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## SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world - he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

## Counterfeit Christianity

*“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 2:17*

### A. Peddling the Word of God.

*“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 2:17 - ου γαρ εσμεν 'ως 'οι πολλοι καπηλευοντες τον λογον του θεου αλλ'ως εξ ειλικρινειας αλλ'ως εκ θεου κατενωπιον του θεου εν χριστω λαλουμεν.*

*“For we are not as many” - ou gar esmen hos hoi polloi. The word **are** is the present active indicative of *eimi* and **the many** is found with the definite article *the*, which should be translated as **the many**. The word *polus* denoted a large number of something, but in the plural with the definite article, as we have here, it really denotes the majority, so we have “*for we are not as the majority*”. So what it tells us is that the majority of those men back then, who were out there “preaching the Word” were really not the communicators that God had authorized. **The many** refers to the many wandering teachers and philosophers in the first century, (and still today), who expected and demanded payment for what they claimed was the Word of God. It must be brought out here that these men claimed to be Christians, claimed to be the apostles of Christ, that they were teaching the true word and that they were preaching the true gospel, whom Paul warned the believers about. These were the false apostles of 2 Corinthians 11:13, “*For such are **false apostles**, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*” Apparently the early Church, or at least the church in Ephesus caught on to them and dealt with them. “*I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are **apostles**, and are not, and hast found them liars.*” Revelations 2:2*

This is an interesting thing for in less than 20 years from the beginning of the Church Age by the Lord and with his apostles a counterfeit Christianity had sprung up alongside it. Two Christianities were operating side by side in the world; one was true the other was false. The false Christianity had all the ear-markings of the true one; it had apostles, ministers, preachers, a “gospel”, a “spirit” and they were preaching something about Jesus. Here were these men going around claiming to be Christians, claiming to be the apostles and prophets of Jesus, preaching a “gospel” and gaining converts everyday just like the real apostles, but Satan was the head of their church, not Jesus Christ. Everything seemed to be the same; they were “apostles”; they taught the “word”; they had a “Jesus” they preached about; they had a “gospel” and they had a “spirit”. While the true Apostles taught the true Word; they had the true Jesus they preached about; they had the true Gospel and they had the true Spirit of God that came with their preaching, the Holy Spirit.

But the false apostles preached a different Jesus other than the one the true Apostles preached. And the spirit that went alongside their preaching was a different spirit than the one that came with the Apostles preaching. And the gospel they preached, which was no Gospel at all, was different than the Gospel the Apostles preached. “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*” Galatians 1:6-9

*“Which corrupt the word of God:” - kapeleuontes ton logon tou theou. This is translated by the NIV as, “Unlike so many, we do not **peddle** the word of God for profit.”; the ESV as. “For we are not, like so many, **peddlers** of God's word,”; and the NASB as, “For we are not like many, **peddling** the word of God,”. In fact most all translations have this idea of commercialization here for *kapeleuo*, which is found in the present active participle telling us that they do this as a way of life, that is to say, this is how they make their living, or they make their living off of Christianity!*

*Kapeleuo* came from *kapelos*, which was the name for an innkeeper or retail merchant. A **merchant, emporos**, was one who dealt with volume or bulk, which would be the idea of international commerce or wholesalers, while the *kapelos* was the **retail merchant who dealt with the public**. This would included door-to-door salesmen all the way to the owners of mom and pop stores. There's nothing wrong with being a salesman, peddler, or retailer; we see them all the time trying to make a living off selling the wares from door to door to grocery stores. Every place you go, even in car washes, they have little items, such as candy or chewing gum for sale, especially at the check out stand.

So whether we are looking at a grocery store, or a convenience mart, the owners make their living off of selling a variety of things and this is fine in the world of commerce, but not in Christianity! Yet this practice goes on all the time, either by TV preachers, or local churches. They charge you to be a member of their church; the cost is 10% of your income. If a visiting preacher comes, you have to pony up money for him, that is, to pay for the message he is giving. You have to buy their books, buy their CD disks, pay for counseling; you have to pay for everything you get from them! That's *kapelos*.

It is incompatible with grace to charge money for anything that the Christian or unbeliever receives. It not only is incompatible with grace; it is anti grace! Everything God does for us; everything that he provides for us is based upon his grace. He provided the sacrifice for our sins in grace; he provides his men to communicate the Gospel in grace; he provides the teaching of Bible Doctrine in his grace. Everything that is needed for our salvation and our spiritual growth he provides in grace and for men in the pulpit to charge people for anything connected to Christ and Christianity is anti grace! The have commercialized Christianity to a perversion from what it should be!

And it's not just Roman Catholicism that has done this, but mainline Protestant, Evangelical and Fundamental churches are doing it all across America today. And we haven't gotten into the area of the younger generation of traveling minstrels who go around with their rock and roll, or contemporary type of music, who are making money off the blood of Christ! They are treating Christ, Christianity, the Word of God as nothing more than a commodity that they sell.

You usually find these kind of men being very friendly and non-offensive, but Paul tells us that they are the ones deceiving the body of Christ. *“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches **deceive** (exapatao) the hearts of the simple.”* Romans 16:18 **Good words** is *chrēstologia*, which meant to be able to speak in a kindly manner using non-offensive speech. While **fair speeches, eulogia**, is fine speaking, the ability to speak well, eloquence of language. The gullible are taken in and easily deceived because they respond to people that use words and a manner of speech that is friendly and non-offensive.

How would you feel if people were making money selling what God was providing for free? How would you feel if people weren't telling the truth about your son? How would you like it if people were making money off the death of your son?

## B. False Apostles.

*“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”*  
2 Corinthians 11:13 - 'οι γαρ τοιουτοι ψευδαποστολοι εργαται δολιοι μετασχηματιζομενοι εις αποστολους χριστου.

1. *“For such are false apostles,”* - *hoi gar toitoutoi pseudapostoloi*. The word **men** has been added in some translations because the word **such** is found in the masculine plural.

The true Church of Jesus Christ was built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, but right after his departure back to heaven another Christianity started, a counterfeit one. It had the same form as the true one and was similar in so many ways, but it was a counterfeit one. The Lord warned about this in Matthew 24:12, *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”* saying that false prophets will arise and many will turn away from the faith because of their influence. Their attacks weren't designed around moral corruption of believers, although that occurred in some of them, but around intellectual deception resulting in spiritual apostasy. Their minds were being led astray from occupation with Christ through his Word and the faith rest drill.

At the end of the Age Christ stated that many will turn away from the faith. *“I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find (the) **faith** on the earth?”* Luke 18:8 The Greek has the definite article **the**, which refers to a specific idea of faith. And in Matthew 24:12, *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”*; we have another definite article used with **many**, so it should be **the many**, or **the majority**. And because we have the word *agape* used for **love**, we know that we are talking about Christians. The love of the majority of Christians will grow cold. How so? Because *agape* is produced by the filling of the true Holy Spirit, which is activated as the believer lives in the sphere of faith in the Word of God. And why aren't they? Because false prophets and teachers have led them astray in this matter.

When the word **faith** is used with the definite article, **the faith**, then we switch from the subjective element of the **exercise** of faith to the objective element of **what** is believed. The faith throughout the NT is the summation of Christian doctrine pertaining to the major elements of Christianity as taught by the Apostles and Prophets: deity of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, the resurrection from the dead, eternal life, everlasting punishment in the lake of fire and many other fundamental doctrines. It was found in the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Apostles and Prophets, who were the foundation of the Church.

There was no faith outside the Lord's original teachings, as found in him and his Apostles, but after his departure all these false apostles started popping up all over the place. And it was the false apostles who were leading Christians astray in their faith. They replaced works for grace, religiosity for spirituality, salvation to be worked for instead of being a gift, initiation for spiritual growth, morality and personal strength for trust in the Lord, self-righteousness for Christ's righteousness, religious pride for personal humility, pomp and ceremony for true worship, etc..

What separated the **true apostles** from the **false ones** is that the true ones were commissioned and authorized by Christ to minister his Word, the false one's weren't. The true ones had the spiritual gift, an enabling to teach Bible Doctrine, the false one's hadn't. The true one's had the true Holy Spirit in them, the false one's had another spirit. The true ones taught sound doctrine that was in line with Scripture, while the false ones taught other doctrines and another gospel, which was false.

2. “*Deceitful workers,*” - *ergatai dolioi*. The word *ergatai* simply meant a workman or a laborer. The word *dolioi* meant to corrupt something by adding something inferior to it, like adding a cheaper metal to gold where it brings its rating from 24k down to 14k, or 10k, or more commonly by adding water to wine. This was practiced by innkeepers and other merchants in those days, the *kapeleuo*, where they added water to wine to increase their profits.

These **deceitful workers**, these false prophets and apostles, mingled error with truth. They added the errors of legalism, false doctrines, the traditions of men, things that appeal to the senses, things that appeal to the emotions, things that appeal to people's lusts, things that appeal to people's pride and the traditions of their religious denominations to the message. So they were not only selling what they were doing, they were corrupting it as well with false doctrines.

They add pomp and ceremony, legalism, entertainment, programs, human good, human viewpoint, religiosity to the clear, simple and accurate teaching of the Word of God. They do this to boost their numbers, so they can boost their income, just like the shopkeepers did in those days. Today commercial manufacturers add chemical seasoning to their products to give the product a “better” taste, so they can sell more of their product, so they can increase their profits!

So they added error to truth, just enough truth so they could pass it off as Christianity, but enough error to damn the souls who drank of it. Everyone has a ben in their flesh nature that appeals to them, so all they have to do is offer something that appeals to that desire in people and people will go for it. Some like the glitter and show of religion, so these deceitful workers give them religion. Others like the idea of legalism, so they give them legalism. Others like the structure of rituals, so they give them rituals. Today we have another phenomenon of being entertained, so they give them entertainment. And then there are those who have to have their emotions gratified, so they give them emotional phenomena.

3. “*Transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*” - *metaschematizomenoi eis apostolous christou*. To **transform** is the present middle participle of *metaschematizo*, which tells us because of the middle voice, which is reflexive, that it was not Jesus Christ who made them apostles, but **they made themselves** apostles of Christ!

Right off the bat we see that these men pass themselves off as Christians and that they are apostles of Christ speaking in his name. Just as the Lord prophesied that after his departure back to heaven many men would come along and say that Jesus had anointed them to preach and that they would mislead many. “*And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*” Matthew 24:4,5

One of the remarkable things about this is the speed in which this happened, much like the deterioration of America. It was right after the Lord planted his seed, the true Church, the planting of the wheat, “*Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:*” Matthew 24:4; and the enemy, the devil, planted his tares. “*But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*” Matthew 24:5

One is the true Christianity, the other is a counterfeit Christianity, so how does one tell the difference? In the false one there is always something added to the message of grace, or something is taken away from the Word, plus there is always something there that appeals to the flesh's senses. Now if one were to uproot the tares when they were young, you would also uproot the young wheat, so they would wait till the harvest and the owner of the field would handle that, which Christ will at the judgment.

There are two words used for the transforming or transfiguring of oneself; *metaschematizo* and *metamorphomai*. *Metaschematizo* is the changing of the outward appearance, while *metamorphomai* denotes the changing of the inner essence. One can change the inner essence, while appearing to be the same outwardly, as with Christians who are constantly changing on the inside, but their outward flesh still appears to be the same. And one can change how they appear to others outwardly, but still have the same inner essence, as with Satan in 2 Corinthians 11:14, “*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed (metaschematizo) into an angel of light.*”

While *metamorphomai* denotes a total change of the inner essence and is used in the NT of changing our souls on the inside so that they are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. “*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*” Romans 8:29 “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” Romans 12:2

*Metaschematizo* talks about a change that affects the outward appearance, but leaves the inner essence the same. What this tells us that these are the dead men's bones lying inside the white-washed tombs; it tells us that these men, even though they appear to be righteous and saved on the outside, even as the ministers of God, on the inside they are unsaved; they are still the same unsaved sinners as the day they were born, for they were never born again by faith in Jesus Christ.

This is what the false apostles, prophets and teachers of Satan do in their **guise** of appearing to be the ministers of God. A **guise** is an external form or appearance, or manner of presenting oneself to conceal the true nature of something. A **disguise** is the means that one uses to conceal his true identity. “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.*” 2 Corinthians 11:13 The NIV translates *metaschematizo* as **masquerading**. “*For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ.*” These men use words, mannerisms, apparel, or anything else as their disguise to hide their true identity.

And so it is with counterfeit Christianity; on the outside it appears to be a Christian institution and its people appear to be Christian, and some may be! But inside, because of its false doctrines, it isn't. The inner essence of any institution is its beliefs, practices and doctrines. Even if it appears to be a Christian church, it isn't if its doctrines do not line up with Bible doctrine. Actually it is another form of Babylon hiding behind the disguise of a Christian institution.

But how does one appear to be a Christian or a Christian institution, or an Apostle, prophet, or minister? They do so by changing their outer appearance so that they appear to the public as so. Hence the idea of to **masquerade**, which is a way of appearing or behaving that is not real. It's to assume a false appearance, to disguise, to present a false show to people.

And how did they do this? It was done through the charade of religion. A **charade** is where something is done to pretend something is true when it isn't. The assumption is if there is anything that has to do with man and God, then it has to be a religion, or a religion has to be involved. Now we get into the areas of ritual, formalism, solemnity, dress, looks, talk, religious formulas, religious buildings, observances, holy days, regulations, etc., because people identify with those things. And whoever offers the best religious show seems to be the one that is right! Babylon is generally religious in outer form, which it sells to the public, inside there is nothing spiritual at all. True Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship and daily fellowship with God through Jesus Christ!

This counterfeit Christianity had its beginnings right after the start of the true Church of Christ and over the years it synthesized with Mithraism from the East and the Sol Invictus cult of Rome; the result became what is now known as the Roman Catholic Church. Even in the OT there was the true worship of the God *Yahweh*, while Babylon had a different god and a different messiah. Their pagan messiah was known as Tammuz, whose worship even Israel got caught up in.

The golden calf that the Israelites had Aaron make, while Moses was up on the mountain getting the 10 commandments from the Lord, was the symbol of Tammuz! Nimrod was the bull, that is why the bull figured so prominently in the Babylonian religion, and the son of Nimrod, Tammuz, was the calf. So as they were setting out to get the commandments from the Lord to go into the land they were already worshipping in the Babylonian religion!

Their mythology, or belief system had a cosmic egg falling from the heavens to the sea where doves, (another symbol of Babylon), where the doves took it from the sea, (again the use of the word Mary or Marie – from the sea, mar-y, mar-ie), to the shore where the doves hatched it. Remember the egg was the birthing place of reptiles showing that he is reptilian in nature. The egg is also the shape of the oval office of the president of the United States. They also have the idea that Mary came from the sea and have her standing on a shell, (the scallop shell is another symbol of Babylon), and what hatched was the god Mithras. The red Phrygian cap was his symbol also. **#03 3-03-16** #04

As to the deity of Babylon he is generally referred to as Ba'al in the OT, but Ba'al in their language denoted the idea of Lord, sometimes husband. *“And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.” Numbers 25:3* So it's just a general term for Lord, but the actual **name** of the deity of Babylon, who was worshipped under the star symbol of Saturn, was **Marduk**. *“Announce and proclaim among the nations, lift up a banner and proclaim it; keep nothing back, but say, ‘**Babylon** will be captured; **Bel** will be put to shame, **Marduk** filled with terror. Her images will be put to shame and her idols filled with terror.” Jeremiah 50:2*

There is an article online of Veterans Today about how the Annunaki king Marduk (represented by the bull-calf, also the snake dragon) returned to earth and landed in Africa December 23, 2012, (remember how there was such a big deal concerning December 21,22,23, 2012?), to take back the planet and establish his rule over the world. He was supposed to be there at Nelson Mandela's funeral June, 2013 where many of the world's leaders, including 4 US presidents (3 past) met with him to pledge their fealty to him. He was crowned as the “King of Africa”. And remember, Marduk would have been one of the Canaanite deities that Esau's wives worshipped and that it was the Edomites' descendants that fought against the redeemed of the 12 tribes of Israel and the Church today.

One of the legends behind this was Marduk was supposed to have been one of the original ruling Annunaki's that ruled over the earth, but he fell into disfavor with the ruling Annunakis when he took a human wife. They wouldn't let him take his wife back to heaven, which was the planet Nibiru, so they left him here on earth destroying the space port as they left so he and his wife couldn't go back. A lot of this sounds much like the recent movie, “Thor”. In effect the ruling council of the Annunaki told Marduk, if you like the earthlings that much, you can just stay there.

It is thought that their descendants were the half breed children of humans and Annunaki and were the Nephilim in the Bible whose descendants are still with us today. The ancient religion of Babylon was centered around these beings and had permeated Islam, Judaism from Israel's stay in the country and Christendom through the Roman Catholic Church, as well as esoteric groups.

Israel had false prophets among its people and so does the Church of Christ have false teachers in it. *“But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”* 2 Peter 2:1

Christ **warned us to beware of false prophets**. *“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”* Matthew 7:15

These people **claimed they were apostles of Christ**. *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 11:13

They **claimed they were ministers of Christ**. *“Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”* 2 Corinthians 11:15

They **preached a “Jesus”**, but not the real one. *“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.”* 2 Corinthians 11:4

They **preached a “gospel”**, but not the true one. *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”* Galatians 1:6-9

They **had a “spirit”** in their ministry they called the *holy spirit*, but not the true Holy Spirit. It was either the “holy” spirit of the Eleusinian Mysteries religion, or the spirit of the world, the spiritus mundi. *“Now we have received, not **the spirit of the world**, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:12 *“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh** (inspires with ideas) in the children of disobedience:”* Ephesians 2:2

They **claimed they were prophets of Christ**. *“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”* Matthew 24:11

They **claimed that Jesus** was the Messiah and that they spoke in his name. *“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”* Matthew 24:5

They **taught a corrupted version of the Word** adding something to it, or taking something away from it. *“For we are not as many, which **corrupt** the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 2:17

They and their converts **infiltrated churches** where they became **members** of them. *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* Acts 20:29,30 *“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”* 1 John 2:18,19

There are ways you can tell true Christianity from its satanic counterpart. True Christianity reveals the true nature of Jesus Christ; it **states** that Jesus Christ is *Yahweh*, or **God incarnated**. It says that God became a man. While counterfeit Christianity will put Christ as a divine figure, a divinity, a good man, an Avatar, a great teacher, one who came to explain the true situation, etc..

True Christianity teaches that Christ **died on the cross** to pay the full penalty for all our sins, while the counterfeit Christianity says that this is the tragic consequence that came about as the result of his life mission of teaching us things about the true nature of the cosmos.

True Christianity teaches that man is a **sinner** and needs to be saved, while the devil's version denies the idea of sin and says that man is an imperfect being who makes mistakes along the way and as he becomes enlightened he will put all that childishness behind him.

True Christianity teaches that man needs a **mediator** between him and God and that Jesus Christ is that Mediator, the only Mediator, while the counterfeit Christianity says either that man doesn't need a mediator, or that the Pope is man's mediator, or that Mary is. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" 1 Timothy 2:5*

True Christianity teaches that one must be absolutely **righteous** to enter into heaven, while the counterfeit one says that man is good enough in his own good works to enter into heaven. The final judgment demonstrates that this is false; it reveals that one's good works are not enough to gain entrance into heaven, that he must have the righteousness of Christ. *"But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."* Romans 4:5  
*"Therefore being justified by faith, (declared righteous) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"* Romans 5:1 *"And whosoever was not found written in the (Lamb's) book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* Revelations 20:15

True Christianity teaches that man is saved solely by the grace of God excluding all of man's merits, works, or personal good. While the counterfeit Christianity always adds something to the grace of God, or redefines it to mean something else. The true Church has been very careful to demonstrate how man is saved through the 5 solas: **sola fide**, by faith alone; **sola scriptura**, by scripture alone; **solus Christus**, through Christ alone; **sola gratia**, by grace alone; **solus Deo gloria**, glory to God alone.

The Bible clearly states that we are **saved only by the grace of God** and that this grace excludes all of man's merits or works. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Ephesians 2:8,9 *"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."* Romans 11:6

We have an active and passive situation here. In the **active voice** it states that God is the only one producing the act of saving sinful man, while in the **passive voice**, which is always used with man, it's saying that we are simply receiving everything that God is doing for us. God does all the work of saving and we are left with us receiving what he does. And in so doing all the **merit** lies with God. With **grace** all the merit goes to the one exercising the grace, while with **faith**, (some will say what about my faith?), all the merit of faith goes to the object of one's faith, which is Christ! The counterfeit church will have grace mediated through its "priests" and sacraments, while the true Church has grace mediated directly to the believer through faith in Christ apart from any other man or an institution.

## C. Satan's disguise.

2 Corinthians 11:14, “And no marvel; for Satan himself is **transformed** (*metaschematizo*) into an angel of light.” - και ου θαυμαστον αυτος γαρ 'ο σατανας μετασχηματιζεται εις αγγελον φωτος.

The word **transformed** in the KJV, or **masquerades** as some translations have it, is the present passive indicative of *metaschematizo*, which meant to change the outside so as to appear in a certain way without changing the inner essence. The passive voice here is to be taken as a middle reflexive, which is to say that **Satan transforms himself**. The use of the present tense would lead us into the idea that this is not a permanent condition that he has arrived at, but that it is a process that is currently going on inside of him. Which would be the lie that he perpetrates on all the world of everyone is in a state of transition toward perfection, only that he is more of a perfected being than they are! Which is what the initiation rites of freemasonry are all about where, as being are initiated from one level to the next one, they are in the process of becoming perfected beings on their way to deity.

Now the word *phoster* denotes the source of the light, while the word *phos* refers to the actual light itself. The **sun** would be the *phoster*, while the **sunlight** that lights up the world would be the *phos*. So this is saying that that Satan has transformed **himself** into an angel of light, that is, that he has been enlightened. It isn't saying that he is the light source, but that he has found the light, that is, he has been enlightened, which implies that he wants to enlighten others. Even the Latin translation of his name, Lucifer, means “light bearer”, from lux phero, the bringer of light. In the original it is not Satan, although the word Satan is from the OT Hebrew, but has the definite article **the, the satan**, which should be translated as the “adversary at law”, or more accurately “the prosecutorial figure”.

This process of becoming light, or being enlightened has been discussed in my study of, “Lucifer's Rationalism”, where *Lucifer* reasoned that he and *Yahweh* had come to this place in heaven, only *Yahweh* got there before he did to put it simply. If the angels ever wanted to know how it is that they came about, that they were created, then they would have to look it up in the “Library of Heaven” to get their answer, which they would have to believe. Similar to the question now of how did we get here? Did we evolve? Or were we created? The Bible, (God's record book), tells us that we were created, but we have to choose to believe it. And if people don't, then they have to come up with some other reason in their mind to explain their existence. Apparently Lucifer did not believe God's truth, so he had to come up with another reason, which he reasoned out in his own mind.

Could it be that this is how it worked with the angels in heaven millions, billions of years ago? Where *Yahweh* told them that he had created them? Or maybe he didn't tell them at one of their many angelic assemblies. Perhaps, instead, it was written down in one of the many scrolls in heaven, the scroll of divine history? **And there in some ancient scroll it revealed that *Yahweh* had brought them and the heavens into existence out of his omnipotence and for his own purpose. If an angel wished to inquire into this matter, he would have to look into these ancient scrolls.**

Remember that angels are not all knowing. There are many things that they do know, but there are things that they don't know. So, if they are to know them, how are they to find out the information? Either God has to tell them in person, or another angelic being has to tell them, or they have to look it up in the “Library of Heaven”! Maybe the second member of the Trinity that we refer to as Jesus Christ communicated the information on these things to them. As the Living Word of God he would be the one who communicated these things to them, **but they in turn still had to believe him!**

And another matter is we assume that God created all the angels at the same point in time; all of them brought into existence simultaneously. But what if he didn't? **What if they were brought into existence over a long period of time, and at different places in heaven?** What if say, Lucifer, was the first one that he had created, then later on the 24 elders, then after that the other angelic beings? Perhaps believing *Yahweh* was never the issue, concerning the explanation for their existence, in the beginning. Perhaps at that time and for a long period of time they were just happy to be with God, to serve him and enjoy his presence as young children are with their parents. **But, as a part of their growth process, they were then given the explanation for their existence, which they had to accept by faith.** This might have been their first test of faith to see if they would believe God. For there was no way that their creation could be proven by empirical evidence.

One of the other concepts involved in this ancient problem is the second person of the Godhead, known as Jesus Christ today. What was Lucifer's relationship to him, if any? What was Lucifer's attitude toward him? And what did Lucifer think that Christ's relationship to him was? We know what the other angels think of Christ. They know him to be both Lord and God, but apparently Lucifer does not believe this. It's interesting that in every instance, it is Lucifer's attitude and relationship toward God, whom we call the Father that is talked about in the scriptures. He wants to ascend to heaven; he wants to be like El, but says nothing about Jesus Christ. When Lucifer talks about God he always uses the word *El*, or *El Elyon*, which emphasizes the aspect of power, but never *Yahweh*. Why is that? This could be very significant because the *El* word group emphasizes power, while the *Yah* word group emphasizes self-existence, that is eternity, that this one possesses eternal existence and that he has always existed.

This is significant because when Lucifer looked at God and called him El he was recognizing that El was a Being of great power, even more powerful than he was, and that was what he wanted! He wanted to be like El; he wanted to have the power that El does; he wanted to be even more powerful than El! But he doesn't refer to him as the Eternal One. Probably because he didn't want to believe it, or he didn't reason it out in his own mind, or he didn't want to simply recognize him as the only One who had ever existed without a beginning. **To do so meant that he would have had to recognize him as the God, and that he had been created by him;** something that he did not want to do; and something that the Evolutionists today do not want to do.

**Lucifer knew that his existence had begun at some time, at least in that place or dimension called heaven.** He wasn't sure how it had begun, but that it had begun at least in that place. But he wouldn't and couldn't concede that El was eternal that he had always existed. Because if he did, he would have been conceding that El alone was the God, the creator of all things! He also would be admitting that he was only an angel, a celestial being, who had been created by El and that El was right all along in him being the creator of all things, including the angels, including him!

What Lucifer wanted to believe, and has been the foundation of his reasoning all along, is that El and the angels were all beings of the same kind, and all had been existing in that place or dimension called heaven for a long period of time, only with El being there longer than them. The assumptive reasoning would have been that El and all the other powerful beings that were there in heaven, were there in heaven, **but had not originated there, that they had come from some other place or dimension and all ended up there.** And so, in his thinking, if they were all beings of the same kind, then they were all "gods" in the making. And if they were all "gods" in the making, what right did this one Being, *Yahweh*, El to rule over them? He probably reasoned that because El had come to this place before any of them had, he had taken over the rule of it! So he planned to depose El from his throne and set up his throne to rule the universe.

So we see all this directed at the Father by Lucifer, but what has been his attitude toward the second member of the Trinity Jesus Christ? Who did he think he was? I don't think that Lucifer concluded in his thinking that the pre-incarnate Christ was God at all, probably due to his unique relationship to his angelic creation. All during this time the angels were companions of Christ, or associates of him, he probably only regarded Christ as one of them, another angel, or an angel in the process of becoming a "god". This is where Lucifer began to form his own explanation for things, through the process of the reasoning of his mind, that Jesus was his brother, a brother angel if you will. He reasoned that if El wasn't the Creator God who made him, and then neither was Christ God. His thinking was that they were all the same Beings of power who were evolving into gods. **This is where the lie originated that denies the deity of Christ saying that Christ and Lucifer were brothers.**

In society today there are certain teachings found in certain groups, such as freemasonry, the occult, eastern religions, the new age movement, and Masonic "church" front organizations known as Mormonism and the Jehovah's (False) Witnesses. **False teachings, such as man can evolve into deity, and that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers, with Lucifer being the oldest brother.** As we investigate we find that these two teachings are taught by English Freemasonry, Scottish Rite Freemasonry and Grand orient Freemasonry and that they date back to ancient times.

**Concerning Mormonism, they believe that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers, and that man can become a god and have his own planet. But no wonder when virtually all of the founding fathers of Mormonism were Freemasons. Freemason was the corruption of the French word freres for brother, so it means brother mason. Concerning the Jehovah's (False) Witnesses, they too believe that Jesus and Lucifer were brothers before Christ's incarnate state. And no wonder again for the founder of the Witness group was Charles Taze Russell who was a mason! Both of these groups, whether they know it or not, or will admit to it or not, hold to Luciferian doctrines. Their doctrines are not biblical, but Masonic, and they are not churches, but in reality Masonic lodges!**

We could also translate the meaning of 2 Corinthians 11:14, "*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed (metaschematizo) into an angel of light.*" - και ου θαυμαστον αυτος γαρ 'ο σατανας μετασχηματιζεται εις αγγελον φωτος, as "And no marvel; for the prosecutorial figure in heaven transforms himself into an angel of light, or into an enlightened celestial being".

The Pentecostal and Charismatic movements we see today are nothing more than an offshoot of Montanism. Montanism was a sect that sprang up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century in Phrygia and spread East and West and went for a couple of hundred years; it was founded by a man named Montanus, who was supposed to have been a convert from paganism to Christianity

Some of the tenets it held to were: 1) they were a spiritual elite who were called to restore Christianity to its primitive simplicity; 2) they were under the direct guidance of the Holy Spirit; 3) in their circle the charismatic gifts of the 1<sup>st</sup> century were restored; 4) they claimed to speak in tongues; 5) they had a second baptism of the Holy Spirit, who enabled them to speak in strange or heavenly tongues, which they regarded as prophecies; 6) they were prone to having spiritual ecstasies, especially the women; 7) they had separate visions from the Lord, which they regarded as prophecies; 8) they esteemed the writings of the Lord and the Apostles, but they believed that God was speaking to them direct now, both the men and the women; 9) they considered the Bible as far less important than the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; 10) they believed that their utterances added to, or superseded the Word given to the Apostles and handed down to the churches.

Eventually the whole movement died out and its adherents filtered back to the churches, but the churches would not readmit them, unless they submitted to a basic catechism of reorienting them to sound doctrine. These Montanists were rebuked and rejected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Pastors and churches as being in opposition to the faith. There was a reemergence of Montanism again in the 9<sup>th</sup> century by the Catholic church, and once again in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Jesuits.

What it succeeded in doing is getting the focus of Christians away from the clear teaching of the Word of God as found in the Bible on to “mystical” or “spiritual” concepts, which Montanism, or its modern day counterpart of Pentecostalism is doing through: speaking in tongues, prophetic utterances, putting one's personal experiences above the clear teaching of the Bible, the renewal of the charismatic gifts of the apostles, religious ecstasies, visions, trances, convulsions, mild hysteria in their meetings and a separate baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It's obvious they claimed some kind of an **anointing** for all this, but the question is, was this a true anointing of the Holy Spirit, or was it a counterfeit anointing? *“These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the **anointing** which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”* 1 John 2:26,27

Remember this, that the anointing of the Holy Spirit, or anything else having to do with the Holy Spirit will be inseparably connected to the truth of God's Word. *“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.”* John 16:13 *“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we **the spirit of truth**, and the spirit of error.”* 1 John 4:6

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth; Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Truth, the Word of God; and God the Father, the 1<sup>st</sup> person of the trinity is the God of Truth! *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a **God of truth** and without iniquity, just and right is he.”* Deuteronomy 32:4 *“Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD (Yahweh) **God of truth**.”* Psalms 31:5 *“That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the **God of truth**; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.”* Isaiah 65:16

Any individual, church, or institution that advocates going off into some form of religious experience away from the Bible is the spirit of error that the Apostle John warned us about. *“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we **the spirit of truth**, and the **spirit of error**.”* 1 John 4:6 There is a spirit, a demonic spirit, that specializes in leading Christians away from the clear teaching of the Word of God. The **spirit of error** here is a spirit that leads people astray, plane.

Pastor Mike