



Lord, Are There Few That Be Saved? (Luke 13:23)



We Are All Going To Heaven, Right?

There is a belief that everyone goes to heaven. All that is different is how much of a reward we get. So we will get to ask Judas why he did what he did. This is contrary to the way many used to think where they believed there was no hope for Judas.

There is also a belief that once a person honestly says that they believe, they cannot be lost and this has been taken so far to the extreme, as compared to the original intent, that it now encourages the enjoyment of the world, living in sin, and much more while telling the public they are saved.

There is also a belief that all Christians are destined for heaven. For that matter, we all serve the same God so we are all going to heaven, well maybe not the Atheist.

Right now, we are approaching seven billion people on earth. That is a lot of people. Are we all really going to heaven? Are most of us really going to heaven? Is at least half of the population destined for heaven?

Let us seek the answer and find a Thus Saith the Lord.

Are There Many That Be Saved?

As Jesus was journeying and talking, "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:23-24).

That was Jesus' answer to the question. Jesus clearly states that we are not all going to heaven. So we now know that of all the many people on earth, not everyone is going to be able to enter.

How Many Will Be Saved?

The words recorded in Luke are very similar to words recorded in Matthew.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

So the answer is "few". Ask any mathematician, and you will be told that few is not a majority. So over half of the population will be lost. But continue your discussion with a mathematician, and they will tell you that half is not few. It is a half. In fact, the mathematician may even tell you that a third is not a few, it is a third. The same is true about a fourth, a fifth, a sixth, even a tenth. In fact, Jesus uses such terms and therefore if over a tenth were to be saved, he would have used that fraction.

Revelation 11:13 reveals the use of "tenth". *"And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell".* Jesus did not say that a few fell or even some of it fell. A tenth is a significant amount being more than a few.

The mathematician may even go as far as to tell you that a few in a hundred is about three or so. Depending on the number, a few is a small portion.

Getting a better perspective, Paul uses a synonym to the word "few". In quoting Isaiah, Paul said, *"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved"* (Romans 9:27). So of the sands of the sea, a few is the size of a remnant. That is a small portion of the whole.

What Is The Description Of The Few

"Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). Strait in this context is restrictive. A Christian's life, in one sense, is restrictive. Now the Christian does not sense it if they are really abid-

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ing with God.

Christians do not go around saying, "I can't do this. I can't do that. Woe is me." They simply live a different life because God says, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them]" (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

So those teaching or living without believing that God has rules, namely the Ten Commandments, are not part of the few.

How Restrictive Is It?

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Evidently there are things to observe, meaning, obey.

Peter explicitly says that in a concern manner. *"For the time [is come] that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if [it] first [begin] at us, what shall the end [be] of them that obey not the gospel of God?"* (1 Peter 4:17)

And Paul concurs. *"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"* (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Paul elaborates on this in Romans 6:16. *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*

So a Christian who is more than a Christian in name only is going to cease to sin. Since this planet is not heaven nor does it lead to God, the activities of earth are prone to the opposite direction. In fact, we are told *"Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him"* (1 John 2:15).

Therefore a Christian's life may appear very restrictive from a worldly sense, but where one view appears restrictive, another is a relief.

For instance, while everyone else cuts out of school and work, even in the form of calling off sick when one is not sick, the

Christian puts in a full day's work and is honest with their sick time.

While the world enjoys acting like fools on the dance floor revealing how much Satan has control of their minds and desires, the Christian will not be found in such places, nor dressing provokingly.

While the world encourages gluttony, the Christian will eat that which satisfies and nourishes the body.

While the world does not care if a movie contains nudity, foul language including taking Jesus' name in vain, and violence, a Christian will eliminate such from their viewing pleasure.

And the list can go on and on.

But again, do not think we are bringing out drudgery to Christianity. Oh, no. A Christian says, "I thank God I do not participate in those things anymore. I thank God that He has saved me from those things."

A Christian does not have to worry about waking up in a strange bed and possibly being pregnant by someone they don't know or worrying about catching a disease. A Christian does not have to clean up vomit. A Christian does not have to worry if the boss is going to catch him. A Christian does not have to worry about speeding tickets. A Christian does not worry about a lot of things because of the strait and narrow path they live.

Why Are The Many Lost?

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). It is answered by the observation statement. The lost are those that did not choose to do God's will. They refused to observe all the things that were taught them, which means to obey. While some say, "I know I should" and then do the opposite, in many cases, the rejection is subtle.

Why is the crime rate up and the need for locking things also up and all types of security procedures in place? Could it be because we have many that are unsaved and turning to crime? Supposedly 87% of the United States declares them self to be a Christian.

How can that be? Easy. Most Christians do not believe in having to keep the Ten Commandments. They have been nailed to the

cross, they say. In reality, we are back to that observation thing again. We are back to obeying righteousness seeing that *“the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us”* (Romans 8:4). And the verse tells us how. *“Walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Do not seek after what gratifies the flesh, but what the Holy Spirit convicts us of.

And did you catch it? In Matthew 7:21, this is not talking about the unchurched being lost. Only Christians will call Jesus, “Lord, Lord”, yet Matthew says such will be lost.

Are You Chosen?

In regards to Israel, God said, *“The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye [were] the fewest of all people”* (Deuteronomy 7:7). The Israelites were a chosen people. What did God base His choice upon? They were the fewest.

His principle does not change. He has a chosen people for the end of time. *“And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect’s sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days”* (Mark 13:20). Seeing God still chooses people today, He then chooses people because they are the fewest.

Who Are The Chosen?

Moses said, *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, [that] I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live”* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Joshua said, *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD”* (Joshua 24:15).

Paul refers to Moses in this manner, *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”* (Hebrews 11:25).

If you notice, everyone has a choice. And if you make your choice for God,

then you are God’s chosen people. God does not look over the earth and flip a coin to see who will be saved and lost. No. You and I have the freedom to choose. If you choose God, you are chosen.

God predestined us all to spend eternity with Him for *“having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”* (Ephesians 1:5). *“He also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son”* (Romans 8:29). But being predestined does not mean we will end up there.

Predestined is that God has given us all that we need and has pointed us in the right direction and has been calling us to Him. It is our choice to go to Him. We are then chosen.

How Many Chosen Are There?

“So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen” (Matthew 20:16). *“For many are called, but few [are] chosen”* (Matthew 22:14).

Only a few truly choose God. Oh, many may say they choose to be a Christian but God knows who are calling themselves a Christian and who really are.

Are You God’s Laborer?

According to all the parables of Jesus referring to laborers or servants, anyone not working seems to be lost. Therefore, assisting in some manner with the spreading of the gospel is evidence that you love your neighbor as yourself and want to see them in heaven as well as yourself. With that in mind, just how many faithful workers does God have?

“The harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the labourers [are] few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38, Luke 10:2).

Only a few are working with God. And if we are not working with God, we are accounted as against Him, for Jesus said, *“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad”* (Matthew 12:30).

A Church In Revelation

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments;

THINK ON THESE THINGS

(Philippians 4:8)

But I Say Unto You...

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. (Matt 5:21-22)

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matt. 5:27-28)

It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery. (Matthew 5:31-32)

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. (Matthew 5:33-36)

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. (Matthew 5:38-39)

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. (Matt. 5:43-44)

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\$12,603 Current Balance

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 - **0** Readership
 - **207** O'Donnell's
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and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Revelation 3:4). According to this verse, Sardis would be completely lost if it were not for a few faithful. Is that not true when given any city, usually only a few are on God's side?

Not A Few

Of course we have provided overwhelming evidence that the vast majority of people will be lost, but there are always those couple of verses that appear to say the opposite and those people will hold on to so as to justify their ways. They pit the Bible against itself and choose that which they want to live by.

The proper method of study is to gather all of the verses on the subject, like we did with the word "few", and see where the evidence resides. It resides on the side of only a few are saved. Then one does not just dismiss the one or two verses that appear with the opposite view. One then must understand the true perspective and usually it will then result in harmony. For the Bible does not contradict itself despite so many, even of the Christians, believing such.

One of those verses is "*Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few*" (Acts 17:12). Paul was very successful. In fact, one time, on "*the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God*" (Acts 13:44).

Now if you read carefully, this was the only city that came to hear Paul as the whole city. No other city gathered like this. This was an exception to the norm. Exceptions do not make rules or good doctrine. And just because they heard Paul, does not mean that they made a lasting choice for salvation, how many later fell away?

Further, to declare that many and not a few responded positively to Paul, comes down to perspective. We would, at a glance, declare that a thousand baptisms are not a few. In fact, you could say that many were baptized. But when you compare to the whole population that thousand may be a few. For example, take Harrisburg, a thousand people out of almost fifty thousand is but a few.

So there is no contradiction on this matter. When God declares a few shall be saved, He is referring to the nearly seven billion on this planet as being the comparison.

What Historical Pattern Do We Have?

"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water" (1 Peter 3:20). Eight is not very many. In fact, you could say that it was a few people that were saved as the Bible declared.

Then Jesus said, "*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man*" (Luke 17:26).

What Will The Second Coming Be Like?

The description you are about to read is yet future, but it is clear that it has not happened yet seeing that the details have not met fulfillment but will at the Second Coming.

"Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth [and] fadeth away, the world languisheth [and] fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left" (Isaiah 24:1-6).

Once again, only a few will survive. There are an awful lot of Christians that apparently will be deceived in thinking they are all right when they were all wrong. But it does not have to be that way.

Read again why so many will be lost. People changed the law! And God is not talking about the speed limits. God is referring to His commandments.

Will you choose obedience? Will you choose God and be part of the few?

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.



Have Mercy Upon Me (Psalms 4:1)

1. What have all of us done?
Romans 3:23

2. What do we deserve? **Ezekiel 18:4**

3. If we get what we deserve, what shall we not have (the example uses one particular sin of murder, but substitute any sin)?
1 John 3:15

4. What does God offer to us? **Matthew 9:13**

5. What is our response to be? **Psalms 13:5**

6. What will the proper response lead to?
Jude 1:21

7. How long shall God's offer last? **Psalms 136:26**

8. How long are we to have a proper response to God's offer? **Jude 1:21**

9. But what shall we not despise? **Hebrews 10:26-28**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

For I fear God (*Genesis 42:18*)

- Joseph feared God. What is called for before Jesus returns? **Revelation 14:7** *"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."*
- Now no one calls for something if it already exists, so being that it does not, what else may be missing from Christians today? **Ecclesiastes 12:13** *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man."*
- If we truly fear God, what else will we have towards God? **Hebrews 12:28** *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."*
- What act replaces fear? **1 John 4:18** *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*
- How do we know we practice this act? **John 14:15** *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."*
- What did Jesus quote? **Exodus 20:6** *"And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." (Which is right in the middle of the Ten Commandments.)*
- What power will we have if we fear properly? **Proverbs 16:6** *"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD [men] depart from evil."*
- If we truly fear God, what will we begin to have? **Proverbs 9:10** *"The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding."*
- In fearing God, what power do we recognize in Him? **Luke 12:5** *"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."*
- What shall we have from God if we fear Him? **Luke 1:50** *"And his mercy [is] on them that fear him from generation to generation."*

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WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED?

(Isaiah 53:1)



▶▶The Sun, August 11, 2009 - Christian BBC footie host who refuses to work on a Sunday

ONE of the new faces of the BBC's football coverage refuses to work on a Sunday because he is a devout Christian. For me it seems quite obvious. God, our creator, has given it to us for our own good. Some will argue that Jesus Christ's coming means we are no longer obligated to keep it special but I fundamentally disagree. There are still ten commandments and it is more important than ever to guard the fourth one - remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

COMMENT: We admire this young man for the stance he has taken, but it raises some questions. Can someone show us where Sunday is the Lord's Day? There is only one verse in the Bible with such a phrase. *"I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet"* (Revelation 1:10). In this verse, there is no way to tell which day is the Lord's day. Now Jesus declared He was Lord of a particular day. *"For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day"* (Matthew 12:8). Now according to the announcer, God gave us the day at creation. According to creation, the day to keep holy is not the first day of the week, commonly referred to as Sunday, but these words are recorded. *"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made"* (Genesis 2:2-3). Further, the announcer also referred to the fourth commandment regarding the Sabbath day. He rightly declares that Jesus did not destroy the law or lessen the obligation to keep it. But the fourth commandment says, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:8-11). Finally, we add that Sunday and the first day of the week are not the same. God's day starts

and ends on the sundown cycle according to Genesis 1:14. Man's cycle is midnight to midnight.

▶▶Catholic News Service, August 11, 2009 - Italian bishop says national lottery fever is form of idolatry

As Italy's national lottery jackpot reached a record level of \$183 million, an Italian bishop warned that the gambling fever was a form of idolatry. "It is not moral to continue to promote this kind of hope," the bishop said. Bishop Sigalini said the hope of living off a lottery jackpot reflects the false idea of a God who "gives us everything when we don't deserve it." "Clearly this is a form of idolatry, because we're not turning toward God but toward money," he said.

COMMENT: Proverbs 13:11 *"Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase."* And the ultimate diminish is at the end of time when it all burns up and those attached to it will also. Overall, excuse it as you like. The short of it is that playing any lottery or game of chance is gambling. And gambling is not of God so that means it is of Satan.

▶▶Times Online, July 19, 2009 - Calvin: Still Hot At 500

A 2007 survey found that 30 percent of all new pastors who graduate from the influential Southern Baptist Theological Seminary profess themselves Calvinist, and thus subscribers to his five key "doctrines of grace" - the depravity of man (enslaved by sin), unconditional election (God's choice of whom he will save is grounded in mercy not works), limited atonement (Jesus atoned once and for all for sin), irresistible grace (those God chooses to save cannot resist his grace), and perseverance of the saints (those God chooses to save will remain in faith eternally). Such back-to-Bible basics strongly appeal to a generation broken by "divorce, drugs or sexual temptation," claims Collin Hansen, the youngest religion editor at the magazine and website Christianity Today.

COMMENT: There is no better back to basics than *"precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little"* (Isaiah 28:10) and one would quickly find that robotic type grace does not exist. We all have been predestined to be saved. *"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to*

the good pleasure of his will" (Ephesians 1:5). God does not create anyone to be lost. But He still gives us the ability to "choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell" (Joshua 24:15). Predestination would cause all preachers to be fired since it is God's control of people that cannot resist His grace to be saved. No. The best predestina-

tion is happens to be that we all were made to spend eternity with Him, but we can choose not to for why would God have predestined sin? This theory makes God to be worst than a tyrant. A god that gets his jollies from predestining suffering, sin, and death? No. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). He "is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance".

ART THOU IN HEALTH (2 Samuel 20:9)



Abstain From Blood (Acts 15:20)

Acts 15:20 *But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and [from] fornication, and [from] things strangled, and [from] blood.*

Acts 15:29 *That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*

Acts 21:25 *As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written [and] concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from [things] offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.*

Not once, not twice, but three times in the New Testament we are told that abstaining from eating the meat with blood is to be practiced and it is not an Old Testament, Jewish thing. Yet, how many Christians practice this?

That means that just about every meat that is sold is uneatable. Many people like their meat juicy. Guess where the juices come from? The blood. Some like their meat a little pink. Guess where that pink comes from? Blood. Meat that has been drained of blood is a grayish, white unless it is a darker meat.

But why are meats so addictive to eat? Because the cooked blood gives the flavor. And so cooking it until the meat is dead, as some request, which is near burnt is not the answer. The blood is still there.

What is the big deal? Before there was a Jew, the reason was given to Noah. "But flesh with the life thereof, [which is] the blood thereof, shall ye not eat" (Genesis 9:4). If the animal is carrying a disease, even one that is not detectable, the blood is what will pass it from the animal to the human.

So if one desires to continue to eat meat, seek out kosher.

FOR MY THOUGHTS [ARE] NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER [ARE] YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD.

(Isaiah 55:8)



Love Your Neighbor But Get Even?

How can we be told that "thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19, Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Galatians 5:14, James 2:8) and yet be told to go after someone "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20, Deuteronomy 19:21). Jesus even said, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:38-39).

intended to be practiced separately was muddied and applied together. We should always love our neighbors as ourselves, but could you imagine society turning the other cheek every time someone wrongs another? Murder, theft, adultery, in fact, all of the commandments would be broken constantly. Society would unravel.

Therefore, the proper understanding is that both still exist. Personally, you turn the cheek, but for society sake, enforce the law but not beyond equal offense. It would be wrong if society executed someone for shoplifting, but a fine and/or a short prison time is not unreasonable.

The problem is that as usual, what was

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CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER DISCONTINUING

- ▶ The children's newsletter will be discontinued at the end of the year.
- ▶ After several years in prayer, we believe it to be in the best interest of the ministry to cease the children's newsletter.
- ▶ The website will also be discontinued when the next payment is due.

SEPTEMBER 2009-9

We're All Saved! We're All Saved!

(Main Article)

Turn The Other Cheek, But Get Even With Them?

(Contradictions? page 7)

Have Mercy Upon Me

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Comments on News

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Art Thou in Health?

(page 7)

ANSWERS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURE OF TRUTH

(Daniel 10:21)



QUESTION – There are so many denominations, so many interpretations, we all look at the scriptures differently but the unifying theme is being saved by Jesus Christ. How is it that you up lift a "Thus Saith the Lord" as if you know exactly what God states on a subject?

ANSWER – What does separate us? Usually it is a doctrine. Most Protestants reject the Catholic teaching of tradition being equal and even superior to the Bible. The Baptists reject all other denominations practicing sprinkling. Independent churches reject man made system of beliefs. The Gospel church rejects the works of other denominations as if they are working their way to heaven. And so on.

To have such beliefs providing the many options to church going Christians is ridiculous. Christianity should not be like shopping for a car. One may look for a car that has everything they desire, but to treat the churches as such means that a practicing sinner will find a

church where they are comfortable to stay in their sins.

Then we have the glaring statement from the Bible. *"All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16). Did you catch that? The scriptures are for doctrine. Since that is so, should we not all have the same belief on any given doctrine?

Secondly, the scriptures are for reproof. A synonym to reproof is admonish. The Bible says, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Colossians 3:16). How can one practice admonishing one another if one is allowed to believe one thing and another is to allowed to believe another, sometimes being the opposite? To admonish means there is a right and wrong interpretation and practice.

Thirdly, there is the use of scriptures for

correction. This explicitly carries an understanding of a right and wrong understanding where we are to correct our wrong understanding.

Finally, scriptures outline what a righteous life happens to be. And *"little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous"* (1 John 3:7).

So yes, we confidently come to you boldly with a "Thus Saith the Lord." How can that be? Easy. We do not use just a verse here or there. Further, unlike 92% or more of the Christian population, we believe the Bible to be the Word of God. And then there is the revelation of the proper way to reveal a "Thus Saith the Lord." *"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts. For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little"* (Isaiah 28:9-10).