

False Religion

All Scriptures from The Old and New King James Versions

Obviously not all of earth's religions can be correct. We believe the Christian religion is the correct one because of historical, contextual, lack of true contradictions, and the wisdom expressed within the book. This study is examining if a practiced Christian religion can become a false religion. Can a "Christian" religion become a false religion? This study is on the various groups calling them selves Christian, all teaching different things. Can all be acceptable to God anyway? I think not.

All people are guilty of sin.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

So how far do we go, to recognize false religion? The clear difference is in they practice error (teachings not found in the Bible) and teach others to do so.

2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

Most people recognize radical groups openly teaching sexuality, murder, brainwashing, etcetera, are all cults or false religions. The problem is; that most people won't disagree with religious groups teaching, most of the truth but with some error. Well they are trying hard. Are they? If they are denying the authority of scriptures which conflict with their teachings they are not trying! After all they are only wrong on a few points. Is this acceptable? No! For the correct answers we must go to the Bible. The Bible is the standard we must go by.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The following scripture was written to those practicing the Jewish religion. It also applies to Christianity because it was preached by Jesus and the apostles.

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

So clearly there were groups practicing their belief in God but were teaching error. This is also true in our time. Do you think they knew that they were deceivers? Probably some knew and some did not. Knowledge of God's will should have

changed them from error, but they did not seek it. They were using their own ideas of what God wanted and were not following what God said he wanted. In other words, our opinions must be kept out of our religious practices. We must use God's word to determine the path we take.

Rom 10:2 *For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.** **3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.*

I am not saying people in different groups are not good people. I have known many good people in these groups. Being a good person may get praise from men, but praise from God comes from diligently seeking God and keeping his commandments. Our standard of good is not what God considers good.

Pro 16:25 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Rom 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: **11** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

Isa 55:7 *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. **8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

Heb 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

1Co 7:19 *Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.*

Joh 15:10 *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.*

1Jn 5:3 *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

Remember what happened to the Jews. The Jewish religion had become a false religion several times by not following God's teachings. Especially with regards to; not accepting Jesus Christ, as the son of God. Only a few of the Jews would follow Christ teachings. The rest were cut off, in New Testament times, from God unless they turned back to God's teachings. The break was so strong the faithful became known as Christians not Jews.

Act 11:26 *And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*

Act 13:42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. **43** Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. **44** On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."

Consider the following scripture.

The native Olive tree was God's religion. The natural branches were the Jews. The wild branches were the gentiles.

Rom 11:17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, **18** do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. **19** You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." **20** Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. **22** Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

Note:(This disputes once saved always saved.)

23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. **24** For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? **25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Mat 15:11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man. **12** Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" **13** But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

The next scripture shows who Jesus was talking about in Mathew 15.

Mat 16:12 Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

2Jn 1:9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

Rom 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. **2** For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. **3** For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Our knowledge and obedience of all the scriptures is what keeps us from becoming a part of a false religion. The problem is the scriptures say we should teach the same thing. People want to believe that God is so big he will accept them anyway despite their different teachings. The Bible does not teach this. Although the belief "we are all ok" keeps away strife and anger, it is not what the Bible teaches. Our peace should not be from accepting division, but in the unity of sticking to every word taught in the Bible.

Rom 3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "THAT YOU MAY BE JUSTIFIED IN YOUR WORDS, AND MAY OVERCOME WHEN YOU ARE JUDGED."

1Co 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

This is why no one should be basing their teaching only on a few scriptures and acting like the whole Bible teaches on their doctrine. This is the true source of division. If any one's teaching contradicts any scripture then their teaching is wrong. Scripture does not contradict itself in teaching. The Bible is the standard we need for unity.

Many groups teach some truth but few teach all the truth.

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Of course, every religious group is going to claim they are right. Their opinion or even our own opinions are not important. God's opinion given in all scripture is the correct way to be.

Gal 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, **7** which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. **10** For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

To teach part of the truth and not all the truth is as much error as adding to it or teaching falsehood.

Rev 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Pro 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **6** Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Deu 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

I know this may cause strife. God knows this and expects you to stand for his word despite the consequences.

Mat 10:16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Mat 10:32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. 34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW'; 36 and 'A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THOSE OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. 39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. 40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

1Co 8:2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

Many people say scriptures are just too hard to understand alike. That is why there is division. When you do this don't you know you are blaming God. Well maybe it is the translations. Now you are saying God is not able to deliver his message to man. Blaming God for the division is not the answer. This also happens when people don't believe the entire Bible is inspired. (Although some "bibles" are not translations but an individual or groups commentary.) (Translations: kJV, NKJV, American Standard, and NIV are good examples which most Greek and Hebrew scholars agree on.) (God is able to deliver his message to man.)

1Co 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Don't seek answers by superstition.

Lev 19:31 *'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.*

We as Christians should be above argument and only use all scripture to change people's minds. I wish this was always so.

Mat 10:16 *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

1Jn 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

1Ti 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. -See notes-*

Note: (Teachers of God's word can marry. They don't have to be as Paul was unmarried. Paul was so because he could devote all his time to Christ, which was good. No group can tell you must be unmarried. This is a choice of conscience as Paul did. Many of Apostils were married and taught the word of God to people.)

1Ti 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.*

Note: (Also according to this scripture the doctrine of "only one meat allowed on Friday" is wrong, also forcing those teaching not to marry is wrong.)

1Co 7:28 *But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless, such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.*

2Jn 1:9 *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;*

Joh 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Mat 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day,*

'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Who do you think he is talking about in this scripture (Mat 7:21-23)? Look around this world today. I think it is obvious.

Watch out for those who would make themselves seem great in the eyes of men. These people seek fame over God.

2Co 11:12 But what I do, I will also continue to do, that I may cut off the opportunity from those who desire an opportunity to be regarded just as we are in the things of which they boast. 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Some people say: I know people in a group or groups you are talking about. They are sincere people. Well sincere people can be sincerely wrong. Look at Saul. (Later to be renamed Paul by God, after his conversion.)

Act 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." --- 9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. 12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Save yourself from deception of false teachers.

Mar 13:5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 6 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. 7 But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows. 9 "But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be

brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12 Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (This disputes the doctrine once saved always saved.) 14 "So when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not" (let the reader understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. 16 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 17 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 18 And pray that your flight may not be in winter. 19 For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. 20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days. 21 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, He is there!' do not believe it. 22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand. 24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. 28 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! 30 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. (Doesn't this mean it happened in their time?) (The false teachers are in our time also) 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. 32 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. 34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. 35 Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— 36 lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

This lesson has not been to cause division among Christians but to use the obedience of the scriptures as a unifying point. No other way will work for true unity.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Joh 9:31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Act 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. --- 32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Heb 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

Churches in danger of becoming False Religions:

Rev 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 2 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent. --- 12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. 15 Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. 16 Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. --- 18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Rev 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. --- 14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor,

blind, and naked— 18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Notice that in every case praise was given to the good things these churches did, when they did correctly. That was not enough. They were encouraged to do all that God required. They all were told what they lacked. If they did not change, God would remove their candlestick. In other words, if they did not change, God would no longer accept them. They would become a part of false religions.

(Please follow up this study by a study I have prepared on Salvation on my web page “Saved.pdf”)

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