

True Christianity IV

Facts, Lies, Mistakes, and Pride

Fear not. Contradictions with existing doctrines abound. Some stuff is hard to understand. Some things are never understood.

Circumcision makes no sense, until the Maccabees. Which is not scripture.

Genuine curiosity is incredibly rare today. Remember, these messages are intended to help people who are coming to the faith for the first time or returning after a really long absence. This doesn't mean the messages aren't for everybody, but the goal is to reach people who are relatively blank slates looking for a solid foundation from which to start. Even those of us who've been in the walk have a challenge thinking properly due to our modern conditioning.

Slide 2 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**" (Mat 18:15-16)

Still slide 2 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed." (Deu 19:15)

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the value of the ALL CAPS in the NT citing the OT. Important matters require contemplation and investigation. This is the bare minimum standard, two witnesses. Corroboration. This does not mean the bible has to say things twice for something to be true, but it does mean we have to do our due diligence in study. When we come across something that contradicts what we've read previously, then we have to take time to think it through. Sometimes the answer doesn't come for a very, very long time. Sometimes it's never. You'll put things on the shelf, so to speak. There are mysteries we are not meant to understand now. There are things that the first century believers knew and took for granted that we simply do not know. In one place, Paul speaks of someone being called up to the third heaven. Nobody knows what that means today. Nobody. We have to shrug and move on.

In business and science, methods are employed to remove bias and get to real facts. We have the scientific method that used to be taught in high school. It's a foundational system for trying to force people to come to solid conclusions through experimentation and evidence. It was a great standard that has been largely forgotten.

The reality is we have inclinations and biases. Our upbringing, our culture, our language, our life experiences, societal pressures, and things we've picked up along the way get in the path of truth. Look at how the scientific method was immediately thrown out during COVID. I have 20 years' experience working in laboratories. I've attended basic lab safety training periodically for all 20 of those years, most of the time it was an annual requirement. We all knew that hand sanitizer did nothing for an airborne pathogen. Frantically wiping surfaces and washing our hands was never a relevant mitigation for COVID. COVID is transmitted through breathing. But the entire industry of incredibly educated professionals threw this simple fact out on a whim. I was personally tasked with buying cases of hand sanitizer and shipping it to the offices where it was not available. I'm talking cases and cases of the stuff. Just so people could feel like they were doing something. These people included some of the most educated scientists on planet earth. People who knew better.

Yahweh puts forth a standard here of multiple witnesses for confirming significant events. This is primarily intended for convicting people of sin/crimes, but the principle applies to life in general. We are not supposed to make snap judgments and we are supposed to hear dissent. We are not supposed to make big changes unless we are certain those changes are warranted. The law of two witnesses also inherently includes impartial judges, whether that be an individual or a group. This is the basis for our present system of justice. Well, our the original principle of our justice system. Judges, lawyers, and juries are supposed to be removed from incidents, witnesses and evidence presented, and then conclusions made. Even in this system, mistakes happen. But it's meant to mitigate those mistakes.

My encouragement for new people is that you take your time, collect all the evidence by reading the entire bible in order, and let the conclusions make themselves. The truth is there for us to discover. If we let it. But it takes time and you have to be honest with yourself about your biases. We all want things to be true that either aren't or we can't prove.

This standard of two or more witnesses cannot be overstated. Neither can the remarkable willingness of people to throw out this, or any, standard at the drop of a hat. The law of two witnesses as in full effect in first century Judea. This is why they were drumming up false witnesses against Yeshua but the testimonies did not line up. The people who murdered Yeshua, thousands of them chanting "crucify Him", had completely abandoned their standard of judging, the Torah, to emotionally get the Messiah murdered. We have this example for many reasons. Don't be like them.

Slide 3 Then YHVH saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent (yetzer) of the thoughts of his heart was only evil (ra) continually. (Gen 6:5)

Yetzer ha ra versus Yetzer ha tov.

This is a philosophy that there is a struggle inside of each of us between being inclined to evil or good. Before the flood, mankind gave in to evil overwhelmingly. Noah was given grace and his line was preserved, 8 people in total. Look at how the people who got Yeshua crucified gave themselves over to riotous evil so easily. If you don't think this can happen to you, beware. We must condition ourselves to righteousness and justice continuously. Those starting fresh need to have this in their frontal lobes. We read the bible and study to know Yeshua and Him crucified – how did He get crucified?

I bring this up in the context of today because often times everything good is attributed to YHVH and everything bad is attributed to Satan. This leaves out the third option where the lion's share of blame belongs. Genesis 6:5 does not blame Satan nor his minions for the evil, it blames mankind. Mankind dreams up all sorts of evil while also having the capacity to do good. The Apostle James talks about this in the third chapter of his letter when he talks about the tongue. With the tongue we can bless and we can curse. We can teach properly and we can blaspheme.

Coming into this walk, we bring a TON of the evil from the world. Bad doctrine, bad behavior, bad beliefs, and bad habits. Everybody has these problems. We're immersed in a culture that is not of Yahweh so we don't even realize it. This makes it all the more important to approach the bible with a blank slate, or at least make an effort to do this. It's also quite important to limit who you listen to as far as preachers and teachers, especially when you are new. We can hear something that sounds very religious, even very Hebrew-ish, and accept it as fact. Then we can accidentally build on this info without realizing it is false.

Let's look at a very strong false premise that has produced immensely bad doctrines:

Slide 4 The Council of Laodicea (363 AD) states in canon 29: Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema from Christ.

Understand this is almost exactly 300 years since the close of scripture. All the writings we consider scripture were written in the first century. The latest are said to be about 90 AD but almost all of them before that. We know that Christianity was a sect of Judaism until the early 100s AD. For most of that time, it would have been difficult to tell a Jew apart from a Messianic by watching their worship behavior. After 70AD, doing anything considered Jewish was a bad idea in the Roman empire. After the early 100s AD, it became very bad. The Romans wanted all the Jews dead. This

also coincided with Gentile Christians beginning to outnumber Jewish Christians, so the Gentile believers started to break from observing Shabbat and such. Over time, Christianity morphed into a new religion that separated itself from the Torah and the OT. This is due to many of the outside influences I spoke of earlier today. That took on a life of its own and the leaders of Christianity wanted to stamp out Torah keeping. And it took letters and councils to do that because Christians would not stop obeying the Torah while believing in Yeshua even with all this pressure. This is because the Bible tells us that's the mark of the remnant. 363 AD and there were still enough Christians keeping Shabbat that a council had to be called to force them to stop through excommunication. Think about that. We need to not be like the people who made the council write this letter.

The reason I put this up isn't about the specifics, like Sabbath keeping. It's about the illegitimate premise. It became chic to dismiss concepts by calling them "judaizing". Things that Yeshua and the Apostles all did, over time, became not just out of favor, they became dividing lines. Keeping the commandments, just like Yeshua, Paul, Peter, and all of the bible authors and original Christians did, became falsely associated with Judaism and thus the worst insult possible for a Christian. This built over time, became documented in the 300s, and we deal with it to this day. A false premise of this magnitude will cause people to ignore significant portions of scripture. They've even come up with fancy doctrines to say that the bible divides mankind into three categories: lost, saved, and Jew. Which is absurd. But layer upon layer of bad doctrine and mental gymnastics come from this one false premise. It can permeate our minds even if we are not conscious of it. Even today, this term Judaizer is used as an epithet to shut down debate, particularly if the "Judaizer" is winning the debate. And it's nonsense. The Messiah attended synagogue and was a Jew. So our challenge is to push through societal biases like these to learn the truth. Keeping the commandments like the Apostles is not Judaizing. It's liberating.

Slide 5 Pride - "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Messiah—this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Yeshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Act 2:36-38)

The miracle of Acts 2 -pride. Pride has a couple definitions, the good kind and the very bad kind. These sentences and this incident have a ton to teach us. Today, it's about pride and the ability to swallow it. The ability to be wrong: do you have it? Really? Most of Christianity has more sacred cow than any other food at all. The cholesterol levels are off the charts. Brothers and sisters, and new

people, if a doctrine is off limits, you're going to want to check it out. In this instance, the people who were complicit in the murder of the Messiah confessed it publicly and humbled themselves. Do we have that capacity? If you want to find the truth, then this is a skill one needs to have. Starting from scratch, you won't have as many things to work through as the rest of us. But you don't have zero. Approaching the faith with an understanding that you will have to give up sacred cows is the only way to fully move forward. If these men could confess to murder, we can surely admit being wrong on doctrines.

Slide 6 Facts, Lies, Mistakes, and Pride Lies O YHVH, my strength and my stronghold, and my refuge in the day of distress, to You the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, futility and things of no profit." (Jer 16:19)

If you're drawn to study, if you feeling the pull to get to the reality of the first century believers, then you are a fulfillment of this prophecy. In the first century, gentiles, people of the nations, adopted the ways of Yahweh and Yeshua. They broke from centuries of paganism to embrace life and the light of men. Today, this opportunity is presenting itself again. This journey is open for all, hear the invite.

Facts are facts. Self evident. What we need to believe and how we are supposed to be living is not difficult to discern from scripture. We're following in the footsteps of ancient fishermen, not modern theologians.

Lies are what they are, deceit. Wrong teaching on purpose. When I came to this, by reading the bible cover to cover, I realized grievous mistakes. As I studied, I discovered the learned men at the time, those who attended college to become ministers, largely knew the truth and chose not to teach their congregations that truth. We must shed the lies and embrace the truth, and the truth will set us free.

Most of the wrong stuff is attributable to mistakes and ignorance. Reading with a wrong foundation, following men instead of Yeshua, or simply doing what's always been done are the largest contributors to the errors in my opinion.

Breaking through can be hard, but incredibly rewarding. Be willing to be corrected. Ditch the pride. And enjoy this journey of learning real Christianity from scratch! Enjoy your journey learning about Yeshua, Jesus, and Him crucified. This is the path that leads to eternal life!