

*The
Doctrine of Christ*

A Message from Jesus Christ

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The Doctrine of Christ
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Acknowledgment

*Thank you Heavenly Father for revealing Your Doctrine to Jesus so that He could give it to His Body the Church. We are grateful that we do not have to be confused or led astray by false or misleading doctrines. You have preserved for the Church Your Doctrine which is the **Doctrine of Christ.***

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

If someone were to ask you what you believe, could you tell him the basic foundation of your faith?

Where does your church or denomination get its teachings and doctrines?

We encounter such diverse views concerning doctrines. One church's doctrines are often offensive to another group. Why does Christianity have such differences?

Nearly all groups calling themselves Christian worship the same God and Father and have the same Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most claim to embrace the identical Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God.

Why can't all of us have the same doctrine and beliefs?

How can you know if you have the Doctrine Jesus Christ taught?

It is our belief and understanding that only Jesus Christ has the authority to set Doctrine for His Body, the Church. Jesus, "...is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* He might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18). The Church is, "...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*" (Eph. 2:20).

It is with this knowledge that we search the scriptures, which are Jesus Christ in writing, to discover the Doctrine Jesus Christ Himself set forth.

Just as the **fruit** of the Spirit is a singular word, yet has different facets (Gal. 5:22-23), so the **Doctrine of Christ** is one doctrine with seven different principles. Throughout the Bible, whenever the Doctrine of Christ or God's Doctrine is mentioned, it is always one doctrine (singular) but when doctrines (plural) are mentioned, it is speaking of the doctrines of men or demon influenced ideas. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1).

Doctrines can develop in our churches from several different sources. It is our responsibility to examine our doctrines to determine if they come from Jesus. We may have misread scripture and accepted our own beliefs as doctrine without proof.

In Hebrews 6:1-2 we read, "Therefore leaving **the principles of the Doctrine of Christ**, [7] let us go on unto perfection; not laying again [1] the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of [2] faith toward God, [3] the doctrine of baptisms, and of [4] laying on of hands, and of [5] resurrection of the dead, and of [6] eternal judgment."

This is the Doctrine of Christ as delivered to the Apostles.

First Principle: Repentance from Dead Works

Repentance is not an idea that people would, or could, come up with all on their own. Many people don't feel the need to repent. As a matter of fact, most individuals think they are good enough and don't need to repent or to confess sin to anyone. They are happy in their own skin and admit they have made mistakes but that they are basically good.

The average person doesn't know what sin is, nor does he understand its cost or its penalty.

To sense the feeling or need to repent can only come from the Father through the Holy Spirit. Without the conviction of sin, there can be no repentance. And without repentance of sin, there can be no forgiveness. Both the conviction of sin and the repentance are the works of the Holy Spirit. "...The Comforter ...will reprove [convict] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:7-8).

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and leads them to repentance. The Father then draws them (John 6:44) into an everlasting relationship with His only begotten Son Jesus Christ so that they can receive the gifts of forgiveness of sin and the Holy Spirit.

If you are moved to seek a relationship with the creator and ruler of the universe then please take the time to go to a quiet place and ask God in humility to open your heart and mind for these great miracles. If you seek God in humility, He will answer your prayers, "...to this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word" (Isa. 66:2). To receive answers to your prayers you must seek the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. Make your requests to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ.

It is Jesus that died so we could be forgiven of all our sins. It was God the Father that loved us so much, "...that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

One account of the birth and life of Jesus begins in the Gospel of John. As you begin to read this book, ask God to help you understand His Word. If you seek to diligently understand, the Holy Spirit will open your mind to the knowledge and understanding of the truth. You will, for the first time in your life, be able to read the Holy Bible and begin to comprehend it!

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel**'" (Mark 1:14-15). We see that, at the very beginning of Christ's ministry, He started preaching about the Kingdom of God and encouraging everyone to repent and to believe the gospel—the good news of the Kingdom of God.

What Does it Mean to Repent?

Many think repenting means being sorry for the bad deeds they have done. Often that awful feeling only comes from being caught! This is not the repentance Jesus taught.

There is a huge difference between worldly anguish over having one's sins discovered and deep, Godly repentance. "For **the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation**. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But **worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death**" (II Cor. 7:10 NLT).

Simply feeling sad about our sins is not what God wants. To grasp repentance, we must first know what constitutes sin. After we recognize sin for what it is, then we must know to Whom we should repent.

What is Sin?

Let's discover what sin is. God has set guidelines by which humans are to live. John said, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law**" (I John 3:4). But we also come to realize that, "...by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for **by the law is the knowledge of sin**" (Rom. 3:20). Paul further explained that, if there was no law, there would be no transgression. (See Rom. 4:15).

Christians, under the New Covenant, are to live by faith in Jesus Christ and to follow His example. That is, to abide by the physical and spiritual intent of the Ten Commandments. James, the brother of Jesus, said, "Therefore **to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin**" (Jas. 4:17). The Apostle Paul said to believers that, "...**whatsoever is not of faith is sin**" (Rom. 14:23).

We get paid for sin and what we earn is death. "...The wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus went on to say, "The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me" (John 16:9 NLT). As long as we continue to reject Christ's offer to forgive us our sins, we are sinning.

Now we know and understand what sin is. Our repentance must be focused toward God. It is only God that can forgive us all our sins!

What Are Dead Works?

What does it mean to repent of dead works? John the Baptist put it this way, "Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance" (Matt. 3:8). Dead works are efforts done or accomplished through fleshly, carnal-minded desires and motives without direction of the Holy Spirit. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25).

Doing what feels good or comes naturally, without regard to God and His laws, leads to death. “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it” (Matt. 7:13-14 NLT).

The Apostle Paul explained dead works of the flesh as follows, “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; adultery, fornication, uncleanness [impurity], lasciviousness [lustful pleasures], idolatry, witchcraft [sorcery], hatred, variance [quarreling], emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).

We are to repent of our former way of life apart from God. “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:5-8). It is only after the Holy Spirit begins to work in our lives that our efforts have any lasting value. Once we have the Holy Spirit functioning in us, we can then produce fruit that is pleasing to God.

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21 NLT). Again in Ephesians 5:11-12, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”

How Does a Person Repent?

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your* joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up” (Jas. 4: 7-10).

God said in Isaiah 66:2, “...to this *man* will I look, *even* to *him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My word.” Our humility and repentance must be toward God. He alone can forgive sin. We must humble ourselves as little children in God’s presence. We need to be teachable and yielded to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus said, “...Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, ‘Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein’” (Luke 18:16-17).

Part of repentance toward God means to stop thinking that you have all the answers, that you are always right, and that you don’t need God in your life. “Be not wise in thine own

eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil” (Prov. 3:7). For, “The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *His commandments*: His praise endureth for ever” (Psa. 111:10).

An excellent example of wholehearted repentance is found in Psalm 51. David said, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, *and* be clear when Thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in [into] sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* Thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* Thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me *with Thy* free spirit. *Then* will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness. O Lord, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: Thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise” (Psa. 51:1-17).

With this kind of heart, God is well-pleased. The Lord said David was, “...a man after Mine own heart...” (Acts 13:22; I Sam. 13:14). David, during his lifetime, did everything in a wholehearted way. When he sinned, he sinned big but when he repented, he did so with his entire being. God wants us to be filled with zeal and enthusiasm for Him just like David.

This repentance is not a one-time event! It is the attitude God wants from us in our lifelong relationship with Him!

John, “...when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. ‘You brood of snakes!’ he exclaimed. ‘Who warned you to flee God’s coming wrath? **Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God**’” (Matt. 3:7-8 NLT).

“If we confess our sins, He [God] is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9).

Second Principle: Faith Toward God

Where does one get faith? Faith to believe can only come from God. This faith is not something one can decide to work up or develop on his own. Jesus said, “**No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him**: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

It is the Father that gives us the faith to believe. He draws us to the saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ. The Father implants the Holy Spirit within us when we repent and accept the shed blood of Jesus to cover all our sins.

So, we see that it is the Father that leads us to repentance and gives us the faith to believe.

But how does a person grow in faith? The apostles also wanted to know. “And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘**Increase our faith.**’ So the Lord said, ‘If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, “Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,” and it would obey you. And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, “Come at once and sit down to eat”? But will he not rather say to him, “Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink”? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. **So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, “We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do”**” (Luke 17:5-10 NKJV).

The point Christ was making here is that **we increase our faith by responding to and doing the will of the Father!** We are to go above and beyond the minimum we are asked to do. **To obey God and do what pleases Him gives us great boldness and confidence and increases our faith!**

Faith also comes through studying the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote, “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). By studying the Bible, we come to better understand the will of the Father in our lives. As we continue to grow in our faith, Paul further encourages us to, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

Jesus set us an example by having faith in God. He also told His disciples, “...Have faith in God” (Mark 11:22).

Realize that, “...**Without faith *it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him***” (Heb. 11:6).

How can we expect God to deliver on His promises if we don’t believe and trust in what He says? Faith in God to do what He says He will do is paramount in building a relationship with Him. If we don’t have the confidence to rely on God to make good on His words and promises, then we won’t believe the Gospel of the Kingdom of God either!

You are instructed to, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Prov. 3:5).

Jesus Christ our Lord had FAITH in the Father and OBEYED by following all His instructions!

Faith Through Remembering The Sacrifice of Christ

Our faith is strengthened when we observe the New Testament Passover Service. Jesus Christ set us the example. This service was established by Jesus Christ to remind us of His sacrifice for our sins. This Holy Convocation was to strengthen our faith by fellowshiping with God through remembering what Christ did for us. The Apostle Paul explained it this way, “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**’ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. **This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**’ **For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes**” (I Cor. 11:23-26 NKJV). It is through sharing this sacrifice of Christ that we increase our faith toward God. We, therefore, become united in the Body of Christ.

It is our belief that Jesus Christ came from the Father and returned to the Father after His resurrection from the dead (John 16:28) and that Jesus and the Father are one (John 10:30). When we have faith toward God, we have faith in the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John. 3:13-18).

Before a person can acknowledge the Doctrine of Christ, he must first accept Jesus as the Son of God. Then he must believe that Jesus died to free all mankind from the bondage of sin. He must, “Look(ing) unto Jesus [as] the author and finisher of *our* [his] faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2).

Jesus said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38 NKJV).

Jesus went on to say, “The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in Me” (John 16:9 NLT).

“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also” (I John 2:22-23 NKJV).

When we have faith in God and believe what He says, we must respond in obedience to His commands. All faithful Christians must, “...keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev. 12:17). Our faith is then increased as we carry out His instructions. Obeying Jesus in all His directives strengthens our faith in God.

Gospel of the Kingdom

The Doctrine of Christ includes the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. The Gospel is the message Jesus brought. The Gospel was not just about Jesus, though He is central to the entire message. Jesus is the beginning and the end of the Gospel message about the Kingdom of God. Jesus came with an advanced announcement about the Kingdom of God being established here on this earth!

The Kingdom of God is expressed in the form of an epic love story—the greatest love story ever told. It lays out the Father’s plan to have a family. And this plan began with the Father sending Jesus as His only begotten Son to this earth. The advanced arrival of Jesus made it possible for all mankind to eventually become part of the Family of God.

If you want to understand the complete account of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, ask God, in humility, to open your mind to the knowledge and understanding of His Word. You will embark upon the most incredible and exciting journey of your life! But a warning is necessary because you will soon realize in your studies that much of what you thought you understood as “truth” will need to be unlearned. Continue to seek answers daily in the Holy Bible and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

Third Principle: The Doctrine of Baptisms

What does it mean to be baptized? And why does this principle speak about more than one baptism? Jesus spoke of four different baptisms as recorded in the New Testament. It is so beautiful when we are able to look into the Word of God and find, preserved for us, the answers to these questions.

John the Baptist came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching the **baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**.

“The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it” (Luke 16:16). During the time of the Old Covenant, baptism was never mentioned. But from the time John came bringing a message to repent, a new era had begun—the Kingdom of God was at hand.

(1) Water Baptism

The word “baptize” means to immerse or to dip (a person) into water. In Greek the word means to make fully wet.

Being baptized in water is an outward display of the inward transformation of our heart and mind. Part of baptism is a public confession of our sins and our willingness to turn to God.

John the Baptist, “...**preached that people should be baptized to show that they had turned to God to receive forgiveness for their sins**” (Mark 1:4 NLT). This doctrine of baptisms was introduced by the Holy Spirit through John and was part of the New Covenant. **Jesus validated this principle of baptism by coming to John to be baptized.** Jesus Christ, the Messiah, God in a human body, was baptized!

When Jesus was about to leave the disciples and return to the Father, He instructed them about their commission, “...All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost**: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:18-20).

We have been called to follow Jesus, therefore, we should also be baptized. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps” (I Pet. 2:21).

What is the Proper Method of Baptism?

There has been much controversy, over the centuries, about the proper method of baptism. Some support the idea of child sprinkling as the right and approved way to baptize. Others feel pouring water over the head of the one being baptized is the acceptable procedure. Still others find evidence to support the belief in full submersion as the true way to be baptized.

So, if we are going to follow Jesus Christ’s example, what does the Bible tell us about how a person should be baptized? In the book of John we read, “After these things came Jesus and His disciples into the land of Judaea; and there He tarried with them, and **baptized**. [Jesus Himself didn’t baptize but His disciples did (John 4:2).] **And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there**: and they came, and were baptized” (John 3:22-23). “...And [they] were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins” (Mark 1:5).

We see that Christ’s disciples and John the Baptist were baptizing in this area because, “**there was much water there.**” If we sprinkle or pour a little water over the head of the one being baptized, there would be no need to have much water. This is a clear indication of submersion as the proper form of baptism.

“Therefore we are buried [under water] with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him” (Rom. 6:4-8).

In Ephesus the Apostle Paul found a group of men that had some knowledge about being baptized, yet their understanding was not complete. “He said unto them, ‘Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?’ And they said unto him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.’ And he said unto them, ‘Unto what then were ye baptized?’ And they said, ‘Unto John’s baptism.’ Then said Paul, ‘**John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them**; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 19:2-6).

Sometimes those being baptized have not received the Holy Spirit because they either, have not been baptized in the name of and by the authority of Jesus, or they **have not had hands laid upon them by a servant of Christ** who has asked the Father to give them His Holy Spirit. This was the situation with those believers Paul met in Ephesus.

Today many are being baptized, sprinkled, or doused with water, yet they have not received the gift of the Holy Spirit. For those who were sprinkled or had water poured over them, it was not baptism as set forth by John the Baptist and Jesus. In other cases, **there has been no repentance or rejection of their former way of life**. Many have come, “Just as I am” and have repented of nothing! Yet God says He gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him (Acts 5:32). Jesus said, “...why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

Obedience is required for salvation! Obedience is necessary before God gives the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit, we do not have eternal life! Part of our obedience is repenting and believing in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins.

Childhood Baptism

What about babies and children being baptized? Many come to ministers or servants of Jesus Christ asking if their childhood baptisms were valid. First, it is necessary to ask a few questions:

- (1) At the age of “baptism,” did you have the knowledge of sin?
- (2) Did you repent of your sins?
- (3) Did you then accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ to wash away all your sins?

(4) Did you determine to follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior and to obey Him?

(5) Were you baptized by the authority of Jesus Christ in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

(6) Were you baptized, that is, submersed in water as Jesus was? He set us an example by being baptized Himself. “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

(7) Were hands laid on you and did the servant of God pray for you asking God to give you His Holy Spirit?

If these events didn't take place, then, with further counseling and study, you should be baptized in accordance with the questions and instructions outlined above.

The disciples of John the Baptist were baptized again because they didn't fully understand that they must believe in Jesus after repentance. Once they believed in Jesus, they then received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 19:2-6).

(2) Baptism of the Holy Spirit

In Acts 1:5 Jesus was speaking to His disciples shortly before returning to the Father, “For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized** [*to make whelmed or overwhelmed*] **with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.”

Acts 2:1-4 says, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire [not literally fire], and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Another account is found in John 1:33. John the Baptist said, “And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, ‘Upon Whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, **the same is He which baptizeth** [covers or overwhelms] **with the Holy Ghost.**”

Mark also records the same statement made by John, “**I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost**” (Mark 1:8).

“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost’” (Acts 2:38).

So, we see Christians who believe, repent, and are baptized will, with the laying on of hands, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. But there is yet another baptism awaiting all Christians.

(3) Baptism of Suffering—Suffering with Christ

Being a Christian is not always easy. To improve and to strengthen our character, we are allowed to suffer. “Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all” (Psa. 34:19).

A good example of suffering as a type of baptism that Christ went through is found in Matthew 20:22. Jesus asked James and John, “...Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” (v. 22 NLT). They both agreed that they were willing to go through similar sufferings. Then Jesus answered, “...**Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized**” (Mark 10:39).

In John 16:33 Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Times of testing will come upon us even as they did Christ. What we build in our spiritual life will be tested to determine its value. Suffering solidifies our character. Trials refine us into what God wants us to be.

We, as Christians, are now being judged by the way we live our lives. “But on the judgment day, fire [trials] will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames” (I Cor. 3:13-15 NLT).

Judgment is now upon the house of God. Peter explained it this way, “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?” (I Pet. 4:17).

Our Lord knew His time of suffering was very near. He was sharing with His disciples the turmoil and mental anguish He would endure when He said, “**I have a terrible baptism of suffering ahead of Me**, and I am under a heavy burden until it is accomplished” (Luke 12:50 NLT).

“...They [the Apostle Paul and those with him] encouraged them [the people around Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch] to continue in the faith, **reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God**” (Acts 14:22 NLT).

The King James Version states this as follows, “Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God**” (Acts 14:22).

Torture and suffering have not been new for followers of God. Hebrews 11 is a chapter that lists many of the atrocities believers have endured down through the ages. Books such as *The Early Church Fathers: Ante-Nicene Fathers*, *Fox’s Book of Martyrs*, and other historical accounts catalog the horrible experiences of Christians. Even today many Christians are suffering and being slaughtered around the world.

The Apostle Paul told the brethren at Colosse, “I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for His body, the church” (Col. 1:24 NLT).

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as **ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings**; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (I Pet. 4:12-13).

Being a Christian makes us a target of Satan! Satan and his demons are allowed to give us fiery trials and problems. But be of good courage, put on the whole armor of God, and, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” (Eph. 6:16).

Special Circumstances

What about those who never had the opportunity to be baptized with a water baptism before they died? The example of the thief on a cross beside Jesus comes to mind for many. In this case, he realized and repented of his sins, “And he said unto Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise’” (Luke 23:42-43). In the King James Version of the Bible, the coma was placed in the wrong place, therefore, distorting the meaning. The actual meaning is this, “Verily I say unto you today, you will be with Me in paradise.” Jesus was not going to paradise when He died. He was going to the grave for three days and three nights. But whether or not this man was saved without being baptized is clear. If the Lord says he will be with Him in paradise, then he will indeed be with Him in the Kingdom of God.

What about those who have died for their belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as their savior, yet have not been baptized? There was a Christian school in Pakistan where a group of radical Muslim terrorists burst into the school with the intent of beheading anyone that would not deny Jesus Christ and his Christian faith. One young girl was beheaded because she kept her faith. Will she have eternal life? YES SHE WILL!

While she may not have been baptized with a water baptism, **she was baptized with the same baptism Jesus was baptized with—the baptism of trials and suffering!** She

suffered with Christ and she will also reign with Him! The proof is found in Revelation 20:4-6, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:4-6).

(4) Baptism by Fire

Some groups teach about being baptized by fire as a good thing. But the teachings of Jesus show us quite a different picture. No Christian should desire to be baptized by fire. Being baptized by fire is the fate of all who reject God’s offer of salvation through Jesus.

Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28).

“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Heb. 10:26-27).

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:7-8).

So, you see, **eventually all of us are going to be baptized!** We will either be: (1) baptized in water for the remission of our sins; then (2) baptized with the Holy Spirit; and (3) baptized with trials allowed by God to refine and to purify His people; or (4) baptized in the lake of fire prepared for Satan and his demons (Matt. 25:41) and all those who refuse the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the offer of salvation.

Forth Principle: Laying on of Hands

This principle is revealed often throughout the New Testament. Yet it is one of the least understood principles of Christ. There are four areas in which this principle is used in the New Covenant: (1) to pronounce a blessing; (2) at the giving of the Holy Spirit after baptism; (3) at the time of prayer for healing; and (4) in the promotion to an office of service within the Church. Let’s examine each of these areas.

Pronouncing a Blessing

In Mark 10:14-16 we find Christ setting us an example of blessing little children, “...Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom

of God. Verily I say unto you, 'Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.' And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them."

Part of this blessing is asking God to set His holy, protecting angels about the children, to lead them, through His Spirit, into a saving relationship with His Son, and to be ever-present in their lives.

Some congregations conduct this special service once a year to bless the little children. They ask God to watch over these little ones and to protect them from harm and danger. This blessing of children is sometimes extended to milestones and achievements in their lives, such as the rite of passage into adulthood. Some families have instituted a special time of blessing for each of their children.

The laying on of hands is often used at weddings to give the new couple God's blessing on their union and for conceiving children.

We are reminded by the Apostle Paul to, "...bless, and curse not" (Rom. 12:14).

"...Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Be a blessing to others and follow the examples of Jesus.

Conferring the Holy Spirit after Baptism

Not long after the founding of the New Testament Church, Philip went from Jerusalem to Samaria preaching the good news about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. And, "...when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12).

"Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (for as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost**" (Acts 8:14-17).

In Acts 19:6 we read, "And **when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

The laying on of hands is a significant part of baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit.

Warning

It is important that we realize the seriousness of "the laying on of hands." With the proper use of this instruction from Jesus Christ comes the power of God! It is not to be utilized as a moneymaking business. Some are pillaging this sacred principle for personal

gain. Some ministries are polluting the use of “the laying on of hands” and defaming God’s name by attempting to heal people in the name of God but doing it for their own profit.

In the book of Acts is a classic example of a man that tried to obtain this power for his personal use and benefit. In Acts 8:9 we see a case where a man named Simon, “...used sorcery and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one.”

Then in Acts 8:18-23, “And when Simon saw **that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given**, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.’ But Peter said unto him, ‘Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity.”

You see, this man was baptized earlier by Philip but he had not repented of his sins and turned to God. (Just as many today think they can simply add Christ to their wicked lives then they are “good to go.”) His heart was not right before God. He thought this power would be great to add to his other tricks of sorcery to bewitch and take advantage of people. He imagined it would be a lucrative, business opportunity. Even yet today, people are following his example by conducting healing campaigns for profit.

Prayer for Healing

The third example of laying on of hands is for healing. There are many examples given by Jesus for us to follow.

One of the first mentionings of this principle was in Mark 5:23 where Jairus, one of the rulers of the synagogue came asking Jesus, “...My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray Thee*, come and **lay Thy hands on her, that she may be healed**; and she shall live.” He understood how Jesus performed many of His healings.

Mark 6:5-6 reads, “And He could there do no mighty work, save that **He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them**. And He marvelled because of their unbelief...”

In Mark 8:23-25 Jesus gave us another example, “And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when He had spit on his eyes, and put His hands upon him, He asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, ‘I see men as trees, walking.’ After that He put His hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.”

In Luke 13:10-13 it is recorded that Jesus, “...was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up *herself*. And when Jesus saw her, He

called *her to Him*, and said unto her, ‘Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.’ And **He laid His hands on her**: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.”

“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto Him; and **He laid His hands on every one of them, and healed them**” (Luke 4:40).

In the book of Mark we see our great commission, “And He said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**”” (Mark 16:15-18).

We read in Acts 9:17-18, “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.’ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

In James 5:14-16 we are instructed that if any is sick among you, “...let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil [using olive oil in combination with the laying on of hands] in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

This use of oil for anointing stems from the instructions given to the disciples by Jesus. We read in Mark 6:13 that the disciples participating in the first evangelistic tour anointed with oil. It was olive oil that was used when healing the sick. (See Thayer’s Greek Definitions and Strong’s Hebrew & Greek Dictionaries G1637.)

One other example has been given to show the use of the laying on of hands by the Apostle Paul. “And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them” (Acts 19:11-12). From this example of the Apostle Paul, we take small pieces of cloth and pray to God, anointing the cloth with oil in the name of the Lord; by the use of this method, the prayer of faith will save the sick. This is done whenever it is not possible or practical for God’s servants to physically reach the sick person.

God does heal today! Follow His instructions and the prayer of faith will save the sick.

The Promotion to an Office of Service Within the Church

The fourth use of laying on of hands is that of promotion to an office of service within the Church. In Acts 6:5-6 (NKJV) we are shown, "...they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and **when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.**" These men were raised to the office of deacon within the Church to help serve the Body of Christ.

Acts 13:1-3 says, "Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.' And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." Here again was the work of the Holy Spirit directing the leadership of the Church at Antioch to set apart Barnabas and Saul (now Paul) for the work of the Ministry. They were ordained to be Apostles (ones sent forth).

In I Timothy 3:6 we see that this laying on of hands for offices within the Church must not be done too quickly, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." Then in verse 10, "And let these also first be proved; ...being *found* blameless." And in I Timothy 5:22, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."

Fifth Principle: Resurrection of the Dead

Part of knowing the Doctrine of Christ is to understand what Jesus taught about the resurrection of the dead. First, it is important that we understand that, "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). The principles of "eternal judgment" and the "resurrection of the dead" are closely linked. We will examine each of these as we continue.

Can you explain clearly your belief in life after death?

All the principles of Christ are vital, but this principle is of central importance. The Apostle Paul made it clear as he was explaining the outline of this belief to the Corinthians, "But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?" (I Cor. 15:12 NLT).

Some today are preaching as if they don't believe in the resurrection either. They think that they float off to heaven when they die or are taken in a rapture and there they are—in Heaven! Many do not know what they believe about what happens after death.

"For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the

grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost" (I Cor. 15:13-18 NLT)! Without this belief of a resurrection from the dead, we, as Christians, would have no hope!

There is much confusion regarding this principle of the resurrection. Many do not put their hope in a resurrection for those who die in Christ. They simply believe people are transformed from their dead, physical body to a spirit body that rises to heaven. Therefore, many doubt Jesus Christ will ever return in a "Second Coming."

So let's allow the Spirit of Truth to lead us into all truth!

Back in the days when Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem there were those of the sect called the Sadducees who didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead. After they explained their hypothesis of seven men in secession having one woman as their wife, they wanted Christ to determine whose wife she would be in a resurrection. Jesus showed them their lack of understanding. "Jesus replied, '**Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.** For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven'" (Matt. 22:29-30 NLT).

There were two things they didn't understand:

1. They didn't know the Scriptures.
2. They didn't know the power of God.

In the New Living Translation we find Christ went on to say in verses 31-32, "But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven't you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' So He is the God of the living, not the dead."

Let's analyze Christ's words to learn the truth of this principle of the resurrection.

Jesus said, "When the dead rise." This is a definitive statement—a conclusive or decisive phrase. The dead will rise! It is only a matter of when. Therefore, we have established the fact, in Christ's own words, there will be a resurrection!

How is it that Jesus can say Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are alive when He just got through saying there will be a resurrection? The Apostle Paul spoke of this power of God the Sadducees didn't understand when he wrote of Abraham saying, "...**God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did**" (Rom. 4:17 NKJV).

You see, God can speak of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as though they were alive and in the present because He lives outside time and space. **God sees what He is going to accomplish as already being done.** After all, who is going to stop Him? God is Almighty! He can do and carry out anything He wants. Never underestimate the power of God!

For the person who may think Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob could have been alive at the time God was talking to Moses from the burning bush, he is shown that Jesus Christ was, "...before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**; that in all *things* He might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:17-18). Jesus is, and will always be, the firstborn from the dead. If Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were alive at the time God was speaking to Moses, then Jesus would have to be at least the fourth to be raised from the dead! This, however, was not the case. Jesus remains "the firstborn from the dead"!

Jesus went on to describe more about the resurrection of the dead as He explained how you are to go about doing good works, "...When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,' He said, 'don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then **at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you**" (Luke 14:12-14 NLT).

The righteous will not receive their reward until they have been resurrected from the dead! Most consider heaven to be the reward of the saved. Yet they can't receive their reward until they are resurrected! Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have not yet been resurrected, nor have they received their reward!

The Resurrection of the Righteous

Jesus stated in Luke 14:14, "...**thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**" There will be a resurrection of the righteous and that is when we will receive our reward—not before!

Jesus explained more about this resurrection when He spoke to Martha after the death of her brother Lazarus. "Jesus said unto her, '**I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live**: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die [this is speaking of the second death]. Believest thou this?'" (John 11:25-26).

In John 3:16 Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Those who have their life in Jesus as their savior and believe in Him, even if they die, will have eternal life. It is, "...appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,

and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years**” (Rev. 20:4-6). The first resurrection is for the saints. They will be resurrected from physical to spiritual bodies!

This 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ is the focus of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Most Christians think we will go to Heaven when we die. **But Jesus taught in His ministry that the Kingdom of God will be brought to us!** Jesus said that He would come again and bring His reward with Him. The first resurrection to eternal life is God’s gift to believers. Our reward is reigning with Him in the Government of God. **Heaven is coming to earth in the form of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords and we shall reign with Him!**

This first resurrection is part of God’s eternal judgment. This is a resurrection to immortal life! It is God’s everlasting, eternal decree upon all faithful worshipers of God.

The Second Resurrection The Great White Throne Judgment

God gave the message of the Book of Revelation to Jesus Christ to give to the Church. In the book we can see that a second resurrection is also revealed. In the verses mentioned above we can learn much about both resurrections.

We have found the first resurrection is reserved for the faithful worshipers of God. They are blessed and holy to have a part in this first resurrection. They will be kings and priests and reign with Christ a thousand years.

For Jesus to say there is a first resurrection means there will also be at least one more resurrection. Little is known by the Christian community about this second resurrection.

Unless you know of God’s complete plan for mankind, you will miss this vital knowledge of the second resurrection. **The Holy Convocations given to Israel after coming out of Egypt reveal God’s complete outline of salvation for mankind.** These convocations were still observed by the Apostles in the early New Testament Church. The Apostle Paul said, “...all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (I Cor. 10:11).

It all started with **The Passover** which represented sending Jesus Christ to be our Passover Lamb. Then, during the **Days of Unleavened Bread**, we see Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, pictured as our wave-sheaf offering for sin to wipe away our sins. After this came **Pentecost** (fifty count). It was exactly fifty days after Jesus returned to heaven to be accepted of the Father for our sins that the Holy Spirit was given to the Church. (This happened on the day of Pentecost.)

The **Feast of Trumpets** showed the plagues mankind will face because of rejecting the laws of God and the instructions of Jesus Christ. (See Revelation 8 and 9.) This will finally result in the seventh trumpet and the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. With the events of this seventh trumpet and the seven last plagues, Satan's wicked and sinful government will be finished. The saints will finally be at-one with God as pictured by **The Day of Atonement**. This will lead to **The Feast of Tabernacles** which pictures a remarkable 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ where the saints will be ruling with Him as kings and priests. It will be a wonderful time of peace and everyone will have full knowledge of the truth without Satan and the demons around causing sin.

At the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ there will come the time Jesus spoke of in John 7:37 and Revelation 20:5. **The Last Great Day** is a separate Festival Day at the end of the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles. It's the final day in God's plan. It is the eighth day of the fall festival season which pictures **The Great White Throne Judgment**.

This is made clear when Jesus said, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished..." (Rev. 20:5). **This is the second resurrection! It is a physical resurrection!** This second, general resurrection is for all those who lived, died, and never understood what God had reserved for them through Jesus Christ. They were never able to make an informed decision about what Jesus did for them.

"And I saw **a great white throne**, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works**. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [hadēs, the grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:11-15).

God is a God of love! No person will ever die and go to hellfire without full knowledge and understanding of the decision he is making. The unpardonable sin is committed when one fully rejects the Father and Jesus His Son by rejecting Their united work through Their Holy Spirit!

This second resurrection is described in Ezekiel 37—the valley of dry bones. This prophecy shows a great, general resurrection of all Israel. It also pictures all who have ever lived that were not part of the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5).

This resurrection is also mentioned in a dual prophecy in Isaiah. It speaks of the 1000-year reign of Christ and it also shows the time of the 100-year Great White Throne Judgment. "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever *in that* which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor

the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed [this verse speaks of the second resurrection—The Great White Throne Judgment]. And they shall build houses, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people [during the 1000-year reign of Christ, people may live for hundreds of years], and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they *are* the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,' saith the LORD" (Isa. 65:17-25).

Each person resurrected during The Great White Throne Judgment will live 100 years. There will be no babies being born throughout this time. This Great White Throne Judgment could last hundreds of years. Maybe 100 years for each nation. God does not explain the overall time it will take for this judgment.

Remember the words of Jesus, "...**Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God.** For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven" (Matt. 22:29-30 NLT).

So, you see, in this general resurrection to physical life, there will be no reproduction. The baby that died a few days old will live to be 100 years old. The old person that died after a full life will also be resurrected to a life of 100 years.

This is a time of judgment of all who have ever lived that have never been called by the Father into a relationship with His Son. These human beings will have their time of judgment in this second resurrection. This second resurrection comes after there have been 1,000 years of the Government of God on this earth with Jesus Christ as King and Lord. It will indeed be a new world, much different from the one today.

God says, "...I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy" (Isa. 65:18). Can you even begin to imagine what Jerusalem and all the earth will be like then after 1,000 years of joy and peace under Jesus Christ?

Today God calls Jerusalem "Sodom and Egypt" (Rev. 11:8).

When these people are resurrected into such a world, there will be no comparison to the place from which they have come! They may not even remember their previous life. Read again Isaiah 65:17, "...the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

Sixth Principle: Eternal Judgment

There is one more area to address as we learn about the different resurrections and that is the principle of **Eternal Judgment**. Each of the resurrections we have covered has a part to play in God's Eternal Judgment. It was part of God's plan to share with His children His Eternal Life and that is an Everlasting Decision or Eternal Judgment. It is the **First Resurrection!**

There are two areas to our eternal judgment: the judgment and the sentencing which is the receiving of our final reward. Some will have a reward of eternal life while others will have a reward of eternal death. This is why this principle is called eternal judgment. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). It is a time of reward or judgment.

The first resurrection is for the saints who will have eternal life and the second resurrection is a resurrection to a physical life and 100 years of judgment. For Christians who have died with Christ in the watery grave of baptism, now is their time of judgment. They have already died in Christ, therefore, now is their judgment. For the rest of humanity, their time of judgment will be in the Great White Throne Judgment when all non-Christians will be resurrected to their judgment.

The Apostle Peter said, "For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God..." (I Pet. 4:17). Our sentencing will be carried out when Jesus says, "...Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21). **Our judgment for Christians is made while we are alive and our sentencing will be at our resurrection!** God's judging of us is determined by our works. There is much confusion in the Christian community about this area of God's judgment and the gift of salvation. Many quote Ephesians 2:8-10, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Many do not understand the gift of eternal life is only a part of our eternal judgment. Eternal life is a gift God gives us based on our belief, faith, and acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins. It is our works that are a large part of our sentencing or reward. (If you are confused read Matt. 25:14-46.)

We are saved by God's grace and that part of God's plan is based on faith. We are created as God's workmanship to do good works by and through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. It is these works for which we are judged or rewarded above and beyond eternal life. Another way of putting it is to say, "God will determine what we are doing with the gift (His Holy Spirit). He will give us our eternal rewards based on how productive we have been. Offices, jobs, and positions of rulership will be given in the Kingdom of God based on our works."

James said, "...Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils [demons] also believe, and tremble" (Jas. 2:18-19). James continued, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. See then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Jas. 2:21-26). This is why we will be judged by our works.

Some are also confused about Christ's words as to our works and His judgment of them when He said, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37). This day of judgment for Christians is Now! Today is our day of reckoning! We are being judged on the words we use and on what we do. For the others, it will be in The Great White Throne Judgment when they will be judged.

The Great White Throne Judgment will last one hundred years for each person resurrected. It is also part of God's Eternal Judgment. You see, the way a man chooses to live will determine his eternal sentence. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell [hadēs, the grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works**" (Rev. 20:12-13).

God's Final Judgment

There is one last group whom God will pass the eternal sentence of judgment and that is on all who have committed the unpardonable sin.

At what time will this judgment come to pass? If there were any alive during their first life that had committed the unpardonable sin, they, of course, would not be part of the First Resurrection. They would awake to the lake of fire at God's timing (which could well be at the end of the Great White Throne Judgment). If any would commit the unpardonable sin during the Great White Throne Judgment, at the end of their 100 years, they would be cast into the lake of fire (Isa. 65:20; Rev. 20:11-15).

What is the unpardonable sin? This sin is a rejection of God and His work. "Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world to come*" (Matt. 12:31-32).

Who or What is the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to sin against the Holy Spirit? How can this happen? To understand what it means to sin against the Spirit, we must first understand who or what is the Holy Spirit.

God the Father is Spirit and He is Holy! Therefore, He is Holy Spirit! "...The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship Him must worship *Him* in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). And in Leviticus 11:45 we see that God said, "For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for **I am holy.**" So, we see from God's own Word that He is Spirit and He is Holy!

Now Jesus Christ is also Spirit and He is Holy! Therefore, He is also Holy Spirit! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.** The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. **In Him was life;** and the life was the light of men" (John 1:1-4).

Now in John 1:13-14 we read that Jesus was, "...born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth." Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit, "...she [Mary] was **found with child of the Holy Ghost**" (Matt. 1:18). So Jesus was begotten of the Father which is the Holy Spirit! Jesus, therefore, is God and is the Holy Spirit!

Jesus said, "I and *My* Father are one" (John 10:30). And Jesus once again said, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; **Even the Spirit of truth...** I will not leave you comfortless: **I [Jesus] will come to you**" (John 14:15-18). So, you see, **Jesus is Spirit and Jesus is Truth!** For He said, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6). Now, therefore, the Spirit of Truth is the Spirit of Jesus! He said, "I will come to you" (John 14:18)!

Do we stop to realize how foolish it sounds to say the Holy Spirit is a separate personage from our Spiritual Father or Jesus Christ our Spiritual Brother when They are Spirit, They are Holy, and They are one? If the Father wasn't spirit and holy and Jesus wasn't spirit and holy—only then would it make any sense to have a separate Holy Spirit!

At this point we need to understand the composition of the Godhead. There are three places in the Bible where the Godhead is mentioned and in none of these verses is the Holy Spirit mentioned as being a separate or coequal, spirit being or personage with the Father and the Son. The Father is referred to and clearly indicated as being part of the Godhead. The Son is also shown to have, "all the fullness of the Godhead." But nowhere in these verses is the Holy Spirit called out as being a distinct and separate personage of the Godhead.

In Acts 17:29 we see, “**Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God**, we ought not to think that the **Godhead** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”

In Romans 1:20 it is written, “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and **Godhead**; so that they are without excuse.”

And Colossians 2:6-9 reads, “As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. **For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**”

The Godhead is also shown in I Corinthians 8:6 (NLT), “But we know **that there is only one God, the Father**, who created everything, and we exist for Him. And **there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through Whom God made everything and through Whom we have been given life.” Why wasn’t the Holy Spirit mentioned here as being part of the Godhead? (See also Col. 1:2.)

Again we read in John 17:3, “And **this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent.**” Eternal life consists of knowing the Godhead—the Father and the Son. But where is the Holy Spirit if it is part of a triune God? How can a person have eternal life and not have or know the Holy Spirit?

The glory of this mystery, “...is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Col. 1:27), not a separate third person as the Holy Spirit.

You see, the Godhead consists of the Holy Father who is Spirit and Jesus Christ who is also Spirit and Holy! Jesus said that He is Truth (John 14:6) and that He, the “Spirit of Truth,” would come to us (John 14:17-18). Therefore, the Comforter or the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of our Holy Father and the Spirit of the Holy Jesus Christ! Jesus said, “...If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and **We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him**” (John 14:23). How much clearer can Jesus explain the Holy Spirit?

Unpardonable Sin

The above explanation about the Holy Spirit was necessary to help us understand how one commits the unpardonable sin.

When Jesus said, “Wherefore I say unto you, ‘All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come’” (Matt. 12:31-32), He was speaking of the unpardonable

sin. One must repent of his sins and confess them to God before he is forgiven. The unpardonable sin is a total refusal of the work of the Holy Spirit. The unpardonable sin is a rejection of all that is God! It is a denouncing of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The unpardonable sin is a rejection of the Godhead—both the Father and the Son! This is a condition of knowingly dismissing the sacrifice of Jesus which was to cover all of one's sins and much more. It is to discard the entire action of the Godhead—the Holy Spirit and all the labor of God in a person's own life and the clear evidence of God's work in the world around him. The only sin that can't be forgiven is the sin of which a person is totally unwilling to repent!

In John 16:9 (NLT) it says, "The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in Me." A continual refusal to believe in Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit is part of committing the unpardonable sin. John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The person who commits the unpardonable sin has rejected the only place to go for clemency and forgiveness. There remains no more forgiveness for his sin.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20). We see here that **this Eternal Judgment is pronounced upon the beast and false prophet.**

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:10). **The devil also receives Eternal Judgment** and is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:14-15). We see that death and hell (the grave) were also cast into the lake of fire. There will be no more death.

The second death is reserved for those who have committed the unpardonable sin.

The lake of fire was really created for the Devil and his demons and the human beings that have committed the unpardonable sin. "...Depart from Me, ye cursed, into **everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels**" (Matt. 25:41).

Any human beings thrown into the lake of fire will be burned up. Only Satan and his demons will experience hellfire for eternity. For humans, the second death will be an eternal death, God's eternal judgment, not eternal life in hellfire. Jesus calls it **THE SECOND**

DEATH, NOT ETERNAL LIFE IN HELLFIRE! Satan would have all humans believe they are the ones to roast forever in hellfire and that they will be placed there by a mean and vengeful God. But, hellfire was created for Satan and his demons! They are the ones to “be tormented day and night forever and ever.” The only humans to be placed into the lake of fire will be those who have rejected all that God is. To prevent them from living for all eternity in total misery and unhappiness, God, in His love, will allow them eternal death. This will be God’s eternal judgment.

I want you to understand that God is extremely good at what He does! He is Almighty and Perfect in all His ways. He has set into action His plan to have a family and most human beings will be saved and brought into this family.

God doesn’t want anyone to perish. Jesus said, “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish” (Matt. 18:14). The Apostle Peter stated it in this manner, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pet. 3:9). The Apostle Paul said of Israel, “I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved...” (Rom. 11:25-26 NLT).

Don’t be as the Sadducees who didn’t know the scriptures or understand the power of God!

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF GOD!

Seventh Principle: Going on into Perfection

After we have come into the knowledge of the truth and: (1) have laid the foundation of repentance from dead works; (2) developed a deep faith in God through Jesus Christ; (3) became baptized and received the gift of the Holy Spirit; (4) by the laying on of hands from a servant of God; then (5) we await the resurrection of the dead; and (6) our eternal reward of being born into the very family of God. While we are waiting for our change, (7) we are to be going on into perfection by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When we are first converted, we are as babes in Christ. And as any baby, we must grow. We are told in Matthew 5:48, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” This means to become mature in Christian growth and development. We see in Matthew 6:33 that we are to, “...seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” God who has begun a good work in us will continue to perfect us until the coming of Jesus Christ. (See Phil. 1:6.)

The Apostle Peter also encouraged us to, "...grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (II Pet. 3:18).

Jesus said, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21).

The Apostle John went on to clarify what Jesus meant in the verse above when he said, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:4-5).

We have now covered the Doctrine of Christ. Jesus came preaching the Kingdom of God and establishing these principles as the backbone of the Church.

Summary

You may notice the doctrines you hold near and dear are not here. If you can't find your doctrines in the Doctrine of Christ, they may have been pagan ideas that have crept into your church dogma by ideas from men or demon influence. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Tim. 4:1).

Take time to examine your doctrines and their origins. Has your church added to or deleted from the Doctrine of Christ, making things part of its doctrine that Jesus Christ has not? **The Body of Christ will accept the Doctrine of Christ and reject any ideas of men and the doctrines of demons.**

Be honest! Don't try to add to or take away from the Doctrine of Christ! Many of the customs and traditions of the early New Testament Church have been made doctrine by some groups when they are not! These customs and traditions of the first century New Testament Church, taught by Jesus and the Apostles, should be observed within the Church, not as doctrine, but as the customs and traditions they were meant to be.

Likewise many customs and traditions from the pagans have been established as doctrines in many churches but they have no place in the Doctrine of Christ or in the customs and traditions of Jesus Christ and the original Apostles.

If you accept Jesus Christ and His Doctrine as the foundation of your faith, you will be part of the Body of Christ. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in

whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Eph. 2:19-22).

This Doctrine of Christ should be a source of great encouragement for Christians everywhere! **We no longer need to be divided by different doctrines; we can be united by having the same Doctrine of Christ!** We don’t have to wonder about God and His plan for mankind, nor do we need to worry about our friends and relatives who have died.

The Doctrine of Christ outlines God’s marvelous plan for mankind. It reveals the depth of His love for us. He wants us to comprehend that we can be part of the family of God for all eternity.

The Apostle Paul said, **“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment”** (I Cor. 1:10).

Jesus didn’t come with His own Doctrine, **“...My Doctrine is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do His will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of Myself.** He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh His glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him” (John 7:16-18).

If we are diligent to follow the will of the Father, we will know whether this Doctrine is from God or something Jesus made up on His own!

Listen, if you are doing the will of the Father, you will recognize this Doctrine to be from God! If not, you will not understand these teachings and instead you will probably be arguing about them—but your argument will be with God!

“...Be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may [you] grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ” (Eph. 4:14-15).

Jesus Christ has given you His Doctrine as delivered to Him from the Father so you will not be led astray by the cunning craftiness of men.

Warning

The Holy Spirit and the Word have revealed that the Doctrine of Christ will be the identifying factor of the Body of Christ—the one true Church. Not all who call themselves Christians are following Christ. The Apostle John made this abundantly clear when he said,

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in **the Doctrine of Christ**, hath not God. **He that abideth in the Doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.** If there come any unto you, and bring not **this Doctrine**, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (II John 1:9-11).

Many are teaching for doctrine the ideas and commandments of men!

Therefore, be careful of the doctrine you believe. It could be that many of your beliefs have no foundation in the Doctrine of Christ. If you don't have the Doctrine of Christ as the doctrine of your church or group, you may find yourself guilty of participating in counterfeit doctrines and you may be disseminating a false or deceptive gospel!

May God guide you as you examine the Doctrine of Christ and help you in your decision to accept it as the foundation of your faith.

Amen!

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