Why Don't They Get It?

I genuinely believe that if aliens landed here on Earth, they would not find any intelligent life. It is mind boggling to me how so many people who think they are intellectual and claim to be "Christians" are so blind to God's truth. To be brief, we will look at a few definitions of "Christian."

<u>Merriam-Webster</u>- noun- one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus <u>Christ</u> <u>Cambridge Dictionary</u>- noun- someone who believes in and follows the teachings of Jesus Christ

<u>Free Dictionary</u>- noun- a person who believes in and follows Jesus Christ We can see that all three of these definitions contain "believes." The Cambridge and Free Dictionaries add the additional term of "follows." This may be a little closer to what an actual Christian should be. Belief in itself does not cut it.

James 2:19- "Do you believe that God is one? You do well *to believe this*. Even the demons believe—and tremble in fear."

Christianity has over two billion followers globally. That is more than 30% of the population of the Earth, making it the largest religion in the world. What is sad is

that it is widely diverse, encompassing hundreds of denominations and countless interpretations of scripture. As of this year 2024, there are over two hundred denominations in the U.S. and over 45,000 worldwide. Only man could devise so many out of One God and One Savior.

What we are witnessing in churches are those who want to seek and worship God in their own way and NOT His. You might think that of all those who seek God's truth would be able to read. What is it then that has them so blind as they will not see God's word right in front of them? To emphasize this from the essay.

Matthew 13:14-17- "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, 'In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive; For the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and should hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them.' But blessed *are* your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you, many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see what you see, and have not seen; and to hear what you hear, and have not heard." I know we all have family members who are still "on the outside looking in." Perhaps it is not their time. They will get their opportunity at the Second Resurrection. As sad as that may be, until the trumpet sounds, keep praying for them. Without having God's Holy Spirit, they may believe but will never come to the full knowledge of His truth.

I Corinthians 2:11-14- "For who among men understands the things of man except *by* the spirit of man which *is* in him? In the same way also, the things of God no one understands except *by* the Spirit of God. Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God; Which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words* taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned."

Even after baptism, we will spend the rest of our lives growing and learning to be in the likeness of Jesus Christ. We have had the blessing of being enlightened to His truth and way of life. We have had our minds opened as we first opened our hearts. John 16:13- "However, when that one has come, even the Spirit of the truth, it will lead you into all truth because it shall not speak from itself, but whatever it shall hear, it shall speak. And it shall disclose to you the things to come."

Ephesians 1:17-18- "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you *the* spirit of wisdom and revelation in *the* knowledge of Him. *And* may the eyes of your mind be enlightened in order that you may comprehend what is the hope of His calling, and what *are* the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,"

There will be those, even in our own families, who will mock us or accuse us of being in a cult. All the while, they do nothing to prove by the Word of God what they are taught in their Sunday church. It is easier for them to criticize than to submit. For whatever reason, pride is at the root of most instances. Even when scripture is shown to them from their own Bible, they will continue to ignore it.

2 Peter 3:3-6- "Knowing this first, that in the last days *there* will come mockers, walking according to their own personal lusts, And asking, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the forefathers died, everything has remained the same as from *the* beginning of creation." But this *fact* is hidden from them—they

themselves choosing *to ignore it*—that by the Word of God *the* heavens existed of old, and *the* earth came forth out of water and amid water, By which the world at that time, having been deluged with water, had itself been destroyed."

Even in the days of Noah, I am sure he had to endure much criticism and scoffing from those around him as referenced in the above scripture. Unlike Chicken Little running around yelling the "sky is falling," Noah was not motivated for his own benefit. God summoned him to build the Ark as God planned to destroy all life on Earth.

Genesis 6:13-14- "And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them. And, behold, I will destroy them *with* the earth. Make an ark of cypress timbers. You shall make rooms in the ark, and you shall pitch it inside and outside with pitch."

Imagine the endurance Noah had. He was around five hundred years old when God told him to build the ark. It was not until one hundred years later that it began to rain (Genesis 5:32, Genesis 7:6). For one hundred years, Noah had to endure the ridicule of the scoffers and doubters surrounding him. Mocking the messengers of God is persistent for the sceptics and nonbelievers.

2 Chronicles 36:16- "But they mocked the messengers of God and despised His words, and illtreated His prophets until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people until *there was* no remedy."

They all had a great laugh at Noah's expense for quite a few years. Until it began to rain...

Jesus too was no stranger to mocking and ridicule. Here was a man, not building an Ark, but professing to be the very Son of God! With all the miracles He performed, and the lessons He taught, He was despised by His own, especially after He brought to light their shortcomings and sins. He blasted them in Matthew 23:1-39. He called the Pharisees "Blind Guides, hypocrites," and blamed them for killing the prophets. They crucified Him for it.

Matthew 27:28-31- "And they stripped Him *and* put a scarlet cloak around Him. And after platting a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a rod in His right hand; and bowing *on* their knees before Him, they mocked Him, and *kept on* saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then, after spitting on Him, they took the rod and struck *Him* on the head. When they were done mocking Him, they took the cloak off Him; and they put His own garments on Him and led Him away to crucify Him."

Calling attention to one's own sins and unrighteousness could be another reason why so many today ignore God's word and way of life. This is why so many of the Protestant churches seem to flourish. They tell appealing stories to the itching ears, disregarding the truth of God's word. They are more interested in the traditions of men than the truth of God. It is more important to them to pack the pews and the coffers than fill hearts with God's truth. However, we have our instructions to follow as given by Paul to Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:1-5- "I charge you, therefore, in the sight of God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is ready to judge *the* living and *the* dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be urgent in season and out of season; convict, rebuke, encourage, with all patience and doctrine. For there shall come a time when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but according to their own lusts they shall accumulate to themselves a *great number of* teachers, having ears itching *to hear what satisfies their cravings;* And they shall turn away their own ears from the truth; and they shall be turned aside unto myths. But *as for* you, be vigilant in

all things, endure hardships, do *the* work of an evangelist; fully carry out your ministry."

It amazes me that it is so easy for pastors to sell a bill of goods that is not even in scripture. But people do not wish to be enlightened, they would rather be entertained. Twisting and distorting the Word of God will come with consequences someday.

Galatians 1:8-9- "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!"

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."

How can anyone skip over and ignore these verses? Maybe they got permission from the Catholic Church who changed God's Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday without any scriptural authority? They are so deceived that they believe the lies they share. Blind guides lead a blind audience. Deaf and dumb as well...

Matthew 15:14- "Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of *the* blind. And if *the* blind lead *the* blind, both shall fall into the pit."

But we are blessed and not to be blind to God's truth.

2 Corinthians 5:7- "(For we walk by faith, not by sight.)

Sharing God's word with those who sneer at our faith will always be the norm until God chooses to reveal His truth to them (John 6:44). We cannot achieve this on our own.

2 Corinthians 2:14-17- "But thanks *be* to God, Who always leads us triumphant in Christ, and manifests the fragrance of His knowledge through us in every place. For we are Christ's sweet perfume to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; To those *who are perishing, we are* a stench of death unto death; but to those *who are being saved, we are* a fragrance of life unto life. And who *is* qualified for such things? For we are not like the many, who for *their own* profit are corrupting the Word of God; but we speak with sincerity, as from God, *and* before God, *and* in Christ."

Keeping God's true Sabbath is one of the first steps in receiving the revelation of God's truth. But so many are deceived into believing this is a "Jewish" custom as are the God's Holy Days. They have all been "done away with" and nailed to the cross. Again, they do not read the verses in their own Bibles. The Sabbath was established at creation, 2000 years before a Jew existed (Genesis 2:2-3). They do not understand that the Nation of Israel was made up of twelve tribes, two being Jews. Regarding the Holy Days, God specifically states in Leviticus 23:2, that these are "My feasts." He does not assert they are specifically for the Jews. Sabbath keeping will begin to unwrap the veil that blinds so many.

2 Corinthians 3:14-17- "But their minds were blinded; for to the present hour the same veil *has* not *been* removed, *but* remains at the reading of the Old Covenant; which *veil* is removed in Christ. For to this day, when Moses is read, *the* veil lies upon their hearts. But when *their hearts* turn to *the* Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of *the* Lord *is*, there *is* freedom."

Hebrews 4:4-12- "For He spoke in a certain place about the seventh *day* in this manner: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works"; And again concerning this: "If they shall enter into My rest-" Consequently, since it remains for some to enter into it, and those who had previously heard the gospel did not enter in because of disobedience, Again He marks out a certain day, "Today," saying in David after so long a time, "Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken *long* afterwards of another day. There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God. For the one who has entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his works, just as God did from His own works. We should be diligent therefore to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, and of both the joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart."

President Bill Clinton said at a Human Rights Campaign Dinner for the LGBT community in 1997, that moral law is evolving. "We're redefining in practical terms the immutable ideas that have guided us," he remarked. This comment makes sense to those who have no moral foundation. Our nation has slid even further into the pit of depravity. It may appear that current times rival the days of Noah. It may more closely resemble Sodom and Gomorrah.

Matthew 24:36-39- "But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Now as *it was in* the days of Noah, so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man. For as in the days that *were* before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark; And they were not aware until the Flood came and took *them* all away; so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man."

But we need not fear the times or events. Just when men begin to think they have a handle on society's problems, total chaos and destruction will erupt. We have been foretold of things to come. Things that those who chose to ignore God's truth will not be prepared to bear. We only need to keep our reverent fear for God and share His truth readily with those who may seek Him.

Matthew 10:27-28- "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but do not have power to destroy the life; rather, fear Him Who has the power to destroy both life and body in Gehenna."

We will always be mocked, scoffed at, and even persecuted by those who do not understand. We will even be hated. But as we mentioned last week, we are in Good Company. **John 15:18-19-** "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this."

We will continue our walk of faith in the truth and word of God Almighty. Striving to grow in the image of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are certainly living in times like those of the days of Noah, so the return of Christ could come anytime soon.

Luke 21:35-36- "For as a snare it shall come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. Watch therefore, and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

It is not our total responsibility to make those who do not understand to "get it." Knowing this, our job is to watch and pray and overcome. Knowing God's word and being able to share it with those who seek His truth is crucial. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5- "But you, brethren, are not in darkness that the day of the Lord should overtake you as a thief. For you are all children of the light and children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of the darkness."

As children of the light, we will receive our reward when Christ returns, *if* we keep His Commandments.

Revelation 1:1-3- "*The* revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, to show to His servants the things that *are* ordained to come to pass shortly; and He made it known, having sent *it* by His angel to His servant John; Who gave witness to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, and all the things he saw. Blessed *is* the one who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who keep the things *that are* written therein; for the time *is* at hand."

Unbelievers will continue to make fun of those who keep God's Commandments and live His way of life. They will continue this up until they hear a trumpet blast and the sky cracks...then they will "get it." Amen.

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