

**SCRIPTURE**  
**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

**CHAPTER 16**

**Matthew 16:1-4 correspond to Mk 8:11-13 and Lk 12:54-56.**

**(Pharisees and Sadducees seeking a sign)**

**Mt 16:1.** (And) The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came (up), (to Jesus) and tempting (or testing him) desired him (by asking him) that he would shew (or show) them a sign from heaven.

**COMMENTARY**

**CHAPTER 16**

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.  
It lasted approximately 3 years.  
Matthew 16:1-12 takes place approximately 33 months after He began His ministry.

**Matthew 16:1-4.**

**(Pharisees and Sadducees seeking a sign)**

**Mt 16:1.** (Verses 1 to 4 go together)

Regarding this chapter, it may be said that there are several points that are made.

These can include the rejection of Jesus by the religious community.

The confession of Jesus as the Christ.

The establishment of His church.

The death of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus.

The road of the disciple.

The return of Jesus.

Back in Mt 12:38, which was about 23 months into the ministry of Jesus, an almost identical situation happened. It is written: Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered saying, Master we would see a sign from thee. Now what appears to be another group of Pharisees are doing the same thing approximately 10 months later; however, this time, He deals with them differently.

The two religious groups (the **Pharisees** and the **Sadducees**) were opposed to each other in many doctrines.

The **PHARISEES** were a religious sect that followed a simple lifestyle. They seemed to date back to the second century BC. Their name seems to mean "separated ones".

They strictly observed the Torah (or the five books of Moses).

They numbered about 6,000. They were involved in both political, social, and religious matters. This included maintaining the Temple. They did believe in many teachings of the Old Testament.

They appeared to believe in a reward for good works. They believed in the written law, plus the oral traditions that had been handed down. They believed in the resurrection, angels, spirit, and predestination.

As time passed, they fell into sins, such as self-righteousness and also hypocrisy.

**Paul** had been a Pharisee.

**Gamaliel** had been a Pharisee leader.

The **SADDUCEES** were also a Jewish religious sect. They also came forth prior to the time of Jesus. Exactly when, is unknown. It is said their name in Hebrew means "righteous ones". They were the upper class and had privileges from being a priestly class.

**Regarding the Sadducees, they say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both-**Acts 23:8. They denied that there were miracles. They believed in the written laws. They were also fearful that in some way, the ministry of Jesus might cause problems with Rome.

It has been said that their self-righteousness was greatly overshadowed by Jesus.

**Being that these two groups** opposed each other, it was unusual for them to come together to tempt Jesus.

One example of their hostility toward each other is the following:

Acts 23:6-8-But when Paul perceived that the one part were **Sadducees**, and the other **Pharisees**, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question. And when he had so said, there arose a dissension between the **Pharisees** and the **Sadducees**: and the multitude was divided.

They seemed to disappear after Israel's destruction in 70 AD.

As already alluded to, the Pharisees and Sadducees rejected Jesus even though Jesus had done many miracles, including the feeding of 4000 men, plus others.

In Matt 23:25-36, Jesus said, regarding the **Pharisees**: Woe unto you, **scribes** and **Pharisees**, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

26. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

29. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous,

30. And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

31. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

32. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

33. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

34. Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

35. That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

36. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both. Also they did not believe in miracles. They believed only in the written law.

They tempted Jesus by asking Him to show them a sign from heaven.

The time period of this request was about 33 months into the ministry of Jesus. By this time,

He had healed multitudes. The dead had been raised. The blind had been made to see. Miracle signs had already been done over and over. This reveals clearly, that if a person's heart is hard toward God's Word, even raising the dead would not be sufficient.

Most people today are as they were then. No amount of proof, or signs, or miracles could cause them to repent and believe.

How can this be said? It is because the Bible which **can be and has been proven to be God's Word**, is there for people to hear and read. Yet many still will not believe even today. A hard, unrepentant heart will not believe.

No matter what miracle most people would see, somehow they would justify it, and not repent.

Jesus proved He was God, come in the flesh. His miracles could not be denied. So they arrested Him, tortured Him so badly that His face barely looked human, and killed Him. It was a miracle He could yet talk, as He was marred worse than any man as He hung on the cross. He did this, so that those that would believe on Him may have eternal life. Are you among those that love Jesus, or are you among those that curse His name?

**Jesus was that sign.** His coming was covered by many scriptures. Even His birth, "A virgin shall conceive" was in the Scriptures that were read in the synagogues.

He was born in Bethlehem-ref Mic 5:2, as predicted. He fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies.

Jesus raised the dead. The signs were numerous and obvious, and the Scriptures proved Jesus was the Messiah. Nevertheless, the religious establishment did not believe, howbeit, some did believe. Nevertheless, the

**Mt 16:2.** (But) He answered and said unto them (or replied), When it is evening (or when evening comes), ye (or you) say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

**Mt 16:3.** And in the morning (today), It will be foul weather (or a storm) (or stormy) to day: for the sky is red and lowring (or threatening) (or

sign of Jonah would be given.

Is it any different today? Consider the following.

The Bible has been proven to be true and perfect. Yet it is ignored by most, and many churches find storytelling about themselves and worldly things more desirable than using God's Word.

Using psychology has become much more desirable than telling people to repent.

It has been said that there are no longer any sinners, but only victims.

To rehabilitate someone is the way to go, while repentance is omitted.

Turning over a new leaf is preferable to repentance.

Self-esteem is right, while brokenness over sin is wrong.

There is little or no fear before the eyes of most clergy, it appears, as they seem to change "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints," to God is to be revered.

**As it has been said in Mt 16:1,** (And) The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came (up), (to Jesus) and tempting (or testing him) desired him (by asking him) that he would shew (or show) them a sign from heaven.

**Mt 16:2 and Mt 16:3 go together.** The reply of Jesus to the request of the Pharisees and Sadducees was not what they expected. They should have been able to discern the times regarding His appearing, but they did not.

So Jesus rather spoke to them words of condemnation because they could understand

overcast). O ye hypocrites, ye (or you) can discern (or you know how to interpret) the face (or appearance) of the sky; but can ye not (or you cannot) discern (or interpret) the signs of the times?

the signs regarding the weather, but **they could not understand the signs of the times** from the Scriptures regarding His appearing.

Take note: Little did they understand that there would be very stormy weather in that Israel, because of its rejection of Jesus, would be destroyed in 70 AD. Approximately 1 million Jews would be slaughtered.

The Jews last stand of about 900 BC was in Masada.

There are multitudes of scriptures relating to Jesus coming the first time. The proof was there. The miracles that no man could do were there. He even raised the dead. He gave them so many proofs, they could probably not be numbered as many other things Jesus did that are not written in the Scriptures. The long-awaited Messiah was there, but they would not acknowledge Him.

These things are written in the Scriptures, yet even today few people will place their hope and trust in Jesus.

The people did not understand that Jesus must first come, and He would prove beyond any doubt that He is the Messiah through **fulfilling the Scriptures** and with signs and wonders, and miracles, including raising the dead.

The people did not understand that Christ (the Messiah) would be crucified, dead and buried, but then rise from the dead and return to His Father in Heaven. The signs of the times were all there, but the people did not understand.

In addition, some of the religious unbelievers, had already committed the unforgivable sin approximately 10 months previous to this time.

**NOW, ONCE AGAIN**, the world does not understand that the rebirth of Israel on May 14,

1948, after approximately 2000 years, began what the Bible calls the latter days, latter times, latter years. Bible prophecy is now in full swing once again.

**Since Israel's rebirth on May 14, 1948**, many more signs and scriptures have been fulfilled. An event called the **caught up**, or as some call it "the Rapture" or "translation," is not far away.

When Jesus came the first time, it was not expected, even though the Bible spoke of it.

Now the Rapture (or caught up) is at the door, as can be proven by 365 biblical signs that began with Israel's rebirth. These are almost all fulfilled. Yet, only a few ministers and people recognize the signs of the times and speak of these things.

A period called the Tribulation is on the doorstep, and **it will follow** the Rapture.

The horrible, horrible weapons of mass destruction needed to fulfill what we call WW3, during the first part of the Tribulation, are a done deal. One of every 4 people on earth will be killed.

Russia and the United States both have weapons that could destroy all life on the planet. Indeed, 1 out of every 4 of those not raptured will be killed, but, as in the past, few believe it.

The world has turned away from God's Word and is in darkness, regarding the latter days we are in right now. The world did not understand that Jesus, the Only Begotten Son of God, would come the first time.

Now the world does not understand that this same Jesus will return the second time, immediately after the Tribulation and during the Battle of Armageddon.



When the Rapture comes, the number that will be taken will be small. Many that are absolutely positive they are saved will find the Word of God reveals their nakedness. They will be left behind.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:2**, (But) He answered and said unto them (or replied), When it is evening (or when evening comes), ye (or you) say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

**Mt 16:3.** This is a continuation from Mt 16:2.

And in the morning (today), It will be foul weather (or a storm) (or stormy) to day: for the sky is red and lowring (or threatening) (or overcast). O ye hypocrites, ye (or you) can discern (or you know how to interpret) the face (or appearance) of the sky; but can **ye not (or you cannot) discern (or interpret) the signs of the times.**

**Mt 16:4.** Next Jesus condemns His generation.

He tells them it is a wicked or evil and adulterous generation that looks for some special sign. This had been covered, as Jesus had already said similar words 10 months earlier.

This adulterous generation is not referring to physical sex, but is used in a spiritual way to refer to their unfaithfulness to God and His Word. It was not that they could not see or understand, but rather that they refused to see and understand.

Many scriptures in what we call the Old Testament, testified of the coming of the Messiah.

The signs and wonders Jesus did proved He was the Messiah. He healed all manner of

**Mt 16:4.** A wicked (or evil) and adulterous generation seeketh (or seeks) (or looks) after (or for) a (miraculous) sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it (or a sign will not be given it) (or none will be given it), but (or except) the sign of the prophet Jonas (or Jonah). And he (Jesus) (then) left them, and departed (or went away).

sickness, and even raised the dead. The proof that He was the "Christ" was indisputable.

Yet many would not believe, and the religious leaders sought to kill Him. Jesus never sinned. He was perfect. Did He kill people? Did He rob people? Did He hurt anyone? Did He do anything wrong at all? No, yet they wanted to kill Him, as He was undermining and proving wrong their false, religious beliefs.

The hatred that was in the religious establishment toward Jesus, Who is God, was incredible.

Yet is it any different today? All of this is in the Bible. Many houses have a Bible that may sit on a shelf or in a closet, but how many read the Bible daily, or even weekly? It is very, very few.

If a person will not listen to or read God's Word now, neither would they follow Jesus if He appeared in the flesh right now?

Even if a sign was given to the people, they would not follow Him.

The Scripture revealed that the religious establishment sought after a sign. Jesus had done many miracles. Were these not signs? Is not raising the dead a sign?

As said previously, Is it any different today? The Bible contains all this information. Yet not one person in the history of the world has ever found even one error in the Bible. Many have tried and all have failed.

The sign of Jonas was: that as he was in the stomach of the huge fish, or what some believe was a whale, so the body of Jesus would be dead for 3 days, but rise again.

**Israeli information. Tel Aviv information.**

Regarding the times in which we are now

living, Israel is currently in a state of unbelief regarding Jesus. Just recently it appears every single store in the large city of Tel Aviv had a "gay pride" flag displayed. Their population is around 400,000 people, and it has many skyscrapers. Traffic, at certain times of the day, can be heavy and very slow moving. Traffic accidents are some what common. Belief in Jesus is very small. Messianic Jews are estimated at only 20,000, and the number of congregations is believed to be about 150. Back around 1988, Israel had 1 tall building. Now it has 36 or more that exceed 30 stories. Tel Aviv may be called a city of cranes that is building more and more structures.

In the United States, there are few, very few indeed that truly follow Jesus which is God's Word. One might wonder, that when the Rapture comes will anybody even know it happened, as so few will be taken, but many will be left behind?

Israel was a wicked and adulterous generation at the time of Jesus. So, even today, the entire world is a wicked and adulterous place.

Note: It was never reported that Jesus ever returned to Magdala (ref Mt 15:39).

As it has been said in **Mt 16:4**, A wicked (or evil) and adulterous generation seeketh (or seeks) (or looks) after (or for) a (miraculous) sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it (or a sign will not be given it) (or none will be given it), but (or except) the sign of the prophet Jonas (or Jonah). And he (Jesus) (then) left them, and departed (or went away).

**Chronologically Mt 16:4 continues to Mk 8:10.**

**Chronologically Mk 8:10 goes to Mk 8:12.**

**Chronologically Mk 8:12 goes to Mt 16:5.**

**Mt 16:5.** And when his disciples were come to the other side (or went across the lake), (and) they (the disciples) had forgotten (or forgot) to take bread.

**Mt 16:6.** Then (or and) Jesus said unto them, Take heed (or watch out) (or be careful) and beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the leaven (or yeast) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

**Mt 16:5.** (Verses 5 to 12 go together)

The disciples went across the Sea of Galilee. It appears Jesus was with them. However, the Scriptures give us no information regarding whose boat it was that they used.

Considering that Peter and others were fishermen, they would have had access to boats, or perhaps some of the disciples owned their own boat.

The disciples went across the Sea of Galilee, but they had forgotten to take any bread with them.

It is uncertain where they left from and where they arrived to; however, some believe they left from somewhere near Magdala on the western side of the Sea.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:5**, And when his disciples (went across the lake) (or were come to the other side, (and) they (the disciples) had forgotten (or forgot) to take bread.

**Mt 16:6.** It is so very sad, that people will not pick up the Word of God and begin reading it.

It is so sad that most ministers and television and radio preachers also will not use much of God's Word anymore. And some will not use it at all, but rather teach psychology. Since faith only comes from God's Word, many ministers, and priests and also various clergy seem to be instrumental in being part of the reason many people perish to the lake of fire for eternity.

It is such a tragedy that God's Word finds little acceptance in the places of worship that are called the houses or churches of God.

Jesus now gives a warning to His disciples regarding the Pharisees and Sadducees. The

yeast represents how the wrong doctrines of the false religious leaders can spread and multiply. It is no different today. The spread of unbiblical teachings can multiply and spread quickly across the world through online, television, and radio broadcasts.

These two groups of religious leaders were very misled. Their doctrines over time had become nothing more than a group of made-up rules and regulations.

The Pharisees loved the praise of people. They liked to dress in such a manner, so they looked important. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Jesus warned His disciples, regarding the things that these two groups taught.

Their false teachings (or doctrines) were like **yeast** or **leaven** which could grow and grow.

The influence of their false teachings could be hypnotic. It was like being intoxicated.

When a person had been trapped in their teachings, it was not easy to break free.

It was like sticky fly paper. Once a fly landed on it, the more it struggled, the more it became stuck. The fly finally died.

False teachings often attach themselves to bits and pieces of the truth. This makes it more difficult to identify them. Satan is behind all that is false and leavened. False teachings can spread like a wildfire among people that are not well-grounded in God's Word. Few, very few are well-grounded in God's Word anymore. It appears that many spend far more time watching TV preachers, than they do reading or listening to God's Word. God forbid.

And then there are the Catholics. From a young child, they are indoctrinated in false teachings and rituals. As reportedly it has been said by this church—Give us a child to the age

of 12, and he will be a Catholic the rest of his life. So they have the young adult under their hypnotic, ritualistic teaching like a fly caught on fly paper.

It is hard to break from ingrained traditions and beliefs from one's childhood, even when they are false. Trying to get a Roman Catholic to read their Bible end to end is very difficult.

Many have spiritually died as they have been intoxicated in some cult, or the Catholic church, or some mainline denomination that traps those that hear their false biblical doctrines and enticing unbiblical storytelling.

Today, the Bible has never been read through even one time, by many that profess they are a Christian. However, many of these same people have lots of time to spend on their handheld devices. They have lots of time in their car listening to all sorts of gossip and programs, but no time to listen to a CD of the Bible.

The truth of God's Word means nothing, if the eyes do not read it or the ears do not hear it.

Jesus had to break through the many unbiblical traditions of the Sadducees and Pharisees that had been so deeply ingrained in the people. The miracles that no man had ever done helped to accomplish this.

Many have spiritually died from letting their Bible collect dust. Only through God's Word can faith grow. Most churches preach little of God's Word, but lots of nice, entertaining worldly stories that, in the end, produce no faith, and the person perishes.

This is also the case for many cults, which speak evil against the truth, so they can mislead people.

While it is true, that some Roman Catholics have, through God's Word, been able to break free of the pomp and glamour of Catholicism, yet their numbers are only a few. This is the Great Harlot spoken of in God's Word.

There are multiple millions of Catholics that have died and found there is no purgatory, only a place called hell, where the rich man also is.

**Luke 16:19-31**-There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham. This indicates the rich man was a Jew.

He said, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son. Again this indicates the rich man in hell was Jewish.

Abraham continued by saying: remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. Again, God's word reveals that those that perish to hell have their memory intact, however it will not be distorted by Satan as is the case right now.

Abraham continues: And beside all this,

between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Again these verses reveal that being Jewish has no bearing on obtaining eternal life. Only faith in Jesus Christ does.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets (which is God's Word), neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Satan has so many cults with so many beliefs, and so many false Christs, who can fathom it.

This latter day church age with its lukewarm, "feel good" teaching has opened the door for much false teachings to arise. Repentance, denying oneself, and picking up one's cross and following Jesus is rarely heard anymore. Hearing anyone confess that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is rarely heard anymore.

As what Jesus said was immensely important regarding the days of Jesus, it is equally important in this last church age. The Laodicean church of today is, at best, lukewarm, and most so-called Christians are spiritually "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

Most are very susceptible to every form of leaven of all manner of false teachings that flood the internet, the radio, the television, and the churches.



**Mt 16:7.** And they reasoned (or began to discuss) (or discussed) among themselves, saying (or and said), It is because we have taken (or have took) (or we didn't bring) no bread.

**Mt 16:8.** Which when Jesus perceived (or aware of their discussion), he (Jesus) said unto them (or asked), O ye (men) of little faith, why reason ye (or why do you discuss) (or why are you talking) among yourselves, because (that) ye have brought no bread?

And many will learn the hard way very soon, that the Bible is the one source that is infallible. This should happen when the "caught up" occurs, and most are left crying out, "Lord, Lord, Open to us, and Jesus will reply--"I never knew you."

All this is clearly presented in the very Gospel that most ignore, because they found partaking of misleading TV and radio teachings was easier and perhaps more entertaining.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:6**, Then (or and) Jesus said unto them, Take heed (or watch out) (or be careful) and beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the leaven (or yeast) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

**Mt 16:7.** The disciples did not understand what Jesus was trying to tell them.

They thought it had something to do with forgetting to bring bread. Thus they discussed amongst themselves what Jesus meant.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:7**. And they reasoned (or began to discuss) (or discussed) among themselves, saying (or and said), It is because we have taken (or have took) (or we didn't bring) no bread.

**Mt 16:8.** The disciples were somewhat perplexed, and then Jesus took notice.

Once Jesus understood what the disciples were talking about, he commented, O men of little faith."

His statement carries with it that little faith is a result of little understanding. It can also be said that little understanding can result in little faith.

Jesus went on to ask a question. He said, "Why do you discuss among yourselves

**Mt 16:9.** Do ye (or you) not yet understand, (or) neither (don't you) remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets (full) ye (or you) took up (or gathered)?

because you have brought no bread?"

Later on, after Jesus was raised from the dead and they received the Holy Spirit, then their understanding vastly increased. Their understanding increased so much that some became writers of parts of the Bible, which is perfect.

As it is written in John 7:39-(But this spake he of the **Spirit**, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jn 16:13-Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, **he will guide you into all truth**: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

It is interesting that Jesus had told the Samaritan woman, "Great is thy faith."

He told those that would become His apostles, "Ye men of little faith."

As it has been said in **Mt 16:8**, Which when Jesus perceived (or aware of their discussion), he (Jesus) said unto them (or asked), O ye (men) of little faith, why reason ye (or why do you discuss) (or why are you talking) among yourselves, because (that) ye have brought no bread?

**Mt 16:9.** Verses 9 and 10 go together.

Jesus continues in what He was saying. He asks three questions.

1-Do ye (or you) not yet **understand**?

2-Neither (don't you) remember the five loaves of the five thousand?

3-And how many baskets (full) ye (or you) took

**Mt 16:10.** (or) Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many (large) baskets (full) ye took up (or gathered)?

**Mt 16:11.** How is it that ye (or you) do not understand that I spake it not (or I did not speak) (or I was not talking) to you concerning bread, (but) that ye should beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the **leaven** (or yeast) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

up (or gathered)?

Thirteen times the word "**understand**" is used in the four Gospels.

Twenty seven times the word "**understand**" is used in the New Testament.

The word "**remember**" is used 26 times in the New Testament. Two keys to the Bible are understand and remember.

How sad that some have no Bible and are crying out for one, especially in third-world countries; but in some western countries, many of those that do have one, do not esteem it enough to read it.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:9**, Do ye (or you) not yet understand, (or) neither (don't you) remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets (full) ye (or you) took up (or gathered)?

**Mt 16:10.** Jesus continues in what He was saying. Now He asks a 4th question of which part is contained in verse 9. Do ye (or you) not yet understand, (or) neither (don't you) remember...V.10-the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many (large) baskets (full) ye took up (or gathered)?

As it has been said in **Mt 16:10**, (or) Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many (large) baskets (full) ye took up (or gathered)?

**Mt 16:11.** Jesus continues in what He was saying.

He said, "How is it that ye (or you) do not understand,

that I spake it not (or **I did not speak**) (or I was not talking) to you **concerning bread...**

Jesus is explaining to His disciples that the bread was not the issue.

(but) that ye should beware (or be on your guard) of (or against)

the **leaven** (or yeast) of the Pharisees,  
and of the Sadducees?

The real issue here was the **expansion of the false and misleading teachings** of the Pharisees and also of the Sadducees.

False doctrines and teachings seem to take root in people **far more effectively** than the truth. It is like weeds, and Satan is behind all deception.

Weeds seem to be everywhere. They can choke out the good vegetables in a garden. Weeds can choke out the good grass in a yard.

It is no different today. There are few, in fact, very few good, Bible-teaching churches anymore, although few people recognize this as they are so biblically illiterate, as was foretold in the Laodicean church in the Revelation.

It is not uncommon for a church to take a couple verses, read them, and then spend the rest of their sermon on explaining them. How many churches ever cover the entire Bible in their life time??????? How many encourage their congregations to devour God's Word, as it is more necessary to them than the food they put in their mouth?

Some consider **North Carolina** as the center of the Bible belt in America. There is no question that there are many, many churches in that state. They are in the cities and out in the countryside, and even among the trees in the woods.

On several separate trips of a somewhat extended length, the author and usually his wife have visited many churches. The author has visited churches from France to Florida.

Some of the churches had a very large attendance, and others a smaller attendance, and some only a very few people.

The church buildings ranged from quite old to large and modern.

The author has visited churches that had everything from large, elaborate gyms and rec rooms, including pool and table tennis tables, which were being used even during a service, along with many other fun games and activities.

There are churches now-a-days that have such an extensive food court that it would put many restaurants to shame. They use it to raise more money.

There are churches that have TV monitors, plus chairs and couches in the hallways so a person never needs to go into the sanctuary to watch the service.

How many churches teach anything like Jesus or the apostles taught?

How many use God's Word to explain God's Word?

How many churches teach people to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Jesus (Who is the Word of God)?

How many seem to have the fear of God as it is written, **God is greatly to be FEARED in the assembly of the saints**-ref Ps 89:7? The **fear of God** has been replaced with reverence in some churches in these latter days, even though both are used in God's Word, not just

the one.

How many churches now teach in such a manner, as to cause people to fall to their knees in the fear of God, with crying in repentance?

The answer is very, very few. The leaven or yeast of **lukewarm** preaching seems to be everywhere. The evidence of preaching to please the people seems to be everywhere.

How many lukewarm Christians can expect to be raptured? None. No, not one. There are many that will be crying out, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But He tells them, "I never knew you"- ref Mt 7:23.

Beware, lest you are caught up in a modern-day church that teaches you with what seems to be the almost hypnotic teachings of the Laodicean teachings of lukewarmness. The end result can be so-called Christians that are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-Rev 3:14-22.

Yet, in this latter day church age, there are only a few Christians, a very few from the Philadelphia church age-ref Rev 3:7-13, and the previous ones also, that shall be taken when Jesus comes for His Church.

Excuse me for being repetitive. Modern-day Christians can be very much caught up into buying this book or that book from numerous ministries. Their ministries need huge funds for their broadcasts, and they know if they offer something the chance they can get money increases. One wonders, if all these books are read by people, when would the Christian ever find time to read God's Word?

Reading and hearing God's pure Word is what is needful, even more needful than your necessary food-ref Job 23:12.

**Mt 16:12.** Then understood they (or then they understood) how that he bade them not (or he did not say to) (them) beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the leaven (or yeast) of (or used in) (the) bread, but of the doctrine (or teaching) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:11**, How is it that ye (or you) do not understand that I spake it not (or I did not speak) (or I was not talking) to you concerning bread, (but) that ye should beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the leaven (or yeast) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

**Mt 16:12.** Then the disciples understood that Jesus did not warn them to beware of the leaven that is used in the making of bread. Rather Jesus was **warning them** to be on their guard regarding the misleading teachings and many errors, and doctrines of the Pharisees and also of the Sadducees. These false teachings spread rapidly as leaven. These false religious leaders enjoyed being exalted and greeted by the people. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Why do false teachings find such wide acceptance? It is because Satan is behind all errors, and he puts in the minds of people whatsoever he will. And many hold on to wrong thoughts over good, sound Bible doctrine.

Few understand one fact. To not worship Jesus, is to follow and worship Satan. Everyone follows one or the other, even though they are totally unaware of this. **All that do not follow the Bible, do follow Satan.**

Regretfully, the true teachings of God's Word, such as repentance, obedience, denying oneself, and taking up your cross and following Jesus (Who is God's Word), is not popular, and so much the more in a pleasure-filled society of lusts and pleasures.

People go to church and say their amens to some of the teachings, then leave and seem to forget what they have heard, especially if it involves obeying God's Word and daily studying it.

The doctrines of the religious leaders had departed from what we call the Old Testament teachings. The religious leaders had replaced it with their own teachings or rules and regulations that had no scriptural basis.

False teachings spread rapidly like leaven (or yeast).

Teachings, such as Jesus and the apostles did, do not spread rapidly and are often spoken against by both mainline churches and lukewarm, "so-called" Bible-teaching churches. The love of God for brothers in Christ of other churches is often no love at all. The Word of God does not lead us to conform to this world, rather it leads us to being transformed and then conforming to Christ. A worldly mindset leads to worldliness and hell. A Bible-centered mindset leads to eternal life with Jesus-ref Romans chapters 6 and 8.

Regarding the subject of **leaven**, note the following. Jn 6:9, 12, 13; Mt 14:15-21; Mt 15:32-38; Mk 6:35-44; Mk 8:1-9, 21; Lk 9:10-17.

As the bread was given to the people, then from that bread there came many **baskets full of pieces**, which kept multiplying, so it is today.

Can anyone find in God's Word where Jesus used jokes,  
or foolishness,  
or telling stories about his home life,  
or rituals,  
or praying for the dead when He taught?

When a person's earthly body dies, they either go to a place called hell, or they go to be with Jesus. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord-ref 2 Cor 5:8; Lk 16:23.

How is it then, that some teach that people go to Purgatory? The leaven of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church (the Great Harlot) is as



**Chronologically, Mt 16:12 continues to Mk 8:13.**

**Chronologically, Mk 8:13 goes to Mk 8:26.**

**Chronologically, Mk 8:26 goes to Mt 16:13.**

**Mt 16:13.** (Now) When Jesus came into the coasts (or district) (or region) of Caesarea Philippi, he asked (or began asking) his disciples, saying, Whom (or who) do men (or people) say that I the Son of man am (or is)?

leaven. It is like a narcotic, or a drug. Many times deception has a much bigger following than the truth. Jesus confirms this in the following.

Gal 4:27-...for the desolate (or, we may say, Satan or hell) (or those that perish or are deceived) hath many more children than she which hath an husband-ref Isa 54:1. There are other applications also such as pertaining to the Babylonian captivity and Israel being back in her land.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:12**, Then understood they (or then they understood) how that he bade them not (or he did not say to) (them) beware (or be on your guard) of (or against) the leaven (or yeast) of (or used in) (the) bread, but of the doctrine (or teaching) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Matthew 16:13-28 takes place about 34 months after He began His ministry.

**Mt 16:13.** (Reference Mk 8:27-33 and Lk 9:18-21). (Verses 13 to 16 go together.) Jesus now entered into the area of Caesarea Philippi. There is no indication he went into it.

The words saying "coasts" seem to indicate near the district or region of Caesarea Philippi, but could indicate a slightly different area.

**Caesarea Philippi** is usually visited by many Israeli sightseeing tours. However the verse did not say that He actually went into it, but went only to the area of it.

It was in this area that Jesus asked His disciples: "Whom (or who) do men (or people) say that I the Son of man am (or is)?"

Caesarea Philippi is north of the Sea of Galilee perhaps 25 miles, but a bit south of Mt. Hermon, which is Israel's tallest mountain. There is a pathway that goes to the top of the hill in Caesarea Philippi, but it is blocked near the top by a gate. Nevertheless, if one makes the climb, the view is very nice; however, the path is a bit overgrown.

Caesarea Philippi itself was a place of pagan worship and immoral activities. The northeastern area of Israel once was a center for the worship of Baal. In the nearby city of Dan, King Jeroboam angered God, as he caused them to worship false gods. Caesarea Philippi became a center of worship for the Greek god, Pan. The pagans believed the huge cave located there was a gate to the underworld. Detestable forms of worship were done there.

Reportedly, the Greeks named the city Panias in his honor.

When the Romans came, Herod Philip rebuilt the city and reportedly renamed it after himself Caesarea Philippi.

Waters flow here (to Caesarea Philippi) from the melting snows of Mt. Hermon. These waters become the headwaters of the upper Jordan River, which flow into the Sea of Galilee, which, in turn, flow into the southern Jordan River, and then the small amount of water that is left in the Jordan goes into the **Dead Sea**.

However, along the way, much of the waters south of the Sea of Galilee are used to irrigate farmland. This is why the waters that enter the Dead Sea are sparse. As a result, the Dead Sea is dropping yearly.

**THE DEAD SEA** has no outlet. Its salt content is very heavy as waters evaporate, but the salt and minerals do not.

As a result, when a person enters the Dead Sea, they float on top of the water like a cork.

A person can lie on their back in the water, do a full turn around in the water, and their hair does not get wet.

It seems impossible that anyone could drown in the Dead Sea.

A person can stand upright in the water with their feet not touching the bottom, and the water only comes to the center of their chest.

Once a person comes out of the Dead Sea, they need to shower to get the minerals off. These facilities are provided.

Reportedly the mud from the Dead Sea has healing properties. Damaging ultraviolet rays do not exist at the Dead Sea because of the low land elevation—the lowest on earth. The rays cannot penetrate the atmosphere at this low elevation.

The Dead Sea salts and mud have concentrations of calcium, potassium, magnesium, and bromide.

There are very high concentrations of minerals in the waters, which are very beneficial to the skin. The black mud found in and around the shores of the Dead Sea has beneficial antibacterial and hyperemic values. Magnesium sulfate, also called Epsom salt, is found in

relatively high concentrations in the Sea and is known to contain antiseptic properties. For these reasons, the Dead Sea products are often used in treatment of various skin disorders or imperfections. Treatment for disorders such as eczema, psoriasis, lichen planus and vitiligo are well-known in relation to the Dead Sea.

It is not uncommon to see people covered with the black mud.

The Dead Sea is 1412 feet below sea level. It is 997 feet deep at its deepest point. It is 9.6 times more salty than the ocean. As already said, people come from all over the world for its health benefits. Both the special minerals in the water and the deep elevation of the land contribute to this. Some types of diseases can be totally healed.

Many that come to the Dead Sea are not just sightseeing tours. They are residents of Israel and also people from all over the world coming to both relax or recover from ailments.

The many hotels along the Dead Sea look impressive from the outside, and even the lobbies and restaurants, but the rooms are usually small.

Some rooms have a good view, some do not. Some have windows facing the Dead Sea, some face the cliffs on the other side.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:13**, (Now) When Jesus came into the coasts (or district) (or region) of Caesarea Philippi, he asked (or began asking) his disciples, saying, Whom (or who) do men (or people) say that I the Son of man am (or is)?

**Mt 16:14.** The correct answer to this question is from God the Father. It is written: This (or thou) is (or art) my beloved Son, in whom (or in thee) I am well pleased-Mt 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk

**Mt 16:14.** And they said (or replied), Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, (others) (say) Elias (or Elijah); and (still) others, Jeremias (or Jeremiah), or one of the prophets.

3:22.

The multitude that often followed Jesus had mixed ideas on who Jesus was. They were confused. None was even remotely close to the reality that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, Who had come in the flesh-ref 1 Jn 4:2,3.

Some believed He was **John the Baptist**, which is not possible as John had baptized Jesus. They were two separate people, but some did not know this.

Some believed that Jesus was Elijah.  
Some believed Jesus was Jeremiah.  
Some believed Jesus was one of the prophets.  
None seemed to even remotely understand who Jesus really was.

It may be said, the people were very confused.

Is it any different today? Cults abound. They draw many people who are ignorant of God's Word. Satan is behind all biblical error.

Each cult has its own unbiblical idea of who Jesus is. These all have one thing in common—Jesus is not God. He is not the only begotten Son of God.

Some of these very unbiblical ideas also include:

Christ was only a higher order.  
He was Michael, the archangel.  
He is a living presence in humans.  
He is one of many messiahs.  
You can become Christ,  
and the list goes on and on.

All who believe such are destined to be in the lake of fire unless they repent.

Some of the more **well-known cults** that lead people into error and then to hell are as follows:

Baha'ism  
Christadelphianism  
Christian Identity Movement  
Christian Science  
International Churches of Christ  
Jehovah's Witnesses  
Modernism  
Mormonism  
Nation of Islam (Black Moslems)  
Rosicrucianism  
Scientology  
Seventh Day Adventist  
Spiritualism  
The Family (Church of God)(Children of God)  
Theosophy  
The Twelve Tribes  
Unitarianism (Unification Church)  
United Pentecostal Church  
Unity

As most of today's churches are wretched, so the synagogues were in the days of Jesus.

As many churches today have pastors that are the blind leaders of the blind, so it was in the synagogues in the days of Jesus. There were many blind leaders of the blind.

And today, the Great Harlot, also called the Roman Catholic Church, leads millions to the lake of fire, while they proclaim the totally unbiblical doctrine of purgatory, and many other false doctrines also; and the biblically blind followers do not pick up their Bibles so they can read them and discover that they are being taught false doctrines.

They are without excuse, for the Bible could show them their error; however, if they have a Bible, most collect dust or may only be used to record special dates.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:14**, And they said (or replied), Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, (others) (say) Elias (or Elijah);

**Mt 16:15.** He saith unto them (or said, But what about you?) (he asked), But whom (or who) say ye (or do you) (say) that I am?

and (still) others, Jeremias (or Jeremiah), or one of the prophets.

**Mt 16:15.** Jesus now addressed His disciples directly. He asked them, who they said that He was. This should have been the twelve, but there were 120 that had followed Him also.

The question was needful, as the crowd was confused. Had they, the crowd, in any way influenced the disciples with their confusion?

As one looks at what is considered to be Bible-believing and teaching churches today, what do we see?

We see churches that no longer preach the Bible at all.

Some preach psychology or philosophy.

Some are nothing more than storybook preachers.

Some churches are no more than entertainment centers.

Some are no more than 7 minute sermon centers, and then they go to a large church food center.

Some have lots of games. When the preaching is going on, some are shooting pool.

Some have no dress codes, and the girls dress to attract young, single men.

Many churches now-a-days, there is no fear of God before their eyes.

### **Who do you say Jesus is?**

He is God, Who came to this earth in human form.

He is come in the flesh.

For by Him and for Him were all things created.

He is God and is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints.

He loved man so much that He died a horrible death on the cross, so that through repentance and faith in Jesus, one might have eternal life.

**Mt 16:16.** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou (or you) art (or are) the Christ, the Son of the living God.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:15**, Jesus saith unto them (or said, But what about you?) (he asked), But whom (or who) say ye (or do you) (say) that I am?

**Mt 16:16.** Two things are mentioned.

Peter first answered the question, and then he made a comment.

1. Peter believed and said that Jesus was **the Christ**.

He said THOU ART THE CHRIST. He was the Messiah (or Anointed One) that the Jews had believed would come some day.

2. Further, Peter commented that Jesus was the actual **Son of the living God**.

The emphasis Peter put in saying this was not, as many say, Oh yes, I believe Jesus is the Christ. It was a deep, inner revelation and understanding that here, right before him, is "**the**" actual Christ, "the" actual Son of the living God. He is Deity. He is the Supreme Being.

God is alive. For by Him and for Him were all things created. Peter not only commented Jesus was the Son of God, but He was the Son of the "**LIVING**" God. This was in contrast to the lifeless idols that some worshipped.

God, the Father had opened Peter's eyes and heart to more fully comprehend who Jesus really was.

**Much of the world**, in its ignorance, does not even believe that God exists. They do not believe the Bible is the actual Word of God.

Some go to church on Sundays, or Wednesday nights, or on Christmas, or Christmas Eve, but their life does not reflect or



testify in any way that they read the Bible, or even believe that the Bible is the Word of God.

Through Bible prophecy, the Bible can be proven to be true, beyond any doubt; however, mankind does not want the words of the Bible to reign over them. Mankind does not want to repent of their sins. Thus, much of mankind goes about life with no acknowledgment that there is a God. Some may go to a church on Sunday, but it has little or no effect on them the rest of the week.

Unfortunately, people cannot hear the screams of the billions of people that are in a place called hell that are in constant torment.

They cannot hear their dead relatives gnashing their teeth in torment that are hoping somehow or in some way, their loved ones that are still alive might find Christ and be saved, before they die and come into the place of horrible torment.

Understand, though our earthly body dies, our spirit lives on. Most go to a place called hell, which is a place of torment where they are awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment.

Only a very few, perhaps less than one percent, will go to be with the Lord. These few obeyed God's Word and followed Jesus. Few do this.

Isa 44:6-20-Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.**

v.7 And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them.

v.8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I

told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. **Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.**

v.9 They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.

v.10 Who hath formed a god, or a molten calf, or a graven image that is profitable for nothing?

v.11 Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet **they shall fear**, and they shall be ashamed together.

v.12 The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

v.13 The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

v.14 He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it.

v.15 Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, **he maketh a god, and worshippeth it**; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

v.16 He burneth part thereof in the fire; with

part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire:

v.17 And the residue thereof **he maketh a god**, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshipping it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god.

v.18 They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.

v.19 And none considereth in his heart, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, I have burned part of it in the fire; yea, also I have baked bread upon the coals thereof; I have roasted flesh, and eaten it: and shall I make the residue thereof an abomination? shall I fall down to the stock of a tree?

v.20 **He feedeth on ashes**: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

Few read and obey the Bible. Most feed on ashes. Most place their hope in nothing more than hope.

REGARDING THE TRUE GOD, THE GOD OF HEAVEN, IT IS WRITTEN:

Ps 19:1-The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

We are now living in the latter days.

Soon, the Rapture of the few, true believers shall happen. Then will follow a horrible time on the earth called the Tribulation. Then, the one day Battle of Armageddon will explode, and Jesus Christ shall return in power and great glory.

Ps 97:1-6-The Lord reigneth; let the earth

rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof.

v.2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

v.3 A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about.

v.4 His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled.

v.5 The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

**v.6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.**

The words "Son of God" appear in the Bible 48 times. Just how fully Peter understood what came out of his mouth is not known.

#### **Regarding the existence of God:**

Ro 11:8-(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Jn 12:37-40-But though he had done **so many miracles** before them, **yet they believed not on him:**

v. 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

v.39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,

v.40 **He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart;** that they should not see with their eyes, **nor understand with their**

**Mt 16:17.** And Jesus answered and said unto him (or replied), Blessed art thou (or are you), Simon Barjona (or Simon, son of Jonah): for (or because) flesh and blood (or man) hath (or did) not revealed it unto thee (or to you), but my Father which (or who) is in heaven.

**heart**, and be converted, and I should heal them.

Note God's Word:

He hath blinded their eyes.

He hath...hardened their heart.

Ro 9:17-18-For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. **Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.**

**Is God's Word the center of your life today? God's Word is Jesus. Is Jesus alive in your heart today?**

As it has been said in **Mt 16:16**, And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou (or you) art (or are) the Christ, the Son of the living God.

**Mt 16:17.** (Verses 17 to 20 go together) Jesus answered what had been said and then replied.

It seems oftentimes Peter was rebuked by Jesus. However, in this case, Jesus told Simon Peter that he was blessed.

Then he called Peter, Simon **Barjona**, which is translated as meaning Simon, son of Jonah.

Jesus let Peter know he was blessed, because it was not man that revealed to him that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, but rather it was His Father, which is in heaven, that had given him this knowledge and understanding.

Simon Peter believed what the Father in heaven had revealed to him deep in his heart. Peter was blessed, as he had believed correctly regarding Jesus.

The understanding that Jesus is the Christ, the actual Son of God, whose mother was Mary and His Father is the God of creation, is possessed by very few in their heart.

It may be said, that although Peter had the knowledge of Jesus being God's only begotten Son, it was now in his heart that "HERE IS GOD, THE SON," in the flesh with them.

As this was in Peter's heart, it may have also been in the hearts of the the other 11, or even the 120 that also followed Him. They also had been present and witnessed the incredible miracles of Jesus and heard the wonderful words that He spoke.

Few people, in this latter day generation, have such a revelation in their heart. Yes, some people will say, I know Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, but it means very little or nothing to them.

That inner revelation has to come from God. And when it does, it changes a person's heart and life. It produces repentance. It instills in a person a deep desire to devour God's Word.

It instills in a person's heart to desire to conform to the Christ of the Bible.

**It instills in a person's heart to desire to hear and read GOD'S WORD, which produces faith.**

**It instills in a person's heart a LACK OF INTEREST, regarding preachers that tell all sorts of STORIES AND JOKES that produce NO FAITH within a person.**

Jesus called Himself the Son of man. These words appear in the KJV 195 times.

1 Peter 2:4-8-To whom coming, as unto a living

stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

v.5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

v.6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

v.7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Understanding of God's Word comes from God to the repentant, not to the know-it-all type of person and the proud. God resists the proud.

How much of God's Word has been revealed to you? If you crave God's Word coupled with repentance, and you are faithful in immersing yourself in the Bible, more and more understanding should come. The understanding of God's Word seems boundless to the faithful and those that have a deep love for it; but it seems limited to those whose love is lukewarm and which may also be accompanied with excuses. Do you love God's Word as Peter did? Do you fear God as the apostles did?

In Jn 1:42, which was near the beginning when Peter began to follow Jesus, Jesus said: Thou art Simon the son of Jonah: thou shalt be called Cephas which is by interpretation, A stone or a fragment of a rock.

**Mt 16:18.** And I say also unto thee (or I tell you), That thou art (or you are) Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell (or Hades) shall not prevail against it (or shall not overcome it).

As it has been said in **Mt 16:17**, And Jesus answered and said unto him (or replied), Blessed art thou (or are you), Simon Barjona (or Simon, son of Jonah): for (or because) flesh and blood (or man) hath (or did) not reveal it unto thee (or to you), but my Father which (or who) is in heaven.

**Mt 16:18.** In v. 17, Jesus spoke indicating that His Father, which is in heaven, had revealed to Peter the understanding that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus now continues from that point by using the word "And". Several things need to be covered.

**First**, Jesus says, "And I say also unto thee."

**Second**, Jesus says to Peter, That thou art (or you are) Peter,

**Third**, Jesus says to Peter, "And upon this rock (which is Jesus) I will build my **church**." These words can also carry with them the meaning of "I will or shall continue to build." The word "church" can also be viewed as an assembly.

**Fourth**, Jesus says, "And the gates of hell (or Hades) shall not prevail against it (or shall not overcome it)."

The gates of hell can include:  
the iron chains of sin that keep a person in bondage. These can include  
the deceitfulness of riches,  
and the cares, and  
lusts of all sorts of things,  
and the pleasures of this life and world.

This scripture clearly indicates that Satan will do all he can to defeat the churches or assemblies, but he shall not succeed. He will not succeed in those that keep their trust firmly



centered in Jesus.

The church is made up of people. Satan does sometimes hinder both the construction of a Bible-teaching church, or any place born again believers might choose to meet. Satan also attacks in many, many ways against all that choose to follow the Jesus Christ of the Bible, Who is come in the flesh.

Many **Bible-centered churches** throughout the world do endure great hardships. In America, this is sometimes not as evident as it is in many other countries.

Members of Christ-centered churches in Moslem countries have been horribly tortured and killed, but also in other countries. Missionaries have also gone through great hardships and persecutions. Some have been killed.

Nevertheless, there are a very **FEW** Bible-believing and teaching churches in America and other parts of the world that do encourage their members to devour God's Word, and teach the **whole** Gospel, which includes:  
loving all the brethren, and  
the judgements,  
hell,  
the lake of fire,  
the narrow way and strait gate,  
the Revelation, and  
the Rapture (or caught up), and  
Bible prophecy, and  
repentance and  
obedience to God's Word,  
and that only a very few shall inherit eternal life, these shall be blessed.

**Regarding Peter**, Jesus now indicates that Simon, who was called Peter-ref Mt 10:2 was going to have a name change. Jesus said: Thou art Peter.

Mk 3:16, 17 tells us: And Simon, he (which is Jesus) surnamed **Peter**. And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

The names of "Peter" or "Cephas" has the meaning of a piece, or a fragment of a rock, or a small stone or rock.

The word "Petros" is the Greek for Peter, and the Aramaic for Peter is "Cephas."

Regarding the word "church" in Mt 16:17, this is the first place in the New Testament that the word "**church**" is used. It is used again in Mt 18:17 twice.

The word "**church**" is not used in any other of the 4 Gospels, except Matthew. The subject of and institution of the "church" was not understood at this time.

However, the words "church" and "churches" are used numerous times from the Acts through the Revelation.

Some definitions of the word "church" include:

- a building where religious services are held.
- a body of Christian believers.
- a place for Christian worship.
- a public place of Christians.
- an assembly of Christians.
- a chosen assembly.
- a called-out assembly.

Jesus has used the words "My church."

This clearly indicates there would be other churches that would come along which would look like the real thing, but they would be counterfeit. Many so-called Christian churches are not of Jesus, but are of the deceiver. People well-versed in the Bible can identify them. People that do not read their Bible can be

easily deceived.

When Jesus says "upon this **rock**" I will build MY church, he is referring to Himself. The true church belongs to Jesus. Again, note the words "MY church."

The church of this latter day generation is a long way from looking like it should with its watered-down, preaching.

Indeed, this is the time period (the latter days started with Israel's rebirth on May 14, 1948), when people will no longer put with sound doctrine.

God forbid, some of the best comedians are not in Hollywood but are in the pulpits. Congregations of some churches depart from services laughing, where as they should be departing with crying over their sinful condition. There is little "fear of God" in most churches. God's word makes it clear that it is by the fear of God that men depart from evil. Some say that the words "fear God" means reverence, not fear. This is a half truth. Many times it does not mean reverence, but rather GOD IS GREATLY TO BE FEARED IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS...-Ps 89:7.

Regarding numbers, these are some of the latest worldwide estimates of the number of people that identify with certain denominations.

Christianity including Roman Catholic may be over 2.42 billion.

Roman Catholic is app. 1.3 billion.

Other Christian denominations is estimated to be 1.12 billion.

No denomination can save anyone. Only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ can a person be saved.

How many true followers of Jesus are there?

How many really do obey God's Word? Only God knows.

One estimate seemed hard to believe. This number was based on the estimated number of Christians that do hear or read God's Word and do seem to obey God's Word.

The number of people worldwide in 2018 is believed to be 7.6 billion.

The number that may obey God's Word is estimated to be only a very small fraction of that number.

When the Bible indicates that the number is just a few there be that find it or are really saved, it should be a wake up call. The lukewarm will perish.

Mt 16:18, when it says, And upon this **Rock**, "this rock" **refers to Himself**, not Peter. The Greek word for "rock" here is the same as used in 1 Cor 10:4, which says, They drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them and that **ROCK was CHRIST**.

1 Cor 3:11 states, For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

All the power that Satan has cannot overcome the Church that is built upon Christ. However, Satan has been able in this latter day, lukewarm generation to greatly compromise the teachings of this last church age before the Rapture (also known as the Translation) comes.

Of the **VERY, VERY, VERY FEW** that do preach God's Word as Jesus would have them do, such sometimes must hide and move from place to place, lest they should be falsely accused and arrested; yes, even in America. There are very few "Philadelphia type" churches-ref Rev 3:7 to 13, (which are among the best of the 7 in the Revelation) left anymore.

And the lukewarm churches and so-called **lukewarm Christians** of this last generation before Jesus returns, **do not desire** to hear the uncompromised Gospel. This Gospel includes the (strait gate and narrow way) Gospel, which includes repentance and obedience to God's Word.

That Gospel includes denying oneself, and picking up your cross daily, and following God's Word.

It includes forsaking things, repentance, and obeying God's Word. It does not include seeking after and boasting about riches.

It is not uncommon to hear very misleading teachings that include preachers boasting of their possessions and fancy cars. Jesus said to sell that thou hast-ref Mt 19:21.

The narrow way and strait gate teachings, as Jesus and the apostles did, are no longer well received.

And some, if they have a website with the "Philadelphia church age" type of preaching, that website can sometimes have many problems; and few, if any, will help with the costs.

Salvation, as written in God's Word, involves more than saying a prayer or kind of believing in Jesus. Salvation **must** include **repentance**. Salvation must include **faith**, and that faith can only come from hearing or reading God's Word.

When the Rapture (or caught up, or Translation) does come, the Scriptures are very clear—many that were **absolutely positive** they would be taken will not be taken.

Following Jesus (that is, **following and obeying God's Word**) is required. All other ways are sinking sand. Regretfully, the

lukewarm church and lukewarm followers of Jesus are building on sinking sand in these last days. People claim they have faith or trust in Jesus, yet their Bibles are rarely opened. They are deceived, and the darkness they are in has blinded their eyes. They do not understand there can be **no true faith** apart from hearing and reading God's pure Word. A person must build upon the Rock, and that Rock is the **Word of God**.

Storytelling and preachers telling stories about themselves, and their families, and what they do and did, builds no faith in any person. Rather, it sends the people that hear lukewarm teaching closer and closer to the lake of fire.

It is very true in many churches. The congregations know far, far more about their preacher, and his family, and what he does, than they do about Jesus and what He did. In a lifetime, few preachers or people ever cover the entire Bible. They do not build upon Jesus, Who is the ONLY ROCK and SURE FOUNDATION.

Note God's Word in Mt 21:42-Jesus saith...DID YE NEVER READ IN THE SCRIPTURES,...?

Matt 28:19-20-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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Few do read the Scriptures anymore.

Also the time is **now** that men will no longer put up with (or tolerate) sound doctrine. Instead they listen to (so-called) Bible teachers that say what their unrepentant nature desires to hear.

**A TRAP TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM READING GOD'S WORD.**

And, yes, even this commentary can be included in this warning.

There are so many radio and television ministries, who can number them? Many offer books and tapes and videos to people that will send in a donation.

**HERE IS THE PROBLEM.** People want something in return for their contribution. Many will not send in money, except it involves receiving back something in return, God forbid.

**So they send in money and receive back a book.** They may send in money to 5 ministries and may receive 5 different books.

So they take time to read the books, while  
**THEIR BIBLES COLLECT DUST.**

Faith "**ONLY comes from God's Word—  
THE BIBLE.**"

Peter is not the head of any church. The only head of any true church is Jesus. How deceived some people can be.

People that spend little time in their Bibles, can spend much time in being deceived.

The **Roman Catholic Church** is described as the Great Harlot in the Revelation. But, again, as it has been said, how can those that go to this church know that the Great Harlot is exactly that, when their Bible sits somewhere collecting dust.

There are none so blind, as those that will not see.

The word "church" means "Called out," or in one case "assembly."

With the death, burial, and resurrection of

**Mt 16:19.** And I will give unto thee (or you) the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever (or whatever) thou (or you) shalt (or shall) bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever (or whatever) thou (or you) shalt (or shall) loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Jesus, the gates of HELL were defeated; how be it, they were defeated for all that would trust in Christ as their only hope of salvation. Hell is still where all will go, other than the very few that will place their trust in Jesus and follow Him.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:18**, And I say also unto thee (or I tell you), That thou art (or you are) Peter, and upon this rock I will build my **church**; and the gates of hell (or Hades) shall not prevail against it (or shall not overcome it).

**Mt 16:19.** Jesus now tells Peter He will give him certain things.

These include the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven. They were given to Peter, but now to all that will follow Jesus.

Note the word keys is plural. This represents **authority**.

Keys are given to one that is trusted.

Keys are given to lock and open things.

These are for all believers as already mentioned. It enables them to go forth and **proclaim the Gospel** to where-ever or to whoever God sends them.

Note Jn 20:23, regarding the authority given to all the apostles: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Jesus also tells Peter that whatever he **binds** or locks on the earth, it shall be so done in heaven. And whatever he shall **loose** on earth, it shall be so done in heaven. Peter would have the authority and keys to bind and also to loose people. These words can also mean forbidden or allowed.

The Gospel is being proclaimed throughout the world in many ways. However, unrepentant sin holds people in bondage The Word of God can



break that bondage of sin to those that will open their heart and repent.

And whatever Peter chooses to loose on the earth, It will be so done in heaven.

Keys can indicate that the door can be opened to heaven for some, but it can be locked for others. Jesus is the Door to heaven, and obedience to God's Word (which is Jesus) is the path that each person is to travel. Few there be that will find and travel the narrow way that leads to the strait gate and will enter therein-ref Mt 7:13,14.

Mt 18:15-18 gives us more insight into this verse.

V.15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

V.16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

V.17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

V.18 Verily I say unto you, **Whatsoever "ye" shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

**The authority of binding and loosing was also given to the apostles. They had the authority to remit and retain sins-ref Jn 20:23.**

The church that follows Jesus has the authority to welcome, dismiss, and discipline, as well as to declare what is allowed and forbidden.

In this modern-day church age, there are some that have supposedly bound many things in their lack of understanding God's Word. It (binding) is a popular teaching among some. But things remain as they were. Sin continues to increase. True repentance seems to be becoming less and less. The preaching of God's Word seems to be becoming more and more watered-down and lukewarm, and less understood. Things cannot be bound that are contrary to God's Word.

Many preach to just believe on Christ, but no repentance, or turning from sin, or even reading one's Bible is ever mentioned. It seems they do not want to offend anyone. Indeed, the **Word of God does offend** the unrepentant. Many want it silenced.

Nice or funny storytelling, as some churches do, offends very few. However, **it does offend** the born again Christian and those that want to hear God's Word.

The **Roman Catholic** "so-called" church has **no keys to the kingdom of heaven**. None at all. There is no purgatory. Search the Bible. See if this is so, and then repent.

It is the Great Harlot of the Revelation.  
It is the great falsehood.  
It is the great deception.  
It has the power of Satan to deceive and make people believe that falsehood is truth.

As it reportedly has been said by the Roman Catholic Church, "**Give us a child till they are 12, and we will give you a Catholic for life.**"

The Roman Catholic Church and many other churches also do not confess or believe that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. The keys they possess are the keys to the same place the rich merchant is—that is, "hell"-ref Lk 16:22-24. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was

carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

The Roman Catholic Church believes that Peter was their first "pope." Was Peter infallible, as Catholicism seems to believe all their popes were? God forbid. The Bible reveals, over and over, he was not. He needed the saving grace of Jesus as all do.

The Roman Catholic Church had their foundations in the Babylonian cult, which existed before the Roman church came. This can be verified by the vaults in the Vatican in Rome. Note God's Word: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH-Rev 17:5. And where is this located? It is the city that sits on 7 mountains or hills-ref Rev 17:9.

Was Peter the head of the early church? The answer is he was not. It appears it was James-ref Acts 15:13. There is no place found in the Bible regarding such a thing as the Roman Catholic Church, other than the Great Harlot of the Revelation, which fits the Roman Catholic Church like a hand in a glove-ref Rev 17:1-7.

Some have asked the question, if Peter was at Rome as the bishop, why didn't he and Paul ever lay eyes on each other? The answer seems obvious.

The Roman Catholic Church is the Great **Impostor**. It is a great lie. It pretends to be something it is not. It creates doctrines that are nonexistent in the Bible, such as "Purgatory." Do they understand they are blind? No.

**Many people are like this also.** Multitudes are now in hell, not purgatory, screaming and crying as they are tormented in the flame-ref Lk 16:24. The Scriptures are **extremely clear**. When one dies, they go to be with God, or they perish to hell. There is no middle ground.

Oftentimes, a priest can get very uptight or angry when confronted with God's Word, which **CLEARLY** proves their unbiblical beliefs are wrong. The love of God is not in them when they are corrected, as it is in the true followers of Jesus.

I believe it is safe to say that 100% of the billions of people that are now in hell, **not even "ONE"** truly believed in their heart it would ever happen to them, **NO, NOT EVEN ONE.**

How many total people have lived on the earth since Adam and Eve? Estimates vary, but 96 to 110 billion are considered by experts in this field.

As may have already been covered, if the Scriptures are to be taken literally, which is the only way, **approximately** 1 of every 234 people may be in heaven.

The Roman Catholic Church deceives and misleads multitudes that are **biblically illiterate**.

Those that go to this great deceiver and attend its services can attest to the fact that they do not really understand much of the Bible.

The Bible is to them a closed book, and they understand very little of it. This author has personally been to **Rome** and to the **Vatican**, and the **Roman Catholic Church**.

When the (supposedly learned) priests that speak English at the church of the Holy

Sepulcher in **Jerusalem** are confronted with God's Word, they can also get very angry.

They do not have any desire at all to be shown they are wrong from the Word of God.

Many people are the same way. They do not want correction. They are stiff-necked. **Jesus found** most of the scribes and Pharisees to be the same way. They despised correction, even from God. And, today, they despise correction from His Word. There are many modern-day scribes and Pharisees in Israel and around the world.

Yes, Peter and the apostles did have the power to bind certain things, and then loose certain things also, which included the going forth of God's Word, if they were in accordance with God's Word.

Consider the following numbers.

**The world today**, such as the **Roman Catholic Church** with its huge numbers, and **Islam** with its huge numbers, and numerous **cults** with their large numbers, and **agnostics** with their large numbers, and **atheists** with their large numbers, and **so-called Christians** with their large numbers that go to churches that have no concept of being born again, and **lukewarm Christians** with their large numbers, that hear God's Word, but it goes in one ear and out the other; consider, if one totals all these up, then the **number left on the earth would be small**.

Those that are left are the **few fruit-bearing Christians** that love God's Word and obey God's Word (this is only a few).

This is the **few that should be raptured** or translated when it happens.

This is the few that if they died right now should be with Jesus in heaven.

This is the few that understand and confess that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. Very few people that claim they are a Christian do this or understand this.

Are you one? It is written: **2 Jn 7-For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

Do you have Jesus Christ, or should it be said **does He have YOU? Are you a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, which includes HIS WORD?**

There is no foundation except Jesus. As it is written, 1 Cor 3:11-FOR OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY THAN THAT IS LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.

General information.

Paul reportedly wrote 2325 verses.

Peter reportedly wrote 166.

Paul's authority was from heaven. Paul said: For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles. For thou I be rude, yet not in knowledge-ref 2 Cor 11:5,6.

Peter's authority was also from heaven. **Peter's ministry was to the Jews** (or circumcision), as was James, Cephas, and John-ref Gal 3:9.

This is yet more proof that Peter was never a "pope." Peter made mistakes and was corrected-ref Gal 2:11; yet the Pope is to be infallible, so they claim.

Peter's ministry included several places, including Antioch, Caesarea, Joppa, and Samaria.

Paul's ministry was to the Gentiles (or heathen) (ref Ro 11:13),(ref Gal 2:9) not Peter's.

Anyone that understands God's Word can see the claims of the Great Harlot, which is the Roman Catholic church, are biblically very wrong. God's Word proves it beyond any possible doubt.

But, then, most Catholics are very biblically illiterate, so they can be easily deceived. Even in the most basic and easily understood things, they are blind, such as water baptism, which is **always** done by full immersion.

Any church that you go to that does baptism by sprinkling, quietly, but **quickly** depart permanently and don't look back, lest you become deceived as many are.

Again, as can be easily researched, the Roman Catholic Church can be traced to the Babylonia cult, which predates the coming of Jesus. Thus, the two were united together. Note Rev 17:1-7. This church shall still be here during the Tribulation according to the Revelation. This is further proof they are not of God. They are left behind when the Rapture takes place. But then, during the Tribulation, the Great Harlot (the Roman Catholic Church) and Rome shall be burned with fire. Thus, the Roman Catholic Church comes to an end.

Reportedly, the so-called infallible popes were far from what they claimed to be.

Pope Honorius was proclaimed to be a heretic around the 7th century.

Pope Serguis III had a mistress and an illegitimate offspring that later became a pope.

Pope John X had many mistresses. Reportedly, he was killed in an act of adultery by a very mad husband.

Reportedly, Benedict IX committed robberies and also murders. Reportedly, he was thrown out of the city of Rome by those that lived there.

Reportedly, in the 11th century, there were three popes that were at odds with each other.

The list could go on and on, but to no purpose. This is the church that today boasts a membership of 1.29 billion. God forbid, how deceived people can be. All they have to do is pick up their Bible and start reading. Then they should understand the darkness they are in, and repent, and place their trust in the Jesus of the Bible, Who IS THE WORD, and be saved. Then they should be spared from eternity in the lake of fire.

A few may do this, but only a very few.

The foundation of God's church is THE WORD OF GOD. How is it then that so few churches teach God's Word anymore, which explains God's Word?

There may be two definitions for a Christian.

One is a person that identifies with any church that claims to be a Christian church, no matter how illiterate they are regarding the Bible. Most people claim to be a Christian, yet they seldom or never read their Bible. This fits most people.

The true definition of a Christian is a person that has the Holy Spirit inside of them, which is evidenced by the fruits of the Spirit and that is being led of the Spirit of God which is in them. This fits only a small percentage of those that claim they are a Christian. The Scriptures are clear that the number of people that will be raptured at some future date is very small, while the number that believe they will be translated is very large.



**BIBLICALLY, a true Christian** is a person that has received Jesus Christ as their only hope of salvation, who has repented of their sins, and who has, as a result of their faith, obeyed God by being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

It is clear that most people are very deceived about their walk with Jesus.

Some of this has to do with the wretched and lukewarm preaching that is evident in most churches. Jesus spoke only God's Word. Most churches speak very little of God's Word. Then they tell worldly stories, and the people love to have it so.

In many churches, the congregation knows far more about their preacher, than they do about Jesus. This is the time when men will no longer put up with sound doctrine, but rather they heed the words of many that say what their ears itch to hear.

Their ears do not itch to hear repent, read, and obey the Bible, and do the works which God has prepared for them.

The Word of God convicts people of sin. Man's words do not.

Few, in this generation, have the keys of the kingdom of God. Few have trusted in Jesus as evidenced by their works. The Revelation reveals at the Judgment the words, "I know thy works," for these are the evidence of trusting in Jesus and following Jesus.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:19**, And I will give unto thee (or you) the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever (or whatever) thou (or you) shalt (or shall) bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever (or whatever) thou (or you) shalt (or shall) loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Mt 16:20.** Then charged he (or He warned) his disciples that they should tell no man (or no one) that he was Jesus the Christ.

**Mt 16:20.** Jn 16:21 to 26; Mk 8:31-38; and Lk 9:22-25 are in harmony.

Then Jesus gave His disciples a very straight warning or command. It might be compared to a commanding general telling his troops what to do.

They were in no way to tell any person that Jesus was the Messiah at this time. His disciples obeyed His command.

Fourteen times, the KJV Bible uses the word "expectation." The people expected the Messiah to soon come and restore the kingdom to Israel, because of certain Old Testament prophecies.

However, certain of the religious leaders and many of the people did not want the "Christ" to come, as He would take away their authority which they had over the people. For they loved the praise of the people far more than the praise of God. They loved to go in the market places and be called rabbi, rabbi-ref Mt 23:7.

Many of the religious leaders were not on the side of Jesus, even though they read the "Scrolls" in the services.

Their works that they did were done to be seen of the people.

They enlarged the borders of their garments. They loved the chief seats in the synagogues-ref Mt 23:5-7.

The religious leaders were against Jesus, even as most are today. They hate correction from the Bible. They are not valiant for the truth.

The more miracles Jesus did, the more He was hated by the religious establishment. More and more people were following Jesus, which meant

**Chronologically, Mt 16:20 goes to Mk 8:27.**

**Mk 8:27 goes to Mk 8:30.**

**Mk 8:30 goes to Lk 9:18.**

**Lk 9:18 goes to Lk 9:21.**

**Lk 9:21 goes to Mt 16:21.**

**Mt 16:21.** From that time forth (or on) began Jesus (Christ) to shew (or show) (or explain) unto his disciples, how that he must go unto (or to) Jerusalem, and suffer many things of (or from) (or at the hands of) the elders and chief priests and scribes (or teachers of the law), and (he must) be killed, and be raised (up) again (on) the third day (to life).

that the scribes, the Pharisees, and other religious leaders were losing some of their influence and notoriety.

The day was coming when It would be revealed who Jesus was, but that was in the future.

Telling people that Jesus was the Christ would mean nothing to those that were not persuaded by the miracles that Jesus did.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:20**, Then charged he (or He warned) his disciples that they should tell no man (or no one) that he was Jesus the Christ.

**Mt 16:21.** (Jesus tells of His death and resurrection.) From that time and on, Jesus began to reveal how He must go to Jerusalem. Once there, He must suffer many things at the hands of the religious leaders, such as the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes. Jesus was beginning to prepare His disciples for His soon coming death. The disciples, by this time, should have been established in the faith sufficiently to bear what was yet to come.

Those that choose to surrender their life to Christ need to learn to trust in Him and follow Him. They are to deny themselves and pick up their cross and follow Jesus-ref Mk 10:21. Many of today's latter day churches do not prepare their members for persecutions and hardships. They definitely do not prepare them for what

many people have gone through during the past 2000 years, and what some also go through in third-world or Moslem countries right now.

Jesus revealed that He must be killed. Jesus knew all things, even from the beginning, as to what was ahead. He even knew exactly what people would say or do in relation to what He said or did.

But then Jesus revealed that He was to be raised up to life again on the third day.

The time period that He began saying these things was about 34 months into His ministry. Up to this time, these things were kept secret from His followers. Where there had been great joy in following Jesus, now great sadness was beginning to grip the disciples.

His ministry was to last 3 1/2 years. Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God, the unleavened bread, was to be broken and killed just as it is written. He was to be buried, but then rise on the third day. All was foretold by the Scriptures. How is it then, with so much undeniable proof, that the whole world does not believe? One reason is because of sin. Sin blinds a person just as a heavy fog can do.

The world does not want God, that is, God's Word to reign over them. Thus, collectively, the churches have millions of people that attend, yet the number that follow Jesus, (that is, the number that obey God's Word) are just a few.

Many profess to be a Christian, but only a very, very few read and obey God's Word. Only a very few will tell their friends and relatives they follow Jesus. Only a very few will try to lead their friends and relatives to a personal relationship with Christ.

Matt 7:22-29-Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy

name? and in thy name have cast out devils?  
and in thy name done many wonderful works?  
(That day is a day of judgment.)

23-And then will I profess unto them, I never  
knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

24-Therefore whosoever heareth these  
sayings of mine (which is the Bible), and doeth  
them (or obeys God's Word), I (Who is Jesus)  
will liken him unto a wise man, which built his  
house upon a rock: (The rock is Jesus, the  
Word of God.) (Note, the wise person are those  
few that hear and obey God's Word.)

25-And the rain descended, and the floods  
came, and the winds blew, (in other words,  
many, many hindrances and problems and, in  
some cases, even beatings came) and beat  
upon that house (which represents the person  
trying to follow Jesus); and it fell not: for it was  
founded upon a rock (Who is Jesus, which is  
God's Word).

26-And every one that heareth these sayings  
of mine (or hears or reads God's Word, the  
Bible), and doeth them not (or does not obey  
God's Word), shall be likened unto a foolish  
man, which built his house upon the sand:

A person that does not obey God's Word is a  
person that has no solid foundation.

27-And the rain descended, and the floods  
came, and the winds blew, (or it may be said,  
everything imaginable that could happen, does  
happen) and beat upon that house (or beats  
upon the follower of Jesus); and it fell (in other  
words, the Christian fell and did not continue  
steadfast in obedience to the Bible): and great  
was the fall of it. (Many begin to follow Jesus.  
Many repent, and through faith began in Christ,  
but as the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of  
riches, the lusts of all sorts of things, and even  
all sorts of persecutions come on the person

because of their following God's Word, they give up, and return back the way they were before being saved.)

Yet they continue to think they are saved, because some are taught that once they are saved, they can never, never, never fall, or lose their faith, or turn away. Even if a person's life in no way reflects Jesus, many falsely believe they will still be in heaven. Satan deceives them, but their understanding of this is darkness. How can this be? As a person backslides, they no longer remember what manner of person they were (ref Ja 1:24), thus, their backsliding cannot be easily detected. But those very **few** that are soft to correction can be corrected by their preacher and may yet return to Christ. Yet what preacher is there today that can detect the fallen and that has a ministry to correct the fallen?

When a person's life in no way reflects Jesus in their life anymore, then they have fallen. As it is written: Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them-ref Mt 7:20. Woe to those preachers that teach contrary to many scriptures in the Bible. The religious establishment was no friend of Jesus, yet they claimed they followed God. The clergy in these latter days are deceivers just as they were in the days of Jesus.

The priests, the chief priests, the elders, the scribes, the preachers, the clergy, in these latter days, are not so different than they were in the days of Jesus. Most are deceivers, but a deceiver cannot admit they are a deceiver. They say they love Jesus, but their works, fruits, and actions say otherwise.

28-And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:

29-For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**Mt 16:22.** Then Peter took him (aside), and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee (or God forbid it), (or never) Lord: this shall not be unto thee (or this shall never happen to you).

As it has been said in **Mt 16:21**, From that time forth (or on) began Jesus (Christ) to shew (or show) (or explain) unto his disciples, how that he must go unto (or to) Jerusalem, and suffer many things of (or from) (or at the hands of) the elders and chief priests and scribes (or teachers of the law), and (he must) be killed, and be raised (up) again (on) the third day (to life).

**Mt 16:22.** (Verses 22 and 23, Peter is rebuked.) Then Peter took Jesus aside, apart from the others. It was now Peter leading Jesus, rather than Jesus leading Peter.

Peter had become somewhat of a spokesman or leader of the disciples. Perhaps, it was because he was more outgoing.

It appears he did not want the others to hear what he wanted to say to Jesus, so then the distance he took Him would have been a fair distance. Then he began to do the unbelievable.

Consider. Most all that have followed Jesus throughout history, greatly underestimated the devil's power to deceive. Most forget that one of Satan's names is the "deceiver." He deceiveth the whole world. He has such great powers of deception that he deceived one-third of the angels of God.

Many believe they are saved. **They are so sure they are that they stake their eternal life on their belief.**

**I believe it is safe to say that NO ONE IN THEIR HEART UNDERSTANDS OR BELIEVES THEY WILL REALLY GO TO A PLACE CALLED "HELL," AND THEN THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE,** where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth forever, and ever, and ever.

Of the multiple billions in hell now, not one,

really thought there was such a place or that they would be there.

And of the billions of people today, I believe it is safe to say that not one thinks they will ever be in eternal torment. The rich man in hell right now, didn't believe it, until he died.

The power of Satan to deceive **is far beyond most people's understanding including most preachers**. As has been said: Satan which deceiveth the whole world-Rev 12:9, and we ask—does this include you?

**Peter began to rebuke Jesus**, Who is God. It appears He began to speak sharply to Jesus and in a somewhat loud voice.

In two cases in other translations, He seems to be saying to Jesus, "Have mercy on yourself."

He began to say (in a manner of speaking) that what Jesus said was a lie. This indicates a lack of belief. Peter's thinking was from a human prospective, not from God's perspective.

Peter did not even begin to understand that Jesus would have to go through much suffering and then die. Peter, at this time, was not at all childlike. When emotions rise, a Christian's ability to hear the Holy Spirit telling them what to say diminishes.

One wonders how much of a stumbling block this would have been for the others that heard what was said.

Peter, at this time, had little or no understanding of God's plan to save people from their sins. Peter did not have any desire to see Jesus die.

How could the disciples have imagined Jesus being killed, when Jesus had raised people from the dead and cured every form of disease, even



**Mt 16:23.** But he (Jesus) turned, and said unto (or to) Peter, Get thee behind me, (or out of my sight). Satan: thou (or you) art an offence (or stumbling block) unto (or to) me:  
for thou (or you) savourest not the things that be of God,  
(or you are not setting your mind on God's interests)  
(or you do not have in mind the things of God) but those that be of men (or but man's).

leprosy.

Many believed the Christ would come and deliver them from the power of Rome. None, at this time, understood the Messiah would come and deliver them from the bondage of sin.

Any person that follows Jesus never knows where it will lead him. In many parts of the world today, people are being tortured and are dying because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Indeed, all that follow Jesus are to deny themselves and pick up their cross and follow Jesus. Most of today's church has little understanding of this, and, in the time of testing, many professing Christians do shrink back and fall away.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:22**, Then Peter took him (aside), and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee (or God forbid it), (or never) Lord: this shall not be unto thee (or this shall never happen to you).

**Mt 16:23.** The response of Jesus must have shocked Peter. Jesus turned. Then Jesus spoke to Peter, probably in a loud voice, but he was actually speaking to Satan himself. Satan had spoken through Peter. All of the disciples should have heard the words of Jesus.

Back in Mt 4:10, Jesus had said to Satan: Get thee hence Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.

Years later, in Gal 2:11, when Peter was come to Antioch, Paul corrected him.

**It is a great tragedy and** almost unbelievable that most ministers in this wretched generation do not warn about one thing that the Bible does speak a lot about, both in the Old and New Testaments. That subject is Satan. Satan is called many names in the Bible. The word

Satan appears 55 times, and the word devil about 61 times.

It is written: Satan which deceiveth the whole world-Rev 12:9. Satan works in every person's thoughts almost continually. This includes the worst murderers to the best preachers. Few, very, very few recognize or understand this.

When Satan is bound and sealed, as he will be during the 1000 years that follow the Battle of Armageddon, the world will love the Jews.

All the world will love Jesus, Who will reign and rule the world for 1000 years as the King of kings and Lord of lords. There will be no wars during this time. No, not one.

Another place Satan deceives most people is where they will spend eternity, that is, the lake of fire. How is it that the Bible reveals clearly that most people perish in the lake of fire for eternity, yet do you know one person, including yourself, that believes this?

How is it that most people read their Bible very little (which is Jesus), yet they say they love Jesus, but spend little of no time in His Word.

It makes one wonder whose voice most ministers are hearing in THEIR thoughts.

The fear of God is seldom spoken of, and when it is, some ministers may incorrectly say it only means "reverence." This is not correct. Sometimes it means reverence, but other times it means **GOD IS GREATLY TO BE FEARED IN THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS-Ps 89:7.**

The Bible tells us: Satan which deceiveth the whole world. Rev 12:9-And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and **Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Jesus spoke and said to Satan—you are an offence of a stumbling block to me. This is what Satan is to all that follow Jesus. **The modern-day church is so out of sync with God's Word** that most seldom or never teach their followers how Satan is working in all our minds or thoughts continually.

Also regarding Satan, it is written: Mark 8:33- But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, **Satan: for thou savourest (or we may say understandeth) not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.**

**Satan knows exactly how to tempt all people** in their thoughts and through all sorts of worldly things from the deceitfulness of riches, to the cares of this life, to the lusts of everything imaginable, to every pleasure one can imagine.

Many there are that came to Christ, only to find they are tempted with things they had never even began to imagine. **Most do fall away**, as they are not grounded in God's Word as they ought to be, or the person has not crucified or repented of certain desires, or pleasures, or cares, or lusts, or things of this life.

Those deceived includes many, many, many preachers, clergy, elders, rabbi, and about 100% of all priests and most people.

**BUT WHO WILL BELIEVE THIS?** Only those with a good, or good and honest heart that have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Who will believe this? Only those that study God's Word, which are only a few.

Many are the blind in this wretched, miserable, poor, and naked generation. This generation should be looking for the Rapture and warning

people, but many have fallen into Satan's trap of complacency, or, we may say, lukewarmness, and such can expect to be left behind.

As Jesus said to Peter (you are not setting your mind on God's interests), so it is today also.

Satan knows and understands people's desires. He has had thousands of years to tempt people. His powers of deception are beyond what a person can even begin to imagine, unless they are well-versed in God's Word.

Very, very few are well-versed in understanding God's Word, as can be seen from the multitude of so-called Bible teachers.

**MANY WRITE BOOKS** to try to get a person to send money, so they can continue to pay for airtime. This is understandable. Some are well written books; however, if a person bought even a small percentage of the books they are asked to send a contribution for, **WHEN WOULD THEY EVER FIND EVEN A FEW MINUTES TO READ THEIR BIBLES?** They would probably be so busy reading all these books they got there would be little time for seriously reading their Bible.

It is unfortunate that many people will not send a contribution to help a minister with air time, unless they get a book, or trinket, or something in return.

Though Peter had been deceived, he was also used in huge ways. Acts 5:15, 16-It is written: Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they

**Chronologically, Mt 16:23 goes to Mk 8:31.**

**Mk 8:31 goes to Mk 8:33.**

**Mk 8:33 goes to Lk 9:22.**

**Lk 9:22 goes to Mt 16:24.**

**Mt 16:24.** Then said Jesus unto (or to) his disciples, If any man (or any one) will (or desires to) come after me, let him (or he must) deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

were healed every one.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:23**, But he (Jesus) turned, and said unto (or to) Peter, Get thee behind me, (or out of my sight) Satan: thou (or you) art an offence (or stumbling block) unto (or to) me: for thou (or you) savourest not (or it may be said: you do not understand) the things that be of God, (or you are not setting your mind on God's interests) (or you do not have in mind the things of God) but those that be of men (or but man's).

**Mt 16:24.** (Verses 24 to 26 go together.) Jesus now addresses His disciples.

Jesus gives three conditions for coming after Him.

These conditions are for anyone or, we may say, everyone. They are conditions that the church usually ignores when preaching. They are denying oneself and taking up his cross to follow Jesus, Who is God's Word.

To follow Jesus, a person must **deny himself**. He must deny his personal desires, lusts, pleasures. He must deny "I want, I shall, I will." The "I" in each person needs to be replaced with "He."

To follow Jesus, one must allow Jesus (Who is God's Word) to become the center of his or her life, and the works God has set before him to be that which he does.

The idea of a person having to carry their own

cross at the crucifixion was to reveal to all publicly, that, that person was now submitting to the very rules that he had previously been opposing.

Obedience to the Scriptures (which is Jesus) is needful. Obedience to the cares, lusts, and pleasures of this life and to sin needs to be crucified. In other words, a person is to deny himself, and pick up God's Word, and both do it, and follow it, and obey it.

The "Me, Myself, and I, needs to be replaced with one word. That word is Jesus. That word is the "Bible." That word is "love."

The words "Me, Myself, and I" need to be crucified, extinguished, destroyed, and buried. If God's Word, which is the Bible, which is Jesus, is not the Lord of a person's life, they are headed to eternal torment, which will never have an ending. All people do have an eternal existence. The question at hand is where will you spend it? Most, perhaps over 99%, will suffer eternal torment.

To follow Jesus means for some to be killed, and others hardships. It means Jesus and God's Word is the center of a person's life, not this world. Any one that loves this world more than Jesus is not following Jesus.

Any person that maintains that they follow Jesus, but the **Bible** is not the center of their life is very deceived and does not understand.

If you are a 1 verse a day, "so-called" Christian, yet you think you are following Jesus, think again. As already indicated, Jesus is not to be a part of your life. He is to be your life. Jesus is God's Word. God's Word is Jesus.

Few churches preach the true Gospel. Rather they teach a compromised Gospel, so they don't lose their congregations.

If Jesus (the pure Word of God) was preached in most churches today, many would run out the door, while others would criticize Him.

It is written: Mt 16:24-THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIS DISCIPLES, IF **ANY MAN** WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM **DENY HIMSELF**, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.

Mk 8:34-AND WHEN HE HAD CALLED THE PEOPLE UNTO HIM WITH HIS DISCIPLES ALSO, HE SAID UNTO THEM, **WHOSOEVER** WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM **DENY HIMSELF**, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOW ME.

Lk 9:23-AND HE SAID TO THEM ALL, IF **ANY MAN** WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM **DENY HIMSELF**, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME.

To deny oneself is to put God's Word and authority over all they do. It is to refuse your own will and let God's will reign and rule. It is not only to read God's Word faithfully daily, but it is to obey it. It is not to make God's Word to be a part of your life, it is to make God's Word to be your life. To follow God's Word is to follow Jesus. To follow Jesus is to follow God's Word. How can a person follow God's Word when their Bible collects dust daily?

Jesus (Who is God's Word), not this world, is to be the center of a true Christian's life.

A person says, "I am a Christian."

Then a question is asked, "How much time do you spend in God's Word?"

The person replies, "I read my Bible when I get time."

The question is asked, "How often do you get time?" Their reply is—"Sometimes once or twice a month."

This person may think they are a Christian, as many do, but they are deceived. The Word of God is not the center of their life.

Jesus is the center of a true Christian's life. This means denying oneself has to take place. **There is not enough room in a person for both self-centeredness and Jesus to co-exist.**

Going to a church does not make a person a **follower of Jesus**, which is what a true Christian is.

To be a member of some Christian church does not make a person a Christian.

Have you ever heard anyone that truly believes in their heart that they will go to the lake of fire for eternity? Yet, the Bible makes it very, very clear that the number of people that go to heaven is only a very, very few.

Ignoring God's Word and ignorance of God's Word shall not deliver a person's soul in the Day of Judgment. Putting anything first, ahead of God's Word, can be an eternal mistake that may haunt a person for eternity.

**Based on God's Word in the Bible**, and certain numbers and words that are used, coupled with the knowledge of the world's population from Adam and Eve to the flood, and then from the flood to the present time, and also taking into consideration the possible times yet to come—the final estimate is that only **ONE OUT OF EVERY TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY FOUR PEOPLE** will inherit eternal life. That is 1 out of every 234. It is estimated this figure may have a plus or minus of 5%.

Jesus reveals to us that the number of people that inherit eternal life is only a few; as it is written, **FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT.**



**Mt 16:25.** For whosoever (or whoever) will (or wants) (or wishes) (to) save his life shall (or will) lose it: and whosoever (or whoever) will lose (or loses) his life for my sake (or for me) shall find it.

This is vastly different than many preach today. But, then, God's Word indicates that the teaching in this Laodicean church age is wretched and blind. It is mostly people-pleasing teaching.

An incident comes to mind that happened in a certain Bible-teaching church. The minister suggest its members fast for one meal. The response of its members was unbelievably negative. So it is in this latter day church age. Many believe when the Rapture will come, they will be taken; yet, in reality, only a very few will be taken.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:24**, Then said Jesus unto (or to) his disciples, If any man (or any one) will (or desires to) come after me, let him (or he must) deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

**Mt 16:25.** Simply put:  
to save one's own life in doing those things that please the flesh, thus putting the world first, is to perish to hell. For whosoever (or whoever) will (or wants) (or wishes) (to) save his life shall (or will) lose it:

To lose one's own life means a person can no longer do many things he wants to do that please his sinful nature, but he must obey God's Word. This person shall gain eternal life. And whosoever (or whoever) will lose (or loses) his life for my sake (or for me) shall find it.

As it is written, one is to deny himself...take up his cross, and follow Jesus (which is God's Word). How can a person follow God's Word that will not read it?. The churches today usually preach so little of God's Word that the hungry Christians (which are very few) are left starving and suffocating.

This verse has several applications. Perhaps,

a person is about to be killed, because of the extreme hatred of some people toward God's Word.

If he renounces his faith in Jesus, he will save his life; however, in saving his life he will lose it, as he will perish for eternity to the lake of fire.

On the other hand, a person that loses their life for their belief and trust in Jesus as their Lord and Savior, this person will have eternal life with God forever and ever.

He shall find eternal life, but lose his earthly life of self-centeredness and sinful pleasure. He shall lose his life of "My will be done" in exchange for "Thy will be done".

Lukewarm Christians that hide their trust in Jesus will, in turn, lose their life. Such is the case of many. In the privacy of their home, they read their Bible. They pray. However, when their friends come around, Jesus is not on their lips. When friends come around their conversation is on the things of this world. Their conversation is oftentimes on three things: Me, Myself, and I.

During the Tribulation, people that follow the Antichrist will save their life for a brief time, but will lose it for eternity.

However, those that are tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus and will not follow the Antichrist shall save their life for eternity.

In this latter day generation, those that reject Christ and eat, drink, and are merry may enjoy life for a few years living in disobedience to God's Word, but will lose their life for eternity. However, those that surrender their life to Jesus now and obey God's Word, will save their life for eternity. So what will you do?

There are two choices: **Obey** God's Word and

**Mt 16:26.** For what is (or will) a man (be) profited, (or what good will it be for a man) if he shall gain (or gains) the whole world, and lose (or forfeits) his own soul? or what shall (or what will) (or can) a man give in exchange for his soul?

be persecuted, but be with God forever and ever in eternal joy; or **disobey** God's Word (or ignore God's Word) and live for this world in pleasure in every way you can, but, then afterward, be in the lake of fire for ever and ever.

Nearly all choose the pleasures of this life now and perish to the lake of fire forever and ever, and, thus, lose their life forever and ever.

**Life is the test. The Bible is the road map. The heart chooses the direction.**

Most choose the wrong path. Jesus lost His life for mankind on the cross, but will you be willing to lose your life of pleasure to gain eternal life with Him?

Nearly all follow self will, not God's will.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:25**, For whosoever (or whoever) will (or wants) (or wishes) (to) save his life shall (or will) lose it: and whosoever (or whoever) will lose (or loses) his life for my sake (or for me) shall find it.

**Mt 16:26.** Two questions are asked in this verse.

**The first question** is: For what is (or will) a man (be) profited, (or what good will it be for a man) if he shall gain (or gains) the whole world, and lose (or forfeits) his own soul?

The focus is on the word "profited." Jesus is asking people to consider what is a stake.

This scripture is trying to convey to people that their time on this earth is short. There is a time coming after a person's body dies that is called eternity.

**EVERY PERSON has an eternal existence.** The question is, where will they spend it? Will it be in a place called hell and then the lake of fire,

which is forever and ever; or will it be with Jesus?

A person's life of a few years, or perhaps 90 or more, is a time when a person is given at least one chance to receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Some people have hundreds of chances. All chances run out when a person's life ends. If a person has surrendered their life to Jesus (Who is God's Word) and followed Jesus by obeying the Gospel, they can expect to be with Jesus forever and ever. However, if they did not do so, their future is **beyond terrifying**.

No religion, or church, or so-called "holy" person, or denominational president, or the Pope can save anyone. **No amount** of so-called good works can save anyone. No amount of good works can make amends for the sins a person has committed all their life.

All are under the curse of sin since Adam sinned; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God-ref Ro 3:23.

This is further confirmed in the story of the rich man.

Luke 16:19-31-There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in

torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

The question that every person will answer while they are upon the earth is this. Will they repent and trust in Jesus and obey the Bible, or will they choose not to do so?

The answer to that question will determine if they will spend eternity where the rich man is in torment, or will they spend eternity where Lazarus is now, with Jesus?

The rich man's riches may have given him a life of the best the world had to offer at that time. But the rich man now will be in torment for ever and ever except for a brief time at the Great White Throne Judgment.

There is nothing a person can give in exchange for his soul. That had to be accomplished by the one person that never sinned. That was Jesus. Thus, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to the Gospel, eternal life is possible.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:26**, For what is (or will) a man (be) profited, (or what good will it be for a man) if he shall gain (or gains) the whole world, and lose (or forfeits) his own soul? or what shall (or what will) (or can) a man give in exchange for his soul?

In addition to the commentary regarding Mt 16:26, one may consider the following.

If you believe you are saved:

Do you **share God's Word with** others? When a person decides they want to tell others about fearing God and of the incredible mercy of Jesus, then usually a sudden big knot of fear comes upon them in their stomach. It might be so strong they may even get a bit sick.

When their church may send out witnessing teams to other houses (few do anymore), do you join in, or do excuses and fear overwhelm you?

And what if you are in the Tribulation, and you have a choice of having your head cut off because of your faith in Christ, or you can preserve your life a bit longer by taking the mark, or the name of the Antichrist, or the number of his name-ref Rev 13:17?

Soon the Rapture (or the Translation) of the

true Christians will come. This event will happen on the Jewish Feast of Trumpets, and it will be at midnight Israeli time. This is usually in September. The year is unknown.

Do not say we do not know the day and hour of the Rapture. That is an unbiblical mistake many make. The event that we cannot know the day and hour of is the heavens and the earth passing away.

There are many in this generation that pass on incorrect things. They may say, "he said" or "they said," and thus spread things the Bible does not say. They do this, because of their lack of biblical understanding and lack of Bible study on their knees, asking God to show them the truth.

Some may say, "Well, my preacher said this or that." Regretfully, some preachers preach what they are taught, not what the Bible says. Many are misled, and it is so much the more in this latter day, wretched, and blind generation, even as it is written.

There is nothing a person can give to save their soul.

What a person **MUST** do is **REPENT**.

They are to place their trust in Jesus Christ as their **ONLY HOPE** of being saved.

A person can call on Jesus, simply by praying, **God have mercy on me a sinner. And ask it in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Afterwards, they are **COMMANDED** to be baptized by full immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Churches that teach sprinkling and infant baptism, no matter how much they sound or look like they are of God, **they are not.**

They are the blind leading the blind, and those that follow them shall be with them when they perish. These scriptures should be crystal clear to those with a good, or good and honest heart.

The sad truth is that many people do not believe there is any life after their body dies. The Bible teaches otherwise. It teaches this life is a testing ground, and that test is to determine if a person will repent and trust in Jesus Christ as their only hope of salvation.

It is written, 1 Thes 5:23-And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body be preserved** blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Also there are **documented cases** where a person's body has died, but then been revived. Case after case reveals the person himself did not die, but was still alive. Man's made-up lies regarding evolution are just that—lies. To believe that, takes far, far more faith than believing God's Word. Abortions are the taking of a life that God has given, plain and simple.

One might put Mt 16:26 this way, What gain is there if a man is the richest man on earth for 100 years, but then spends forever and ever and ever in horrifying agony with no hope of ever having any relief, no never.

As it has been already been said in **Mt 16:26**, For what is (or will) a man (be) profited, (or what good will it be for a man) if he shall gain (or gains) the whole world, and lose (or forfeits) his own soul? or what shall (or what will) (or can) a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Mt 16:27.** For the Son of man shall (or is going to) come in the glory of his Father (or his Father's glory) (and) with his angels; and then he shall (or will) reward (or recompense) every

**Mt 16:27.** (Verses 27 and 28 go together.) Jesus called Himself, The Son of man. This term appears in the KJV Bible about 195 times, beginning at Num 23:19 and ending with



man (or each person) according to his works (or according to what he has done) (or according to his deeds).

Revelation 1:13.

Jesus goes on to indicate that at some time in the future, He will come in the glory of His Father.

This indicates that He must depart from His current ministry, but then He must return. However when He returns it will not be as it was the first time, in that he was born and then grew up.

With Jesus shall be His angels. These are the resurrected and raptured saints, which are now called angels.

When Jesus is to return, He will reward every person in accordance to what He has done. During the Millennium, these shall reign and rule with Jesus. Some over tens, some over hundreds, some over cities.

The earthly works that were done for self should be burned up.

The works each person did that are in line with the Scriptures should receive rewards.

Jesus shall indeed return. It shall be at the time of Armageddon, which will be immediately after what is called the Tribulation. Even so, when He does return, if He had not returned, all life on the earth would have ceased, for mankind would have destroyed itself.

All rebellion shall be put down. Armageddon lasts 24 hours. At that time, Satan, which deceiveth the whole world, shall be bound and sealed so he can no longer deceive the nations for 1000 years.

Rev 20:1-3-And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**Mt 16:28.** Verily (or truly) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), There be some (of those) (who are) standing here, which (or who) shall not taste of death, till (or before) they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:27**, For the Son of man shall (or is going to) come in the glory of his Father (or his Father's glory) (and) with his angels; and then he shall (or will) reward (or recompense) every man (or each person) according to his works (or according to what he has done) (or according to his deeds).

**Mt 16:28.** Ref Mk 9:1. Jesus seemed to use the term:

**"Verily (or truly) I say unto you,"**  
or **"I tell you the truth"**

to bring emphasis to what He was about to say. It may be said, He was telling those listening to pay attention.

Then Jesus went on to say, there were some there that shall not die before they would see the Son of man (which was Him) coming in His **kingdom**.

Many believed that this was fulfilled in the transfiguration-ref Mt 17:2 and Mk 9:2, which is believed to have been several days later.

That would be when they got a glimpse of the glory of that which was going to take place. They would see the glory of Christ.

They would also see the glory of Moses and Elijah, which had both been dead for about 1500 years. Again, we see that when one dies, they are not dead. Their spirit is transported to be with Jesus.

However, most, when their earthly body dies, go to a place called hell, where they await the final judgment; then they go to the eternal lake of fire for eternity, as has already been covered.

That **kingdom** the verse speaks of is the millennial kingdom, which shall begin shortly after the **Battle of Armageddon**.

The order of events is this.

The **LATTER DAYS began with Israel's rebirth on May 14, 1948**.

There is no biblical mention of the latter days, latter years, or latter times before this event.

Then approximately 365 prophecies should be fulfilled before the Rapture (or the "caught up," or the Translation). It is believed by some, but not others, that from Israel's rebirth to the Battle of Armageddon and the return of Jesus could be 80 years.

Of those 365 prophecies, nearly all are now fulfilled.

Soon, the Rapture should take place. This event involves only those that have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that is, the true born again Christians. Many that are 100% positive they are saved and will be taken are mistaken.

Immediately after the Rapture, the Antichrist (which is the son of Satan) comes forth and signs an agreement (or covenant) with Israel.

This is the beginning of the horrific 7 year Tribulation, but the Lord has shortened those days.

The red horse, which is war, shall come forth. Many believe that this war is covered in Ezekiel 38 and will be WW3. One out of every 4 people on the earth shall die.

There are **more verses of Scripture pertaining to the 24 hour Battle of Armageddon** than any other time or event in the Bible.

At this time, it appears rewards shall be given. All the resurrected and raptured saints will **RETURN WITH JESUS.**

The returning saints shall then be assigned positions of authority, and they will reign and rule with Jesus for 1000 years. **This is the millennial kingdom that the disciples were expecting would happen, because Jesus was present.**

None understood, at that time, that He must die for the sins of all that would believe on Him, but then be resurrected and ascend up to heaven. None understood that after that there would be a period of about 2000 years before He would return, and weapons would be developed that could destroy all life on the planet.

During the 1000 years, Jesus shall reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords. There will be peace for 1000 years, as Satan cannot deceive the nations at this time because he is sealed and bound.

Many of the saints that return with Jesus shall reign and rule with Him. Some will reign over thousands, some over hundreds, some over cities, etc., as already covered.

Some will receive a new name.  
Some shall have power over the nations.  
Some shall be a pillar in the temple of God.  
Some will have the name of the city of God written on them.

Some will have the new name of Jesus written upon them.

Some will be granted to sit with Jesus in His

**Still 34 months into the ministry of Jesus.**

**Chronologically, Mt 16:28 goes to Mk 8:34.**

**Mk 8:34 goes to Mk 9:1.**

**Mk 9:1 goes to Lk 9:23.**

**Lk 9:23 goes to Lk 9:27.**

**Lk 9:27 goes to Mt 17:1.**



throne.

It will not necessarily be in this order.

Chapter 17 ends with words about the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

As it has been said in **Mt 16:28**, Verily (or truly) I say unto you, (or I tell you the truth) There be some (of those) (who are) standing here, which (or who) shall not taste of death, till (or before) they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

### **THE END OF MATTHEW CHAPTER 16.**

**Still 34 months into the ministry of Jesus.**

**Chronologically, Mt 16:28 goes to Mk 8:34.**

**Mk 8:34 goes to Mk 9:1.**

**Mk 9:1 goes to Lk 9:23.**

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**Lk 9:27 goes to Mt 17:1.**



[Click here for Mt. Chapter 17](#)