



Finding Truth in today's Confusing World!

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When Satan mixes truth with error, how can you be sure, that what you have, is the truth? With so many differences in Christianity today, no matter what you believe, most people can find a church which caters to their beliefs!

Should a Christian's search for God's church be driven by his or her own desires? Many people today search for a church as if they were window shopping for a new pair of shoes! Should we be looking for a church that "Makes us Happy" one that "Makes us Feel Good?" or should we be looking for a church that carries the imprint of TRUTH as it's banner?

The question is ... does God have a "Unique" and "Identifiable" church on earth today? A church which clings to the great truths found in the Bible and rejects doctrines that are not supported by the Scriptures? Does God want us to have a shallow, feel good religion? or do you think He wants us to have a deep seated Faith built on the foundation of His Truth, Mercy and Love?

In this message we'll be looking at similarities and differences in theological beliefs between different denominations, and at the end, we'll discover just how easy it is to identify God's church on earth today!

So what should God's church look like today? What are its "Identifying marks" and "Characteristics"? And how do we weed through all the different doctrines and belief systems?

Let's begin by looking at the Catholics! There are approx. 926 million Catholics in the world, which means they make up approx. 18.5% of the world's population. Considering only 32% of the world's population is Christian, this makes Catholicism a dominant religio-political world force.

Many Catholics are sincerely seeking the peace and freedom from guilt that only comes from Jesus. Thousands long for the certainty of truth, and many will receive the truth when it's presented to them!

Catholics believe in the "God Head", that is, they believe in God the Father, God the Son and God in the form of the Holy Spirit! However, when the German Catholic monk, theologian & university professor, Martin Luther, poured himself into a deep study of the Scriptures, he found many errors held by the Catholic Church which he dearly loved.

Luther then compiled a written document known as the "95 Thesis", which he nailed to the door of the Wittenberg church for all to see! Luther prayed that the church would welcome, and accept his findings in order to be in harmony with the Scriptures, and the will of God.

When the church refused to amend their beliefs to be in harmony with the Scriptures, Luther could do nothing but cling to the truths he found in God's word, and to preach and teach them to all who would listen. Luther said....

"Unless I am convinced by proofs from Scriptures or by plain and clear reasons and arguments, I cannot and will not retract, for it is neither safe nor wise to do anything against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me, Amen"

The noble truths Luther had taught made their way into the hearts of men and women who through the years carried this torch of light which God lit through Luther's studies and convictions! These faithful people came to be known as "Lutherans"

Thus Lutheranism grew out of Catholicism in the 16th century. However, the Lutherans also held to a number of un-Biblical beliefs such as: "The Immortality of the Soul", "Baptism by Sprinkling" and others..... Therefore God continued to raise up various people who would uncover His truth's which were lost sight of during the Dark Ages, and to restore these truths to the world.

One of these men was John Calvin, who believed in religious tolerance for all people. The followers of Calvin became the Presbyterians. The Presbyterians hold to the Biblical beliefs of the Virgin Birth, The Godhead or Trinity, and Eternal life through Jesus Christ! But although they championed these truths, they also held onto numerous un-Biblical teachings such as the doctrine of Pre-destination, Sunday sacredness, and the idea that the law of God was done away in Christ.

Therefore God raised up others to continue uncovering His truths! Men such as John Smyth who founded the first Baptist church in the British Isles back in 1611. Baptists

rejected Calvin's view of salvation for a limited pre-destined few. Baptist believed that Salvation is possible for all. By 1644 there were close to 50 Baptist churches in England. The earliest Baptist church on American soil was founded by Roger Williams in 1639. A small group of Baptist's have maintained allegiance to God's Seventh-day Sabbath, and Seventh-day Adventists have much in common with them.

Our Baptist friends also believe in Salvation by Grace, they believe in the Second coming of Jesus, and they believe in Separation of church and state! However, they still hold onto un-Biblical doctrines such as "The Secret Rapture", "Once Saved always saved" and the doctrine of "Eternal Torment"

By now you should be seeing a pattern forming. A pattern which shows main line denominations forming around the teachings of a particular scholar, or man whom God used to resurrect, or uncover Biblical truths lost sight of during the dark ages. These denominations although they did hold some truths, also held onto un-Biblical views in other areas of doctrine.

Therefore, we're not going to get a consensus of doctrines held by the main line denominations of the world. We can't look to them, to lead and guide us in the formation of our beliefs, because although they may have some truth, they also hold onto doctrines that are not based on truth.

These differences created problems between the denominations, as they would bash each other for the errors that each held onto. Then Catholicism desiring to exercise control over the protestant churches, formed the ecumenical movement, declaring that all churches should unite under the common ground of loving God, and not to be concerned with the false doctrines and differences that existed in the churches.

But God has not called His people to be complacent in regards to finding the truth. The only safe place to form our beliefs is found in God's word itself. And perhaps the best way to do this is by doing topical studies of each subject. In other words, you look up all the texts you can find about a subject, seek a consistent understanding of them, and form your belief based on those texts in total.

We don't have time to do an in-depth study of even one doctrine right now, let alone the whole Bible, so I'd like to simply share with you one or two Biblical statements for 22 different doctrines. As we do this quick comparison and validation of Biblical beliefs in these 22 areas, we'll also be looking at a limited cross reference for a dozen different denominations. I think you'll find it interesting.

Please refer to the chart below for each of the doctrines discussed in the balance of this presentation.

Finding Truth		Bible	Separation of Church & State	Christ Centered Preaching	Apostasy in Christianity	Leave Mainline Churches	Inspiration of the Bible	Trinity
Seventh-day Adventist	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Baptist	X	X	X					
Non-Denominational				X	X	X		
Catholic								X
	Second Coming of Jesus	Baptism	Prayer	Social Conscience	Personal Witness	State of the Dead	Signs of the Times	
Seventh-day Adventist	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Church of Christ	X	X						
Episcopal			X	X				
Jehovah's Witness					X	X	X	
	Health	Sabbath	Obedience to God	Salvatin by Grace	The Lord's Supper	Heaven	The Virgin Birth	The Sanctuary
Seventh-day Adventist	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jewish	X	X						
Lutheran			X					
Methodist				X				
Pentecostal					X			
Presbyterian						X	X	

NOTE: The chart above, along with the information below, is not all-inclusive, they are simply an overview for this presentation. The details of each denominations beliefs for each doctrine will vary from one church to another, therefore it does not reflect an exact doctrinal belief between the churches listed, but reflects the general belief held by these churches. None the less, the final outcome remains the same when searching for God’s church on earth today!

The Baptist’s believe in “The Bible”, in “Separation of Church and State” and in “Christ Centered Preaching”.

The Bible: Psalm 119:160 says, “Thy word is true from the beginning”

Matthew 24:35 says, God’s words shall not pass away! Therefore God’s words are eternal!

Separation of Church & State: Acts 5:29 says, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

Religion is not something to be dictated or enforced by the state!

Christ Centered Preaching: Col. 3:16-17 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, and whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.”

People are watching us to see if our words and actions are Christ Centered!

The Non-Denominationalists believe there is Apostasy in Christianity, that God is calling His people out of the mainline churches they believe in the Inspiration of the Bible.

Apostasy in Christianity: Matt. 7:15 tells us, Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Leaving Mainstream Churches: Under the symbol of Babylon in Rev. 18, God calls for His people to come out of the mainline churches.

Rev. 18:4-5 “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”

Inspiration of the Bible: 2 Tim. 3:16-17 says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”

So when in doubt, pull your Bible out, because God’s word will show you the way, Amen.

The Catholics believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, or the Godhead of 3 persons.

The Trinity: Matt. 3:16-17 says, “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

Within this passage is presented all three members of the Godhead co-existing at the same time.

The Church or Christ believes in the Second Coming of Jesus and in Baptism

Second Coming of Jesus: 1 Thes. 4:16-17 says, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”

The Bible teaches this to be a literal event, and someday soon, the whole world will witness it, Amen!

Baptism: John 3:23 says, “And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.”

The Bible clearly teaches baptism by immersion! The original word used is “Baptizo” which means to immerse. That’s why “much water” was needed for Baptism. You will recall that Jesus Himself, as our example “came up out of the water”, indicating that He was first submersed under the water.

The Episcopal’s believe in the doctrines of Prayer and having a Social Conscience

Prayer: Luke 21:36 says, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Prayer Changes Things AMEN!

Social Conscience: Eph. 2:10 says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

In other words, we are called to have a social conscience , to do things for others as the Bible teaches.

The Jehovah’s Witnesses believe the doctrines of having a Personal Witness, the State of the Dead, and in the Signs of the Times.

Personal Witness: Dan. 3:17-18 tells us, “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”

Wow, the personal witness of these three Hebrews was powerful. They were willing to lay their lives on the line for their belief in God!

State of the Dead: Ecc. 9:5-6 tells us, “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything.”

Friends, don’t follow the main line denominations in their teaching of life after death in some spirit world, it just isn’t so. We will have life again, but not until Jesus comes back to raise us from the dead, Amen!

Signs of the Times: Matt. 16:2-3 says, “He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.... O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?”

God has given us many signs that tell us we are living in the last days of earth's history, when the Bible's prophecies will be fulfilled, and God wants us to understand these signs!

The Jewish faith believes in living a Healthy life, and in keeping God's Sabbath

Health: 3 John 1:2 says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.

It's true, God wants us to be healthy because He loves us!

Sabbath: Exod. 20:8-11 tells us to, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work ... wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Yes, God does have a specific day for His people to "Remember" and to keep as His day of worship, and it's the 7th day Sabbath!

The Lutheran's believe in being Obedient to God

Obedience to God: Acts 5:32 says, "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

It's quite clear that God gives His Holy Spirit to those who obey Him!

Obedience doesn't make God love you more, but it does show how much YOU Love God!

The Methodist's believe in Salvation by Grace

Salvation by Grace: Eph. 2:8-9 "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."

The Pentecostal's believe in the Lord's Supper, and some even practice foot washing.

The Lord's Supper & Foot Washing: In John 13:14-15 after the foot washing, Jesus tells us to do the same by following after His example. He also said in Matt. 26:26-28 "Take, eat; this is my body ... And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament."

These ordinances are very important for the Christian. Jesus told Peter that if he did not wash His feet, that Peter would have no part in Him. Peter replied, Lord then wash my head and hands also...

The Presbyterian's believe in the doctrines of Heaven and the Virgin Birth

Heaven: **John 14:2-3** “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”

The Virgin Birth: **Matt. 1:23** “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

The Seventh-day Adventist's uniquely teach the doctrine of the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary: **Exod. 25:8** says, “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”

Ps 77:13 says, “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?”

God's way of salvation is found in the Sanctuary message!

Now wouldn't it be great if you could line up all the religions of the world and look at all their doctrines, then like a buffet dinner, simply pick out the pure Biblical doctrines held by each denomination, and throw out the ones that aren't Biblical? Well, that's sort of what we just did here on a small scale!

But if you sincerely want to join a church which teaches God's word and holds onto the Biblical teachings of Jesus, but you didn't have years to research all of the different beliefs held by all the different denominations in the world, what would you do? How would you go about doing it?

Do you think that God would make finding His true church on earth a terribly difficult task? I mean, if God wants everyone to know the truth, and come to the knowledge of salvation, don't you think He would make it easy for people to find it? Don't you think that He'd make some sort of permanent record that would last through all time for people to see and follow?

Don't you think that He'd have some sort of document, sort of like the United States has the Constitution? Some document that would explain the foundation of His Government for anyone seeking to find it? If God did have something like this you could bet that it would be something BIG!

So I ask you the question, “Does God have an everlasting document that points out His “Unique” and “Identifiable” church on earth today? I submit to you that He does have such a document! God's document which reveals His church on earth is His 10 commandments written in stone!

So to wrap this message up, let's boil this whole thing down into a few easy points. **John 14:15** says, “If you Love me, keep my commandments”

Isa. 8:20 “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

Both the Old and New Testament proclaim that we are to keep God’s commandments.

In addition, **Rev 14:12** says “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

And in **Rev 19:10** an Angel says, “I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

If you want to find God’s church on earth, it’s really a relatively simple thing to do. Just look at God’s 10 commandments and search for the church that keeps them! And in addition to this, look for the church that also has the Testimony of Jesus, or the Spirit of Prophecy. This is much easier than you may think!

By the time you get to the 4th commandment, you have narrowed down the number of churches you have to consider, to just a hand full! That’s because the commandment to Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, eliminates all of the churches that do not keep God’s seventh-day “Saturday” Sabbath.

So in one easy step you have just eliminated most of the religions in the world! The main denominations keeping the Sabbath commandment are the Seventh-day Adventists, the Seventh-day Baptist’s and the Jewish faith.

Now since the Jewish religion has rejected Jesus as the Messiah, you can eliminate them, because any religion that rejects Jesus as the Messiah, is not God’s true church, because Jesus is the foundation of all truth, AMEN!

Now here’s the interesting thing, just as the Commandment to Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy has eliminated all of the non-Sabbath keeping religions, so likewise, having the “Testimony of Jesus” or the Spirit of Prophecy, will eliminate the rest, and point the way to the SDA church.

However, in addition to the keeping the commandments and having the spirit of prophecy, I’d like to bring up this 3rd point once more, ... God’s way,... which is found in the Sanctuary, or the Sanctuary doctrine, will also be present in God’s church on earth today! As you may know, the SDA church has been teaching the Sanctuary doctrine for a century and a half.

So as the world’s Christian denominations stand today, you can boil down your search for God’s true church, to a church who keeps the commandments of God, one who has been given the Spirit of Prophecy, and one who understands and teaches God’s way in the sanctuary! When you do this, the Bible clearly indicates that God’s church today is found within the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Speaking of the Sanctuary, you might be interested in knowing that Sapphire Throne Media has produced 4 short videos dealing with the Sanctuary, you can find them at:

STMedia.co

The titles of these 4 short videos are:

- “Heaven, Cradle of War”
- “God’s Way for our Salvation”
- “Prophetic Days”
- “The Cross and the Sanctuary”



Just look for the “Sanctuary mini-series” on our video page or click the picture above, and you will find all 4 of these special videos in one play list.

In closing, if a churches doctrine is missing these 3 points, the Commandments, the Spirit of Prophecy, or the Sanctuary, then you can be sure it’s not God’s church, because the Bible clearly indicates God’s church will have these beliefs.

Now I’d like to share with you a passage found in “**Last Day Events**”, p.45 & 46

“Seventh-day Adventist have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut the out from the quarry of the world and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The

greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world.”

“In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import – the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels’ messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention.”

If you’d like to read the three angels messages, they are found in [Revelation 14:6-12](#).

In closing, I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, to continue seeking God on a daily basis, and when you seek Him, seek Him in Spirit, in Truth, & in Obedience!

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