean they were intimate, but they kissed, and I doubt it was on the cheek, which was a common practice. What two people do in private is no one's business but their own. The examples of lewd and sexual behavior at gay pride parades are sinful, but so are heterosexual public displays of sexuality and lewd behavior. As Christians, we must follow the same rules.

People are born male, female, or intersex, and some are born gay and attracted to the same sex. This is why I don’t adhere to false church doctrine regarding this issue. I have a scientific mind and can accept what my Lord and Savior conveys in **Matthew 19:11-12**. I can’t imagine being forbidden to love the person I’m attracted to and being told it is a sin. My gay family member didn’t choose to be attracted to men; it’s simply who he is, it’s not a choice for him. However, I recognize that sexual preference can also stem from carnal choices, driven not by love but by lust and vile passions, as seen with the people of Sodom or the men of Gibeah. Christians should focus on discerning whether individuals are righteous or wicked, rather than their sexual orientation. We are not judged by our gender preference or sexual partners; we are judged by how we love our partners and companions and whether we are faithful and loyal. Christians are permitted to have one intimate partner if they choose. Monogamy is blessed; adultery is sin!

Luke 1:35-36

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.

Many Christian churches have misrepresented the existence of intersex individuals and the fact that some people are born gay. They claim that being homosexual or transgender is a choice; however, both scientific and biblical evidence supports the idea that some individuals are indeed born gay. A eunuch who is not attracted to women from birth would naturally be attracted to men if he experienced any sexual desire. Some believe eunuchs do not engage in sexual activity, but this notion is misleading when examining their sexual relationships. Christians seek righteousness in sinners who want to repent for their sins. While we do not dictate whom they can love as a requirement for church membership, we do require them to practice monogamy or celibacy if they desire salvation.

I'd like to finish up this discourse by emphasizing the importance of using **Luke 1** to define 'personhood' for a fetus and make one important point. God would never create a human spirit for a fetus that can be aborted, whether by pill or procedure. He doesn't make mistakes, and humans cannot thwart His divine plan. That is simply not possible. So when can a fetus receive its human spirit? I strongly believe we are predestined to live, and every fetus that dies in the womb and never breathes was meant to die. After researching online, I found that a fetus can begin to breathe on its own outside of the womb at 24 to 28 weeks. Before I understood the significance of **Luke 1**, I used 24 weeks as the point at which a fetus could receive its human spirit based on this scientific data.

When I read **Luke 1** for the 10th time, I realized that it suggests the earliest moment, at six months, when a fetus in the womb could receive a spirit. However, I want to clarify that John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, Jeremiah, and others were unique servants of God who also received the Holy Spirit in the womb. This miracle doesn't happen for every child. It's my opinion that there is no better description of personhood in the womb found in scripture. I have a pro-choice position on abortion up to 24 weeks and a pro-life stance after that point. My beliefs are based on scientific data, biblical scripture, and the knowledge that we do not truly live until we receive our breath of life from God. Our spirit of life is given by God at the first breath; we all receive it. God chose the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy to confer the Holy Spirit from Jesus through Mary to John in the womb, causing him to leap for joy in the womb. I stand on the scripture and reject that abortions are murder before the 24th week; after that it depends on the circumstances, but late term abortions could be charged as murder.

Why do some Christians impose their religious beliefs on those who do not share the same faith? Our laws are intended for Christians. Paul advised us not to concern ourselves with the affairs of those outside the church or faith.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

God will forgive your every sin if you bare your soul to Him in repentance through prayer. The blood of Jesus Christ can redeem any sinner from death. If you commit to obeying the Ten Commandments, the Gospel of Christ, and practicing the Golden Rule in your daily life, you can obtain salvation and the forgiveness of every sin. You will have a second chance to start over and live a new life in Christ. Of course, you will need to make sacrifices, as anyone seeking a greater reward must do. We strive to earn our crown of life, the Holy Spirit, from Christ during our lives. Eternal life in the kingdom of heaven—a world without sin, sickness, and death, spent with our Creator and Savior—is our ultimate reward. The alternative, for those who do not believe in God's promises, is death and darkness; existence ceases. The true laws of God are not burdensome or difficult to follow. It is the man-made doctrines, rules, and laws that complicate Christianity for new believers, often leading to confusion and discouragement in their faith journey. False Christian doctrine repels more people than it attracts.

If there is any time in our world history—especially with the rise of AI—to anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ and His kingdom, that time seems to be now! There has never been a better moment to become a true Christian and join the body of Christ. The church will be protected, fed, and sheltered during the tribulations; it will not endure suffering before being raptured when Christ comes to claim His followers and will be spared from the wrath of God.

I've used my personal path to salvation and my relationship with God as a model for other sinners who feel they are beyond redemption. These are the individuals I'm calling to come to the Lord in repentance and prayer, seeking salvation and eternal life in the kingdom of Heaven. Paul serves as my example as a teacher, and I hope my testimony can help you seek and find God. Please read them; that's my only desire. I recommend starting with my Prayer and Repentance discourse, but feel free to read them at your convenience or not at all.

Christ is the Head of the Church, and the Holy Spirit unites us as one body. Jesus alone approves and elects members of His church. He serves as our high priest and king, guiding each member's steps by the Holy Spirit. When you join His Church, your spiritual gift will be revealed. I have always found fulfillment in being an instructor and assisting others. I'm also seeking my brothers and sisters in Christ with the same Spirit and beliefs to prepare for the times.

Thine Universal Church welcomes everyone to join the body of Christ, the Church.

Scripture List

Jeremiah 29:12-13
Ezekiel 43:7
Matthew 5:5
Matthew 7:13
Matthew 18:19-20
Matthew 19:10-12
Matthew 19:18-19
Matthew 26:29
Luke 1:35-36
Luke 5:31-32
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Revelation 2:7

Written by a servant of the Lord of Thine Universal Church, March 23, 2026.