

# FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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## WHAT IS TRUE CHRISTIANITY

According to the book, *The Global War on Christians*, published by John L Allen, “Christians today, according to some reports, are indisputably the most persecuted religious body in this world.” Allen, according to his research which he has catalogued tells his readers of some of the most blood-chilling stories of believers being oppressed, imprisoned, vilified, and slain around the world each day.

Yet, while the persecution of Christians seems to have never been worse, the proclamation of the Gospel has never been greater just as our Lord foretold when he said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”* (John 14:12)

Perhaps the “greater works” refer to the immense multitudes that were brought to God by the ministry of the apostles. Because it was through the apostle’s missionary outreach throughout the known world at that time was the doctrine of Christ spread far and wide; while Christ confined his ministry chiefly to the precincts of Judea.

And just as one Adam Clarke, a Bible Commentator commented on Christ’s statement when he said, that *“It is certainly the greatest miracle of Divine grace to convert the obstinate, wicked heart of man from sin to holiness. This was done in numberless cases by the disciples, who were endued with power from on high, while proclaiming remission of sins through faith in his blood.”*

Today, we as Christians live in challenging times. Even here in America we are seeing a change in modern thought taking place toward the true Church of Jesus Christ. Even those who are among us that make the claim of being one of us, seem to have bought into some of the arguments that challenges the very teachings of the Jesus Christ and the Apostles. And because it is happening so frequently I sometimes wonder if the institutions where such spokesmen have been trained have not been deceived as well. Which raises the question as to how do the average layman define true Christianity.

It was the Old Testament prophet Isaiah which wrote; *“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”* (Isa 8:20) This was a solemn call by the prophet to test everything by the “light of the Scriptures” which is the revealed will of God. By this standard would all *“pretended revelations”* were to be tested and tried. By this standard should all teachings and doctrines still be tried.

When the Scriptures refer to “light,” the word usually means the morning light; which generally is a mingling of light and darkness due to it being daybreak. It is an emblem of advancing knowledge, and perhaps, also, of prosperity or happiness after calamity, as the break of day succeeds the dark night. The meaning here may be, ‘If their teachings do not speak in accordance with the law and the testimony, it is proof that they are totally ignorant, without even the twilight of true knowledge. Thus, those who proclaim such things, are ignorant of true knowledge of God and in total darkness.

## A NEW AGE OF DIS-INFORMATION

***We are living in a time of contradictions, manipulations, and misrepresentation, In other words a new age of dis-information.*** However, I am reminded in the Holy Scriptures how the Apostle Paul was also inspired to address some issues of his day as well when he observed something that was not in line with godliness. In the Book of Acts, chapter seventeen he wrote, *“For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship--and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.”* So when he observed the people’s altar and inscription the “unknown god” he saw it as an opportunity to present to them Gospel. For us as Christians we should also see our present opportunity as well.

**Adam Clarke in his Bible Commentary on Acts**, said in reference to these verses in this chapter, that Paul recognized these to be very religious people who had a god which they “*unknowingly worshipped*”. So Paul used the opportunity to proclaim to them the “**true God**” which was not known by them, and though they had an altar dedicated to this unknown god, Paul pointed out that he knew who the true God was who’s true nature and operations he was happy to declare to them.

By taking this approach Paul eluded the force of the law which had made it a capital offense to introduce “*any new god into the state.*” Which incidentally, this is exactly what some modern politicians are attempting to do to us who teach, counsel and proclaim what the Word has to say concerning, same-sex marriage, abortion, etc. There are times when we need the wisdom of God to deal with these issues in order to avoid offense, breaking the law, and hurting the cause for which we work so hard to accomplish.

***Too often the church finds it’s self a victim of insults, false accusation of bad motivations or intentions, even charges of hatred.*** We, by our very faith, have been called to “*love our enemies*” and do good to them that spitefully use us. This is true Christianity. For us to “hate” anyone would be a violation of the very thing we teach. Just because we disagree with a person does not mean we “*hate*” them. Otherwise there would be no love in the world at all. None of us are going to agree 100% on everything. Even in the best of marriages there are going to be disagreements or preferred taste, on a lot of things, but that doesn’t change our ability to love those whom we disagree with.

## **DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR RESOURCES**

I believe one of the reasons that there is much upheaval and debate in our land is due to the lack of trust in the resources we have used in the past for our information. Of course the new media has proven itself to be biased, rather than being what it is supposed to be as an impartial observer leaving the general public to decide for itself what to believe.

In one article I read of an accounting expert who raised “*red flags*” when he took an aim at General Electric Company, accusing them of pulling a ‘Bernie Madoff Ponzi schemes’, thus sending shares of the conglomerate to their worst one-day performance in over a decade. The 170 page report was a “*mixture of detailed financial analysis and sweeping claims.*” Now if any of you are invested in this company please do not take some drastic action to which you may later regret. At this point it is only an opinion. The author of this article, Mr. Harry Markopoulos, will need to provide more evidence to make his point. But I am sure it is a cause of concern.

***In the same paper***, I also observed how that the Federal Reserve Chairman and Board has also come under attack by both our President and others in the economic field — They feel our nation is not getting a fair shake due to the Federal Chairman’s refusal to set the interest rates where he and his political party feel they should be, due to the present status of the economy. It was Milton Friedman, a respected economist that recognized that independence is more than a matter of legal and institutional structure; it depends on how the Federal Reserve behaves. Unfortunately, under our system there are many levers that politicians can, and do, employ to influence monetary policy. While there is a framework...it is not always used to best benefit everyone.

***The third article*** that I found in the same paper an article as to how various talk shows pundits/specialists/experts, or assumed authorities who seem to be able to hold two opposing ideas in mind and at the same time still retain the ability to function. However, few politicians can pass that test. In the moral scheme of cable television, contradictions are taken to be the first sign of slippery behavior, a devious mind, bad character when they are caught saying one thing one day and are caught having said the various opposite in prior times. Newscasters enjoy catching them in this mode of contradiction and enjoy the supreme gotcha moment as a result.

***Which brings us back as to the question as to whom and what can we trust?*** Well I believe that can best be answered by the Prophet Isaiah, when they speak according to those same principles which are taught in God’s Word. This truth has been proven time and again. This is why we hold to the truths of Christianity. In all my research and study, especially these past sixty years, I know of no greater resource for sound basic principles than those found in God’s Word. This is why I spend a major portion of all the days of my life in God’s Word. His truths are inexhaustible, everyone true and satisfying to all our needs and concerns. We can rely on God’s Word in this age of dis-information. Try it and you will never be sorry. Amen