

Cut and Paste Christianity- Part 9

“Ands, Ifs or Buts...”

I know we refer to these scriptures repeatedly, but it really cannot be emphasized enough of just how critical they are to grasping the entire content of the meaning of God’s Word. I am referring to:

Deuteronomy 8:3- “And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger, and then He fed you with manna which you did not know, neither did your fathers know *it*, so that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone; but by every *word* that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live.”

Matthew 4:4- “But He answered *and* said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of *the* mouth of God.’”

Luke 4:4- “But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”

I realize it may seem redundant to repeat these apparently over and over again, but every word means just that, “every word.” The theme of “Cut and Paste” Christianity is to bring to light how modern day “churchianity” twists and edits the Word of God to fit a narrative or support a different doctrine. The omission of one

word, no matter how small, can change the content of the scripture, essentially to fit the design of the editor. To keep this lesson under 100 pages. I will just focus on a few and offer some food for thought for your own Bible Studies.

And

“And” is a conjunction used to connect words of the same part of speech, clauses, or sentences, that are to be taken jointly. For the sake of not turning this into an English Grammar lesson, I will just list a few conjunctions here. Commonly used conjunctions: and, as, because, but, for, just as, or, neither, nor, not only, so, whether, yet. In searching my Tecarta Bible App, it would not give me a total number of how many scriptures contained the word “and” alone. However, “and” is used with “if” in 1043 verses. There are at least 5679 verses with the word “if.” If you think that number is staggering, there are 12,605 verses that use the word “but.” “But if” is used in 857 verses. Not tying one verse to another by removing the conjunctions seem to be a common practice. I will list two common scriptures that are so often misquoted to fit a narrative or support doctrine. First, from John 11 and second from Matthew 6. Chopping up scripture is certainly not limited to these two scriptures.

John 11:25-26- “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he die, shall live again; And everyone who *lives and believes* in Me shall not die forever. Do you believe this? “

“Lives” as it is used in this scripture is a verb indicating that we are a life form, we exist, we are living. It is often misconstrued that everyone who lives and believes in Jesus shall not die. Is this really what the context of this scripture says? If we keep the “and” in focus, we can see it is a two-part requirement. We must not only believe in Jesus but we also must live in Him. So many Christian religions preach this that eternal life is just simply believing in Jesus.

Having air in our lungs and just believing is not sufficient for eternal life. This is further supported in God’s Word.

James 2:19- “Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. Even the demons believe—and tremble in fear.” They love leaving out any portion of scripture that may require the work that goes along with fulfilling the Will of God. This mentality of “just believing” leads to the concepts of “once saved always saved” and “the law was done away with.” Or one of the more popular lies taught in Protestant Churches, “it was nailed to the Cross.”

If we take a closer look at the conjunction, “and” tied together with the word “in” we can see the true meaning of what Christ said. When we come to the Truth, we

no longer live our lives of ourselves but we now live “in” Christ Jesus and He “in” us. We become one with Him.

Romans 6:8- “Now *if* we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Romans 8:10- “But *if* Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.”

Romans 8:17- “Now *if we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—*if* indeed we suffer together with Him, so that we may also be glorified together with Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:14-15- “For the love of Christ compels us, *because* we have thus concluded that *if* one died for all, then all died. And He died for all so that those who live should no longer live to themselves, but to Him Who died for them and was raised again.”

Galatians 2:20- “I have been crucified with Christ, yet I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me. For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Galatians 3:28-29- “There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *And if* you *are* Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to *the* promise.”

If

“If” is a conjunction that introduces a *conditional clause*, on the condition or supposition that; in the event that something will or will not occur. God’s love is unconditional, but His Word is not. There are requirements and conditions we must follow and obey, His Word clearly lists the blessings that follow obedience and the consequences that occur from sin and disobedience. God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**) and all scripture is God breathed (**2 Timothy 3:16**).

Isaiah 1:19-20- “***If*** you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; But ***if*** you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured *with the sword*;” for the mouth of the LORD has spoken *it*.”

Psalms 132:12- “***If*** your children keep My covenant and My testimonies which I shall teach them, their sons shall also sit upon your throne forever.”

Proverbs 9:12- “***If*** you are wise, you shall be wise for yourself; ***but if*** you scorn, you alone shall bear *it*.”

One of the “ifs” God actually tells us to “prove” Him with is regarding tithing.

Malachi 3:8-11- “Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me. ***But*** you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings! You *are* cursed with a curse; for you are robbing Me, *even* this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the treasure house, so that there may be food in My house. ***And*** prove Me now with

this,” says the LORD of hosts, “to see *if* I will not surely open the windows of heaven for you, and pour out a blessing for you, until *there is* not enough room to receive it. ***And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and*** it shall not destroy the fruit of your ground; nor shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field,” says the LORD of hosts.”

What? You mean in addition to having to DO work I have to give my money too?! If you are having financial difficulties, you may want to examine this area of your life. Faithful with a little you will be faithful with a lot.

Luke 16:10-12- “The one who is faithful in the things that are least is also faithful in much; and the one who is unrighteous in the things that are least is also unrighteous in much. Therefore, *if* you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you entrust to you the true riches? And *if* you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, how will you give to you your own?”

Modern day so-called “Christian” churches love to ignore the requirements set forth by God’s Word and “gloss over” any consequences.

Galatians 1:8-10- “***But if*** we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. ***If*** anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now

then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For *if* I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Revelation 22:18-19- “For I jointly testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, *that if* anyone adds to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book. ***And if*** anyone takes away from the words of *the* book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from *the* book of life, and from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book.”

Being accursed and having the plagues written in God’s Word added to us should be a clear warning that we are not to meddle with any portion or modify His Word in any way shape or form. Their judgment is coming.

We all encounter trials and storms, especially when we get to the time of year, when we celebrate God’s Holy Days. Instead of “caving in” to the tempests we can use them to learn and grow and even glorify God through them. I know, easier said than done.

1 Peter 4:16-18- “Yet *if* anyone *is suffering* as a Christian, he should not be ashamed; ***but*** let him glorify God because of this, For the time *has come for* judgment to begin with the household of God; ***and if*** it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ***And if*** the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the* sinner?”

Isaiah 30:21- “And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This *is* the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left.”

For having only two letters, “if” is a mighty big word when used in Scripture.

Remember, there are 5679 verses containing “if”.

One of those powerful uses deals with a major theme of God’s Word, forgiveness.

Matthew 6:14-15- “For ***if*** you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ***But if*** you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” We had better not be holding any grudges.

Matthew 6:22-23- “The light of the body is the eye. Therefore, ***if*** your eye be sound, your whole body shall be *full of* light. But ***if*** your eye be evil, your whole body shall be *full of* darkness. Therefore, ***if*** the light that *is* in you be darkness, how great *is* that darkness!” How many folks do you know that would be wearing an eyepatch ***if*** we actually did this?

But

But is a conjunction used to introduce a phrase or a contrasting clause with something that has already been mentioned. It can be used to indicate a “reason” for doing something. “But” can also be used as a noun, preposition, or adverb.

Another scripture that is so often “edited” for content is:

Matthew 6:33- “***But*** as for you, seek first the kingdom of God ***and*** His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Another two-part requirement.

All too often, Protestants will overlook and leave off the “and His Righteousness” and skip right to the “all things will be added to you.”

Most of these concepts fill the minds of those that want the blessings without any work or penalties for actions should they sin. “All I have to do is look for God’s Kingdom and He’ll give me everything!” Nothing could be further from the truth. Nobody wants to do the work associated with becoming righteous as God says to do. The same mindset keeps God’s Holy Spirit in a box and “calls down the spirit” after repetitious singing of some monotonous song, usually with a band that bounces up and down like they are playing at Woodstock (for those who remember Woodstock). Rub the bottle and the genie will grant you three wishes...

Romans 8:8-11- “***But*** those who are in *the* flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in *the* flesh, ***but*** in *the* Spirit, ***if*** *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you. ***But if*** anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, ***he does not belong to Him.*** ***But if*** Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Now ***if*** the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus

from *the* dead is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you.” We receive God’s Spirit is in us at baptism.

Keep in mind to value others more important than ourselves.

Matthew 20:26-27- “However, it shall not be this way among you; ***but*** whoever would become great among you, let him be your servant; And whoever would be first among you, let him be your slave;”

We will soon be celebrating Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is my sincere hope that we have covered sufficient scriptures and lessons for self-reflection and preparation.

1 Corinthians 11:27-31- “For this reason, ***if*** anyone shall eat this bread or shall drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, he shall be guilty of the body and *the* blood of the Lord. ***But*** let a man examine himself, and let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup accordingly Because the one who eats and drinks unworthily is eating and drinking judgment to himself, not discerning the body of the Lord. For this *very* reason, many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many have fallen asleep. Now if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged.”

John 6:51- “I am the living bread, which came down from heaven; *if* anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; *and* the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

John 6:53-56- “Therefore, Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. The one who eats My flesh *and* drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; For My flesh is truly food, *and* My blood is truly drink. The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him.”

God’s instructions in His Word are clear and to the point. We have the perfect guidelines to follow. Deviation from or omitting any portion of them can be disastrous with eternal costs.

1 John 2:15-17- “Do not love the world, nor the things *that are* in the world. *If* anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him Because everything that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pretentious pride of physical life—is not from the Father, *but* is from the world. And the world and its lust is passing away, *but the one who does the will of God abides forever.*”

I cannot fathom more devastating words than these:

Matthew 7:21-23- “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; *but* the one who *is* doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?’ ***And*** then I will confess to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work lawlessness.’”

We have been so abundantly blessed with His precious Son, His Holy Spirit, and His Way of life. We have the complete Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Luke 10:23-24- “And He turned to His disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that have seen the things that you see. For I tell you, many prophets and kings have desired to see the things that you see, and have not seen them; and to hear the things that you hear, and have not heard them.”

If we have the love for God first in our lives, all things will fall into their proper order. Love is critical to growing in the grace and knowledge of God.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3- “***If*** I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, *but* do not have love, I have become a sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ***If*** I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, ***and if*** I have all

faith, so as to remove mountains, ***but*** do not have love, I am nothing. ***And if*** I give away all my goods, ***and if*** I deliver up my body that I may be burned, ***but*** do not have love, I have gained nothing.”

Our walk is not an easy one and it will require the best we can give to Our Creator, our very lives. We know the blessing and promises and we know the penalties for disobeying His Word.

James 1:25- “***But*** the one who has looked into *the* perfect law of freedom, ***and*** has *continued in it*, this one himself has not become a forgetful hearer, ***but*** is a doer of *the* work. This one shall be blessed in his actions.”

We must live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. If we miss the little words, we can certainly miss the big meanings.

No “ands,” “ifs,” or “buts” about it, “***If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.***”- **John 13:17.** Amen.