

# THE PEARL AMONGST GLASS BEADS

## Finding the truth against all odds.

A personal study by Mark Percival.

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“...know the truth and the truth will set you free”.

*John 8:32.*

There is no truer phrase than “God created the universe, man created religion”, there are so many different denominations and sects in Christendom that profess to worship God, that it is now virtually impossible to discern which one is worshiping Him in truth as He instructed us too. It is a daunting task for the honest hearted truth seeker to earnestly study each and every sect and doctrine of the plethora of religious sects and cults in this day and age and the numbers keep growing daily.

In this study I deal with the main monotheistic religions, that of Judaism and Christianity. I do not consider Islam or the many polytheistic and atheist religions as I believe that the Tora and Tanakh along with the Brit HaDashah (New Testament or Christian Greek scriptures) are the only true and inspired word of Almighty God. This belief is my yard stick in this study and any text that is in conflict with these scriptures I look upon as a false doctrine which is to be discarded.

An excellent guide is given to us in the book of Acts, in particular chapter 17 and verse 11. Paul and Silas were teaching in a synagogue in Beria and the verse brings out that the Bereans were ‘more noble-minded’ than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these teachings were true. This portion indicates that the Bereans were comparing the words of Paul and Silas with the Tanakh so as not to be misled, they were zealous for the truth and we have to be like those dedicated Berean brothers if we want to start to get the grasp of the truth. I am sure that, if Paul and Silas were teaching the doctrines of men rather than the Tanakh of Yehovah then the Bereans would have soon pulled them up.

This highlights the fact that we should not take anything as important as Almighty God’s word lightly or for granted by following the traditions of men rather than the commandments of Almighty God Yehovah. Mark 7:7, 8.

As you study God’s word, always keep in mind that His word is always truth whereas the words of men are full of lies and deceit for we, as humans, *always* fall short of truth, this is why, when someone tells us something we must always test it by checking the Bible as to the validation of the statement, for the Bible is the only source of pure truth that has ever been available to mankind. We must always be careful not to employ an eisegesical approach to our reading and take information out of context in an attempt to make it fit our erroneous beliefs as, by doing this you will never arrive at the truth. This idea is confirmed in Proverbs 3:5, 6.

In the latter half of the first century, when John (the last apostle) fell asleep in death it marked a new chapter in the history of the early congregations of the followers of Yeshua as the congregations had no one that personally knew Yeshua that they could turn to. Of course, the apostles had trained disciples that had been sent forth to minister to the spreading congregations but it is a sad fact that, as time passed, some of these disciples of the apostles became influenced by the Greek philosophical teachings of Plato and others and these erroneous doctrines slowly started to infiltrate the pure teachings of Yeshua and the Apostles. The apostle Paul was not ignorant of the fact that this would happen, in fact, through the pen of Luke, he spoke about it in Acts 20:28 – 30 ----- So its not a surprise for us to know exactly what happened during the times of the so called ‘church fathers’.

Let us not forget that Satan (“accuser” or “adversary”) the devil (“slanderer”) is a master when it comes to deception, he does not want anyone to follow the pure teachings found in the Tanakh (Bible) concerning the one true God and His purposes. He will stop at nothing in an attempt to draw us away from the true God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Yeshua. In his desire to mislead the whole human race he has devised one of the most successful deceptions that he has used with the most devastating effect. What is this deception? Think to yourself, if you had a coin of immense value and you wish to conceal it, one of the best ways to accomplish this is to make thousands of fake coins that look just like the genuine article and mix them all together. This is exactly what the opposer has done with immeasurable success.

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Let us now look in finer detail of this, one of the grandest deceptions in the history of the universe.

It is a fact that, for more than 60 years after the death of Yeshua, his apostles were constantly warning against the infiltration of false teachings that were to pollute the pure truth that Yeshua taught using the Tanakh and Torah. We, as followers of Yeshua must never lose sight of the fact that our master, King and High Priest Yehoshua bar Joseph was a Jew of the House of David and, as such, he was brought up by his family in the customs and traditions of Judaism from childhood. And, until the conversion of Cornelius, all his early followers were all of the Jewish faith.

It is also worthy of note that Abraham, the revered patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions was NOT a Jew, neither was Isaac, Jacob (Israel) or Moses. Early Judaism did not begin to emerge until the 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE. The actual word Jew is derived from the name of the fourth son of Jacob, Yehuda and the tribe of Yehuda who was to settle in the area of Palestine called Judea.

It is now time to put behind us all that we have been taught concerning Christianity and start from the very roots of the worship of the ONE TRUE GOD Deuteronomy 6:4. "*Sh'ma Yisra'el Yehovah Eloheinu Yehovah Echad*". We must discover for ourselves what it is to be a true follower of Yeshua ha'Mashiach. For those that have been brought up in Christendom's many different denominations it requires great courage to question your beliefs and see how they measure up to the teachings of our master Yeshua and the true, accurate words of the Bible (Tanakh) that Yeshua always quoted from. I truly and prayerfully hope that this information will assist you in your search for the truth but there is another ingredient that is required to make this work, that is the Ruach ha'Kodesh (holy spirit) for, if we are not granted this assistance by God Himself, we can never expect to learn and be successful in our quest for truth. Pray for the Ruach ha'Kodesh to assist you in your reasoning and understanding. As you read the scriptures focus on the context of the verse and it will come alive to you.

I would very much like to point out that my motive for this study is based purely on love and concern for the many people that belong to the churches of Christendom, the sincere, humble and honest-hearted ones that have the heartfelt desire to draw closer to Almighty God, the creator of the universe, to know the truth and feel the need to follow Yeshua (Jesus), not by how *they* think *they* want to follow him but the way in which *he* instructed those faithful people to follow *him*. I do not wish to insult or belittle anyone's integrity in the course of this study, Yeshua told us to 'Go in through the narrow gate, for wide is the way that leads to destruction.' Matthew 7:13.

I do not aim this criticism at any individual who, by definition, believes they are doing the 'right thing' because they have been taught to follow the path that they are taking rather, I aim it directly at the constitutions of so called 'Christendom' who do not follow the commandments of Yeshua Ha'Mashiach.

At the beginning of your quest you have obviously realised that there may be something wrong with the methods of worship that you are currently practicing and this feeling is quite normal, in fact, the source of this feeling is quite possibly the influence of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (holy spirit).

The second stage is to start asking yourself some simple questions.

- Is what I believe based 100% on what God's word says and teaches?
- Does your church truly have love between its members and the human race in general?
- Is your church totally separate from the world?
- Does it follow God rather than men?
- Does it teach that the Bible is the only means of drawing closer to God?
- Does your religion avoid pagan rituals in its form of worship?
- Do you honestly consider your religion is completely acceptable to God?
- Does your religion make known the name of God?
- Am I ready to make changes to the way I worship Almighty God to a way that He approves?

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The above is just a few of the vital questions that we must ask ourselves if we truly wish to worship Almighty God in a manner that He approves. If your answer is 'no' to any of the above questions then it is time to seriously consider your standing with our God as there is a good chance that Yeshua, on the last day, will not know you. Matthew 7:21-23.

When all said and done it is down to the individual to recognise and discern the implications of their beliefs, by prayerfully considering the situation and asking for guidance by the holy spirit you can find that pearl amongst Satan's worthless glass beads. Proverbs 3:5-7.