

## Cut and Paste Christianity

I've actually been thinking about today's topic for quite some time. It may turn into a two- or three-part series at some point, but I hope it will provide an insight to having a ready answer we often mention. "But sanctify the Lord God in your own hearts, and always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope *that* is in you, with meekness and reverence."- **1 Pet. 3:15**.

So many churches today preach a watered down warm and fuzzy theology contrary to the Word of God. It seems that most are concerned with selling or pushing an agenda. They are focused more on a bottom line and body count for attendance and all the while they discount and dilute the true Word of God. Protestant churches continually take one or two lines of scripture out of complete context, cut and paste, to support an idea or belief for their particular denomination. Unlike the Catholics who just re-write God's Word as needed. All are missing the mark completely. This is in and of itself is wrong.

**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.”

We know we are to live by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (**Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4, Luke 4:4**). We must read, believe and do what God says in His Bible in its entirety. We cannot pick and choose which portions of scriptures we will believe.

**Isaiah 28: 9-10** – “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” We live by every Word of God from Genesis to Revelation.

We used to go to church on Sundays, hear a line or two from the Bible coupled with a feel-good sermon, put a dollar in the collection plate and that’s it, we’re there. We mumble a “sinner’s prayer” and we are saved! Hallelujah! Heaven here we come! But is this the truth? Can these beliefs and teachings be found in God’s Word? The question to “Sunday Church goers” is, “Have you yourself proven these beliefs by reading them or even locating them in God’s Word?”

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** - “Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good”

So why do so many believe a chopped-up theology? Once Satan deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the rest of humanity was a snap (**Rev. 12:9**).

According to estimations from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, there are more than 200 Christian denominations in the U.S. and a staggering 45,000 worldwide! Is it any wonder the truth is twisted?

**1 Corinthians 1:10** – “Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; rather that you may be knit together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

Reading the Bible *for yourself* and *proving* what your church “preaches” may be shocking. You may have to *unlearn* all that you have been taught as it will be contrary to what the Bible and the plan of God actually says. Conflicting with all I was taught growing up was always the issue I had personally. I never read the Bible for myself outside of church other than an occasional Psalm or Proverb. I never *did* what God said we are to do in His Word. I never kept His true Sabbath or His Holy Days.

With all those various denominations out there, I’m not even going to get into some of the TV preachers and the hustle they’re pulling...miracle spring water... name it and claim it, blab it and grab it, the whole prosperity message. It’s as if

God is a genie in a bottle and all you have to do is ask and your wish will be granted. The road to heaven is not cheap, just send in your “seed of faith \$\$.”

Granted, there are tons of genuine, God loving Sunday Church pastors and church members emulating Jesus, who with *all* their hearts love God and know His Word.

But they fail to keep His Sabbaths and Holy Days. “If you love me, keep my commandments- namely My commandments.”- **John 14:15 (John 14:21, 15:10)**.

**All of them**. This is not an indictment of them but an observation. Keep in mind, judgment will begin in God’s house first.

**1 Peter 4:17**- “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?”

In taking a look at some of the scriptures used for the cut and paste theologies, we will discuss a few of the most common. We should first start at the beginning and have a foundation in understanding of who God is; Creator, Sovereign, Heavenly Father, The Alpha and Omega. He is the same in the Old Testament as He is in the New Testament.

**Does God Change?** From the Old Testament, **Malachi 3:6**- “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”

From the New Testament, **John 1:1-2** – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” “He was in the beginning with God.” **Hebrews 13:8**- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”

If God changed, He would negate what was taught in the Old Testament and contradict His own words. God cannot lie.

**Titus 1:2**- “In *the* hope of eternal life, which God Who cannot lie promised before the ages of time,”

**Do I go to heaven when I die?** This one is a biggie as everyone wants to know what is at the end of life. We know it is death. So many churches preach that when a person dies, that person’s spirit floats off to heaven as an eternal spirit being to walk the streets of heaven for all eternity. Just how one gets there is a variation on the different religious denominations and doctrines. Heaven is the destination of all “good people.”

Most Protestant denominations believe you must be “born again.” You simply say the “sinner’s prayer,” confess your sins and receive Jesus into your heart, be a good person and you will float off to heaven and be with grandma upon your death. You will live out all eternity walking the streets of gold. Sounds like a wonderful plan. I believed this most all of my life as did most of you, until God

called (**John 6:44**) and said “Hey, you’re missing My truth and reward.” (**James 1:18**- “According to His own will, He begat us by *the* Word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all His created beings.”

**Rev. 1:6**- “And has made us kings and priests to God and His Father; to Him *be* the glory and the sovereignty into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

If we think about it, why would God put His only Son through such a horrific death to pay a price for mankind if all we have to do is say a simple little prayer? Inviting Jesus into our hearts and being the Lord of our lives may be a step in the right direction but there is work to be done. We must do our part. Obey, keep, and DO His commandments.

So many times, I have been to funerals and have heard people say of departed loved ones “I’ll bet they’re looking down on all of us right now smiling wishing we were with them...” That’s kind of hard to believe as for some of the folks I’ve known in the coffin, it’s their first time inside a church other than an obligatory holiday tradition. Anyway, it makes everyone present feel better and comforts the family, easing the pain of the loss of a loved one. But what in fact does God’s word say about death and what happens to us when we die?

To get a grip on this, let's take a look at where we started, where were we made and how. I believe if we keep it simple and at the beginning we will not get confused and if explained in the Words of Our Creator, we won't leave any room for arguments. So, let's go back to **Genesis 2:7**- "Then the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed life into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

God **made us** from the dust of the Earth. Fairly plain and simple. He breathed His breath of life into us and **made us** a living being. Again, not complicated. We know that woman was taken from man in reading **Genesis 2:21-23**. We were without sin until Satan deceived Eve and both she and Adam fell from grace and sin and death entered the world.

Having now an end to life, where does one go upon the end of life at death? God clearly states in **Genesis 3:19**- "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground; for out of it you were taken: for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return." God makes it clear; He is putting us right back where He got us from, the dust of the Earth.

Many ask, "Well what about the spirit (the breath of life)?" Well, that belonged to God in the first place, it was not ours. Even if we were a baptized saint and had

received His Holy Spirit, it would return unto Him, our mortal body would still be returned to the ground from which it came.

**1 Corinthians 6:20-** “For you were bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

His Spirit returns to Him. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – “And the dust returns to the earth as it was: and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” It does not say anything about a trip up to heaven anywhere. What about all of our thoughts and memories?

**Ecclesiastes 9:5-6-** “For the living know they shall die: but the dead know not anything, nor do they have any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is long ago perished; nor do they any longer have a portion forever in all that is done under the sun.”

Again, we see that when we die, our thoughts, our memories, all that we were, dies with us. We know nothing.

So, who does go to heaven? Jesus Himself answers this question in **John 3:13-**

“(And no one has ascended into heaven, except He Who came down from heaven, even the Son of man, Who is in heaven.)”



By the very words of Jesus Himself, NO person has ever ascended up to the third heaven where God the Father is seated. This deception is a lie from Satan and has been perpetuated through the ages and the many divisions among Christianity.

So why all the deception and confusion? “And the great dragon was cast out, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who is deceiving the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.”-

**Revelation 12:9.** It is a lot easier to believe a pleasant and calming lie about “floating off to heaven and walk the streets of gold.” Quite contrary to the truth of being buried back in the ground, decaying back to dust, and awaiting one of two resurrections that are actually in God’s Word. Satan is a clever enemy. I will not go into the premise of going “to hell” (another misconception) as that will have to come in a future message.

**“Well, what about the thief on the cross”** from **Luke 23:42-43**? Let us read it.

“Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you today, you shall be with Me in paradise.”

The context of Jesus’ reply is that He *will* remember the thief *when* He comes into His Kingdom. It is future tense as Jesus has not yet returned and established His Kingdom. The First Resurrection has not yet taken place.

**We keep a Sunday the Sabbath, the Lord’s Day.** Sunday is not the true Sabbath.

We get asked this question probably the most. People think we are Seventh Day

Adventists or some other off the wall bunch. In keeping this overview brief (as we have had several studies on the Sabbath itself), we always look to God's Word as always to prove and answer any questions. Please turn in your Bible to **Genesis 2:2-3**- "And by the beginning of the seventh day God finished 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 on it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." The seventh day was sanctified or set apart at the beginning of creation. "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying "Truly you shall keep My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations to know that I am the Lord Who sanctifies you."- **Exodus 31:13**. It is also the Fourth Commandment (**Exodus 20:8**).

So many people claim it is a "Jewish" tradition or it is strictly "Old Testament". These are the same folks who probably have their Bibles chock full of newspaper clippings of wedding, birth and death announcements, covered with dust on an end table somewhere. Never once cracking it open to see what is actually written in the pages inside. The real newsflash is; the Sabbath was established roughly 2300 years before a Jew ever walked on the Earth. Man changed the Sabbath to Sunday with no scriptural authority. This is another study in of itself as Chauncey our resident historian can elaborate. Some Sunday church goers call it the "Lord's

Day.” “Oh, we choose to worship the Lord on the Lord’s Day” as I was told by a local Pastor when I brought up the Fourth Commandment.

God’s Holy Days fall under the same misconception as the Sabbath. They too are mistaken and dismissed for Jewish holidays and traditions; “Then He said to them, Full well do you reject the commandment of God, so that you may observe your own tradition.”- **Mark 7:9**.

**Leviticus 23:1-2** clarifies what God actually said, “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘Concerning the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, even these are My appointed feasts.” Israel was made up of 12 tribes, not all were Jews. It is not referring to the little country in the Middle East founded in 1948.

I’ve heard comments like, “We no longer have to keep Jewish traditions/commandments as it is Old Testament and has been done away with, the law has been done away with, **“it’s been nailed to the cross!”** “For truly I say to you, until the heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the law until everything has been fulfilled.”- **Matthew 5:18**. What actually was done away with were the handwritten ordinances of Moses.

**Hebrews 9:10-** “*These services consist* only of meat and drink *offerings*, and various washings and physical ordinances, imposed until *the* time of the new *spiritual* order.”

For clarification, **Colossians 2:14-** “He has blotted out the note of our debt against us with the decrees of our sins, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it away, having nailed it to the cross.” This does not mean that any commandments of God were done away with. Our sins were nailed to the cross when Jesus was crucified. Again, taken out of context to justify the doing away with Sabbath keeping and the keeping of God’s Holy Days.

God also makes it clear what happens if we do not share His precise truth. “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!”- **Galatians 1:8-9.**

Now is the time for the people of God to return to His true Word. He is calling those who will be in His first resurrection. He is calling us not just to believe but to **DO!** “Do you believe that God is one? You do well to believe this. Even the demons believe- and tremble in fear.”- **James 2:19.** “The one who says “I know

Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.”-

**1 John 2:4.**

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.”- **Hosea 4:6.**

We cannot pick and choose, cut and paste what we want to believe and dismiss ANY of God’s written Word. Our nation is in chaos. Our churches are just as bad.

Believing will not cut it, saying a sinner’s prayer won’t measure up either. Man-made traditions flying a Jesus flag will not get you into God’s Kingdom. The blessed truth of God’s plan is that we will be resurrected to glory with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ upon His return to establish His Kingdom on the Earth to reign with Him.

**Revelation 20:6-** “Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

But to do this we must be obedient and keep His commandments and Holy Days as He tells us in His Word. I’m sure we will have more to follow on this topic in the future.

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