

# "THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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## Believe Not Every Spirit, But Try The Spirits (1 John 4:1)



### Addressing the Tests For a Cult

Some are concerned that they are receiving a newsletter from a cult. We have no intention in gathering a following. All we want is for you to preach rightly among your own congregations. You might reply that you are. However, all of you cannot be, for if we all were preaching rightly, there would be only the Christian church instead of the hundreds of major and minor denominations that exist today. That does not mean we are right, but let us use this as a forum to work out the truth according to the Word.

And one of those errors to be addressed is the understanding of cult. First, we will identify the falsehood of today's tests through the first five tests listed below and then supply you with the real tests.

**1. Teaching doctrine different from the main stream.** In Mark 7:5 we see that Jesus taught different from the main stream. "Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?" Jesus definitely broke with tradition. Why? Because they were not teaching from the scriptures but instead doctrines that the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Scribes created much like we have today. Main stream doctrine is based upon traditions of men and not the Bible. What did Jesus teach? Luke 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Clearly safety is found in the scriptures, a minority view, and not in the traditions of men, which is main stream.

**2. Being a small group of believers.** According to Matthew 10:1, Jesus had only a small group. "And when he had called unto [him] his twelve disciples, he gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast

them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Acts 1:15 "And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty." Small numbers are a frequent occurrence. Notice Jeremiah 31:7, "For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel." Only a remnant, that is, a small number of followers ever do what the Lord asks of them to do and thus are saved. In fact, if the vast majority of people are for something, then that something is probably wrong.

**3. Preaching coming calamities.** According to Matthew 24:29, Jesus preached on that subject. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

**4. Teaching about the second coming.** According to Matthew 24:30, Jesus preached a lot on that subject as well. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." There are over 2,500 references in the Bible to the second coming. In fact, we are encouraged to be focused upon that subject. Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:12 "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" Too bad the world's hopes are upon earthly things. They do not want to hear that the Blessed Hope will soon appear.

**5. Operating in secret.** Now here is a big

## WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

### MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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## Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

## Debt Reduction Progress

Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 accumulated in ministry debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when we personally could not sustain this ministry.

Jerry had lost his employment due to religious conflict. Without that income we were not able to sustain this ministry and so the debt accumulated.

Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment, but in order to recover financially it requires him to work very long hours. Can you help eliminate this ministry debt faster?

### OVERALL STATS:

**\$80,000** Starting Balance

- **8,375** Readership

- **19,722** O'Donnell's

**\$51,903** Current Balance

### FEB. STATS:

**\$55,889** Prior Balance

- **811** Readership


- **3,175** O'Donnell's


**\$51,903** Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

## WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and is currently in the process of being transferred over from TSTL.NET

one. The Bible teaches nothing on finding out about the source, but rather the Bible tells us that we are to judge the message. It is the world that judges the messenger. Are you of the world? Besides, Jesus operated in secret. John 7:1-12 "After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For [there is] no man [that] doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him. Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come. When he had said these words unto them, he abode [still] in Galilee. But when his brethren were gone up, then went he also up unto the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. Then the Jews sought him at the feast, and said, Where is he? And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people." Primarily He did it because people would judge Him improperly before hearing the message. Other references to Jesus working in secret include Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 7:31-37, Mark 8:22-30, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 5:12-15, Luke 8:49-56, and Luke 9:18-21. He had His reasons for operating in secret. Judges 13:17-18 "And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What [is] thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it [is] secret?" Evidently, heaven operated in secret.

### Now For the Real Tests

1. Isaiah 8:20 "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them." This first test is that of **placing man's teachings before a "Thus Saith the Lord!"** We clearly see here that anyone teaching against the law (Ten Commandments) or against the Word of God are actually a cult. So cease with nailing the commandments to the cross! Cease from teaching that the Word is not accurate!

2. Deuteronomy 13:1-4 "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and

giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." The second test is that of **making the primary focus of a ministry the use of signs and wonders.** So if your ministry is based on proving yourself through speaking in tongues, healings, and casting out devils, it is a faith based on deception. If the ministry contains those things as a result of teaching rightly from the Word of God and the Commandments, it is a blessing.

3. Isaiah 55:6-9 "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." The third test is that of **using human solutions to solve the problems facing mankind instead of approaching God.** Investing in gold, creating bunkers, stockpiling food and weapons, etc... is not of God!

4. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." The fourth test is that of **placing a man in the place of God.** Although a minister is to be the mouthpiece of God, nowhere is the servant ever to be worshipped. Nowhere are they to receive special treatment. And when a minister water's down the word or even makes it stronger than what it really says, they are also acting in place of God. Superceding truth with kindness masked as loving is also wrong. Let the truth cut is what the word teaches because Jesus can heal that. He cannot heal "icing covered practicing sin".

So continue to read, reflect, and question. Do not follow us or want to merge congregations. We are not about that. Just follow the written Word, getting off of human practices and on to a "Thus Saith the Lord."

## DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



### I believe?

1. If you believe, what are you? **Acts 16:31**
2. Who also believes? **James 2:19**
3. What word in this verse makes believing in Jesus not a single event and a permanent saving but rather a longer relationship with a future guarantee? **Acts 15:11**
4. How long does your belief need to endure until you are guaranteed heaven? **Matthew 10:22, Matthew 24:13, Mark 13:13**
5. If you believe, what event will you participate in? **Mark 16:16**
6. How powerful is belief in Jesus? **1 John 5:5**

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Are you in love?

1. How are we to love God? **Matthew 22:37** "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
2. Who do we find difficult to love but yet are to love? **Matthew 5:44** "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."
3. Who are you to love as much as you love yourself? **Matthew 22:39** "And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."
4. What object should you love? **Psalms 119:97** "O how love I thy law! it [is] my meditation all the day."
5. What is the greatest act of love? **John 15:13** "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."
6. In what manner are we to love God? **1 John 3:18** "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

## ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



### Alcohol

Proverbs 20:1 *Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

Are you deceived into believing a little alcohol is good for you? Are you deceived into believing that there is nothing wrong with alcohol in controlled portions?

God, not us, says you are not wise. The devil is smart. He is willing to get a bunch of scientists to prove the health benefits of one of the brains most deadly poisons. Interesting how every cup attacks only that portion of the mind that is used for

thinking and making decisions. Besides, pure grape juice provides the same benefits. You do not need the alcohol.

Now when you go to refute in favor of allowing alcohol, please keep in mind a couple of things. First, non-alcoholic wine is also referred to as just the word "wine" in the Bible. Second, we do not believe the Word contradicts therefore you must prove a different meaning to the strongest denouncement of alcohol found in Proverbs 20:1.

So when Paul tells Timothy to drink the wine instead of the city water, that is not alcohol. It is grape juice.

## Think On These Things

### When God Marches

O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: [even] Sinai itself [was moved] at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor. The Lord gave the word: great [was] the company of those that published [it]. Kings of armies did flee apace: and she that tarried at home divided the spoil.

Psalms 68:7-12

God goes before us even now.

The wilderness is the troubled world as we head towards the heavenly Promised Land.

There is nothing that can stand in God's way.

He will provide for all your needs and confirm upon you when you are in right paths.

The Lord has protected His given Word.

And great are the number who publish it even if they appear as a minority in human eyes.

Even mighty kings shall flee today.

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**Cults! How To Test For  
Them By God's  
Standard**  
*(Main Article)*

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**Alcohol? Is It Good To  
The Last Drop?**  
*(Health—See page 3)*

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**Do You Believe?**  
*(Bible Study—See  
page 3)*

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## WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? (Isaiah 53:1)



» WND, February 10, 2008 -  
**Bishop: Christians don't go  
to heaven**

A bishop described as "one of the most formidable figures in the world of Christian thought" is now challenging the widely held belief that Christians go to heaven when they die. He says people do not ascend to God's dwelling place. Instead, deceased believers are in a sleep-like state until God comes back to Earth.

**COMMENT:** A pole was taken and the vast majority believe in immediate afterlife. Since when is the majority correct? Sixty-six verses in the Bible state death as sleeping. The Bishop may be on to something. The Bible is also clear in 1 Corinthians 15:22-23, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

» The Press Association, February

10, 2008 - Machine 'could create  
time tunnel'

Switching on a giant atom-smashing machine might open the door to unexpected visitors - from the future, it has been claimed. Their calculations show it is possible the machine will tear a hole in the fabric of space and time, creating a gateway to tomorrow. And, with sufficiently advanced technology, people from the future might even be able to walk through it.

**COMMENT:** Daniel 2:28 "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days." As God told King Nebuchadnezzar, it is he that knows the future. We shall never be able to leap time on this side of the second coming. Besides, If we could, don't you think we would have had visitors from the future already?

» Salem Gazette, January 17, 2008 -  
**Excommunicated from his church,**

**pastor draws praise and condemnation  
from pagans and Christians**

Pastor Phil Wyman would be the first to agree that he's a black sheep among clergy. An expert on Wicca, a well practiced interpreter of dreams, Wyman has been an avid participant in the city's annual Halloween celebration, supporting a holiday many Christians believe to be a symbol of darkness and the occult.

**COMMENT:** Exodus 22:18 "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." If God so commanded such to the Israelites, there is definitely something seriously wrong with this minister if he thinks he can do what he does and still be right in God's eyes. Now keep in mind, though the principle still exists, every execution was brought directly before God who would answer back through Moses, a high priest, or other selected person. Since we have no such communication, we may not kill such today. But in no way are we to conduct such activity with them.