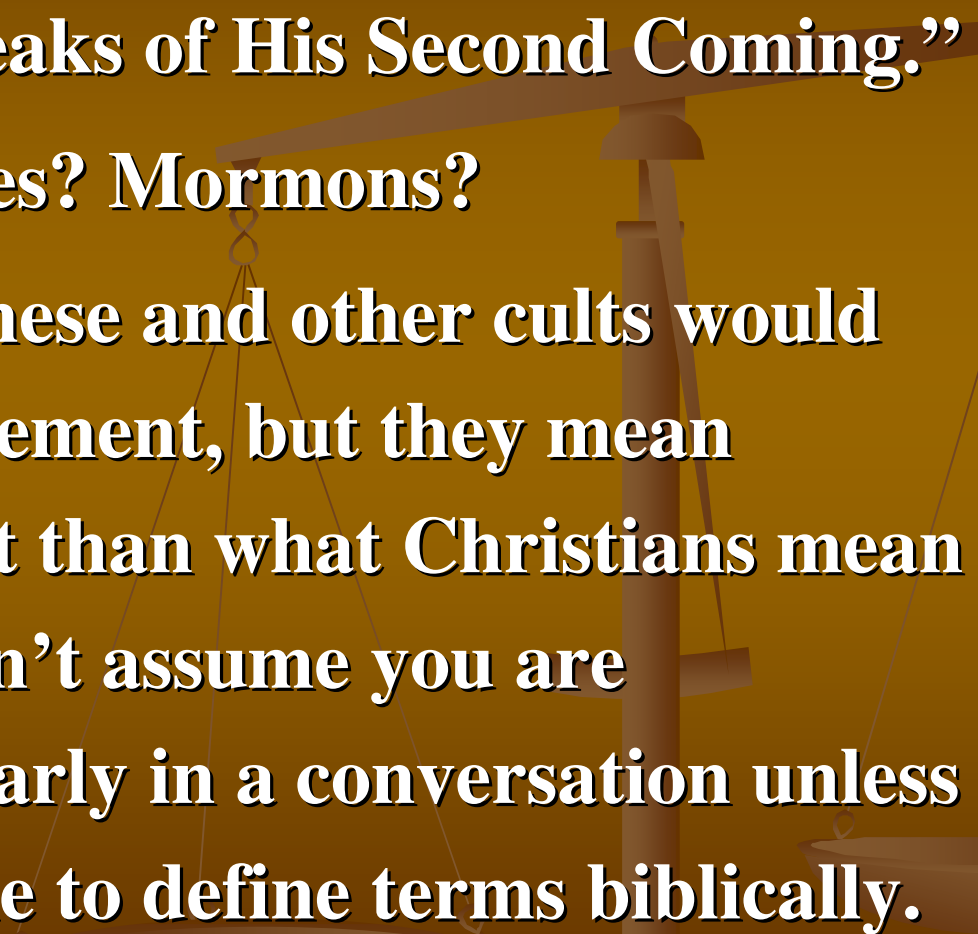


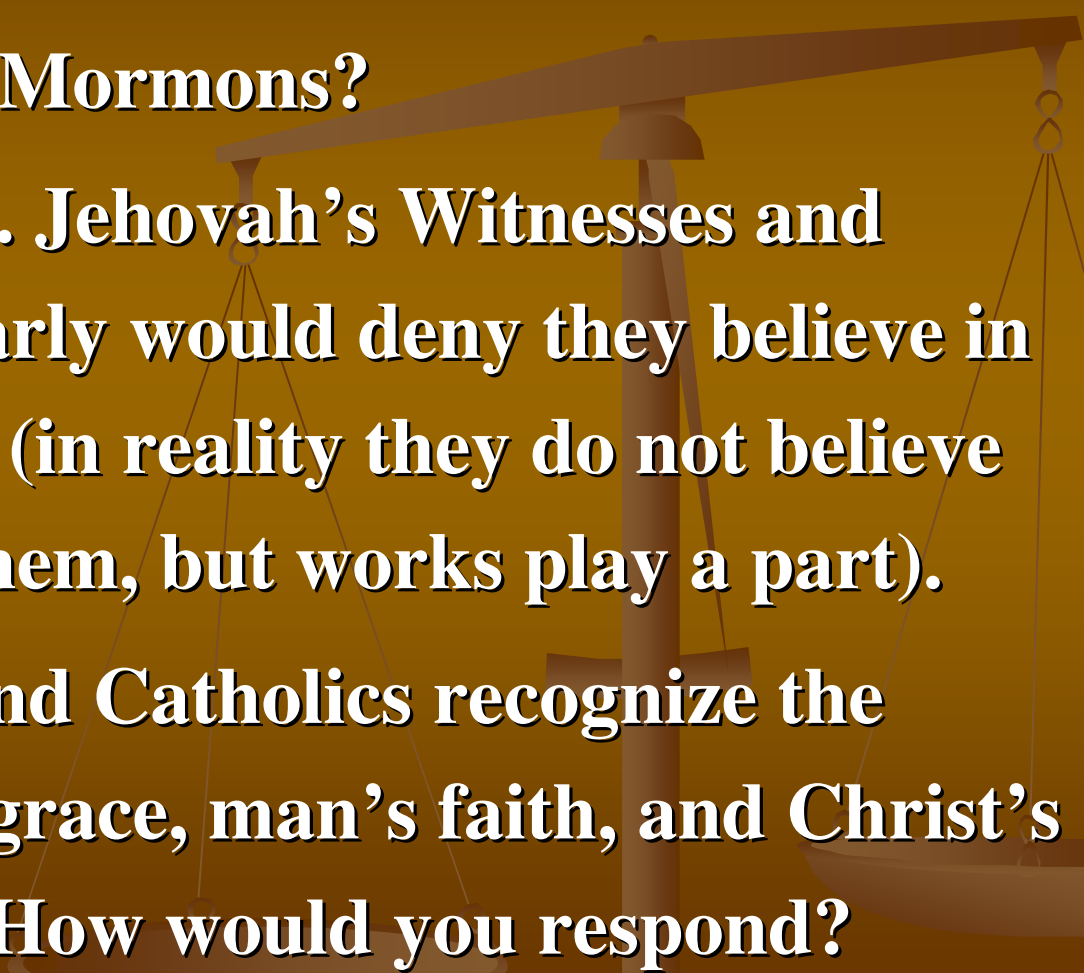


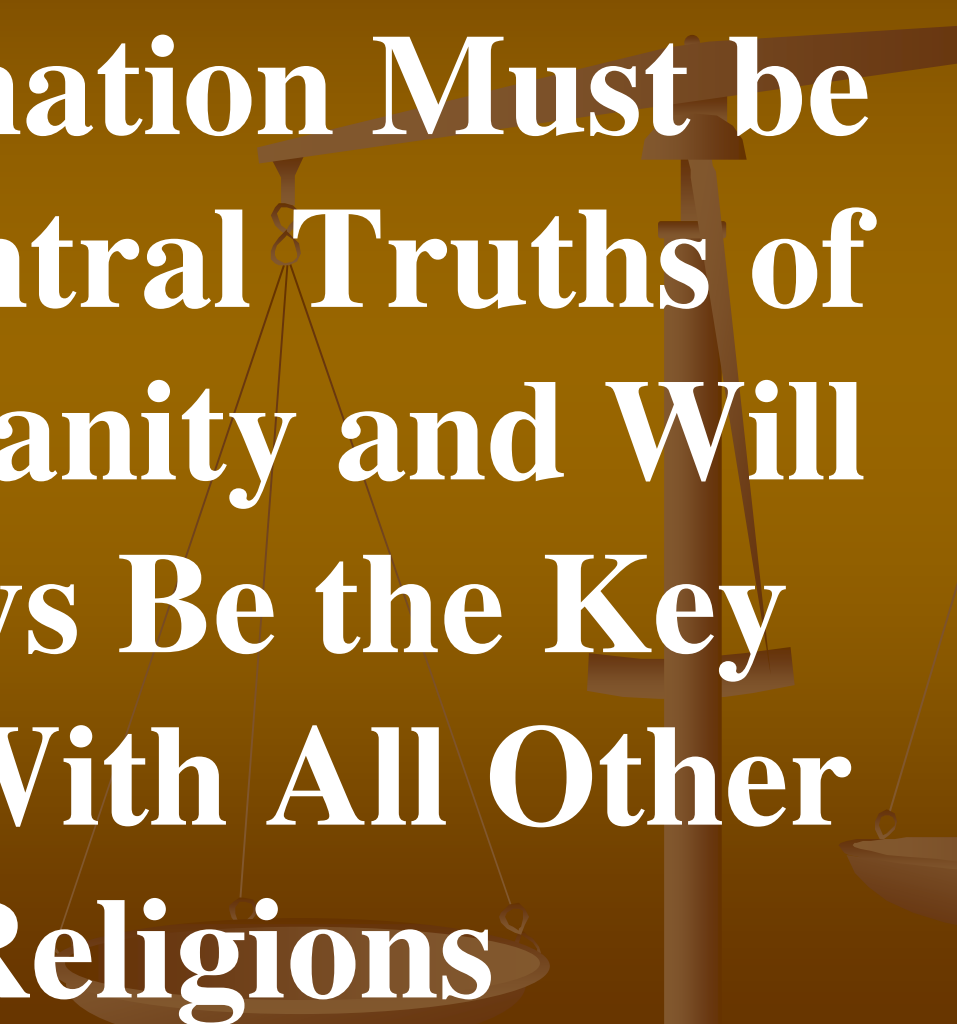


**Why The Reformation**  
*Still Matters*

**By Pastor Phil**

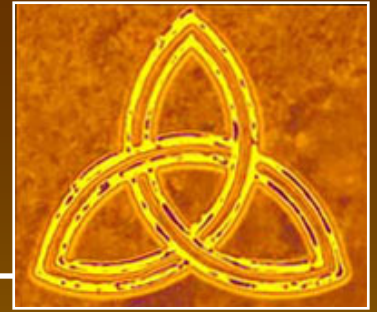
- 
- **Which groups might agree with this statement?  
“Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He died for the sins of mankind, and then resurrected from the dead. Scripture speaks of His Second Coming.”**
  - **Jehovah’s Witnesses? Mormons?**
  - **The truth is both these and other cults would agree with this statement, but they mean something different than what Christians mean by those terms. Don’t assume you are communicating clearly in a conversation unless you have taken time to define terms biblically.**

- 
- Which groups might agree with this statement?  
“We are not saved by works. Salvation is by God’s grace through faith in Christ.”
  - Roman Catholics? Mormons?
  - The answer is both. Jehovah’s Witnesses and other groups similarly would deny they believe in salvation by works (in reality they do not believe works alone save them, but works play a part).
  - Astute Mormons and Catholics recognize the necessity of God’s grace, man’s faith, and Christ’s work to be saved. How would you respond?



**The “Five Sola’s” of the  
Reformation Must be  
the Central Truths of  
Christianity and Will  
Always Be the Key  
Issue With All Other  
Religions**

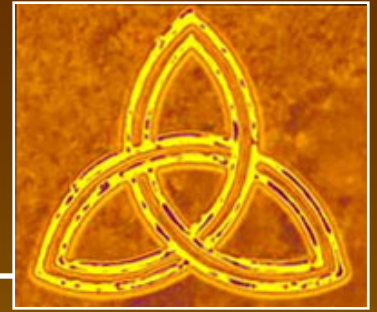
# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- *Sola Scriptura* – Scripture alone is our authority, and is sufficient for salvation and all of life. This latin phrase originally rejected the view of Roman Catholicism, which added apocryphal books to their Bible, a view which shares authority with Popes and councils and traditions and their extra-biblical teachings added through the centuries, denying Scripture's sufficiency.

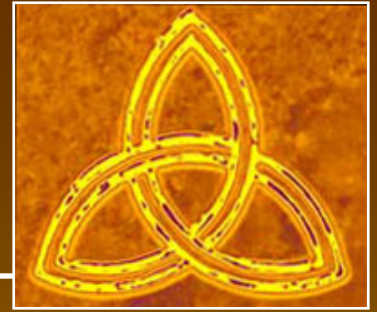
# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- ***Sola Deo Gloria*** – To God Alone Be Glory. Our chief aim is to glorify God, and this starts with knowing the right God in all His attributes - the One and Only God eternally existing in three Persons (co-equal as Father, Son, and Spirit) - and to love this God with all our heart, soul, and mind. In salvation and Christian living, God gets all of the glory; none to human works or merit.

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- *Sola Gratia* – Salvation is by grace alone, the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor and kindness of God toward sinners. Salvation is not in any way or in any part produced or preserved by man's works, will, effort, or anything inherent in man. Salvation is not by God's grace *plus* any human achievement, but it's solely by the sovereign grace of Divine accomplishment.



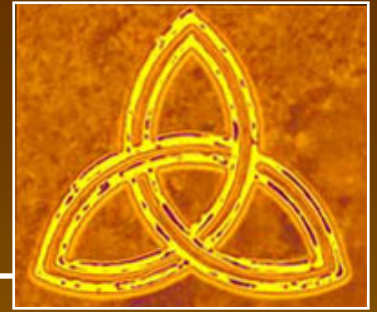
# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- *Sola Gratia* (continued) – God’s grace alone also preserves true believers so that they will persevere in the faith and will never finally fall away and abandon the faith. This “preservation of the saints” is also by God’s grace alone so that salvation is neither gained *nor maintained* by any human efforts. A Christian’s good works are the *result* of God’s good work begun in us.

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- *Sola Fide* – Faith Alone receives God’s gift. We believe God’s elect, who are called by grace, are justified in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which is received by faith alone. It is a forensic (legal) declaration of righteousness at a point in time, rather than a process. It is based on the merits and finished work of Christ, not our own.

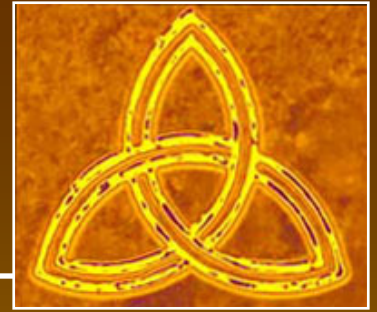
# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

- *Sola Fide* (continued) – True saving faith is accompanied by repentance, a recognition of the Lordship of Christ and His rightful rule and claims on our life, and a forsaking of sin. It is not a mere work of man, but is in fact a gift of God's grace for which He gets all of the credit and all of the glory as He produces fruit and evidences of a changed life.

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



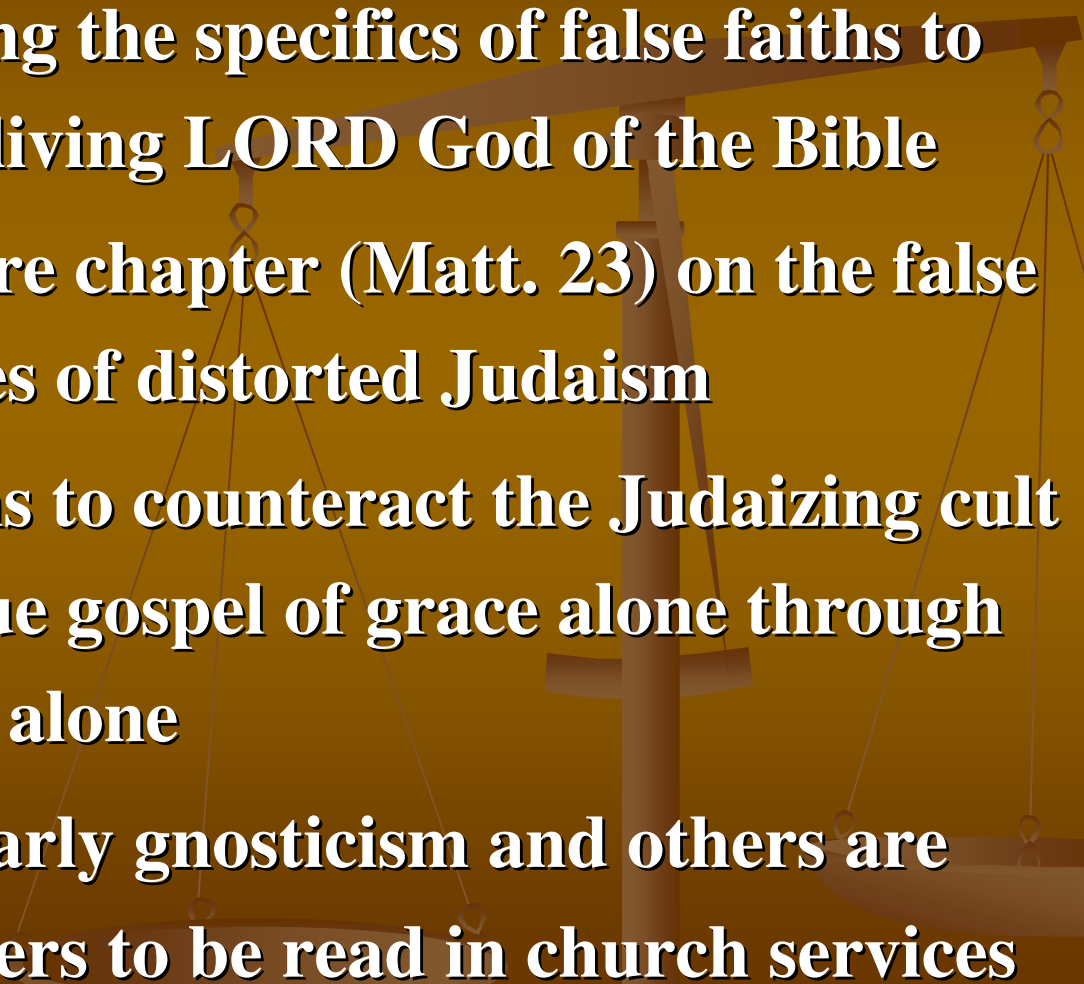
## ***BELIEFS***

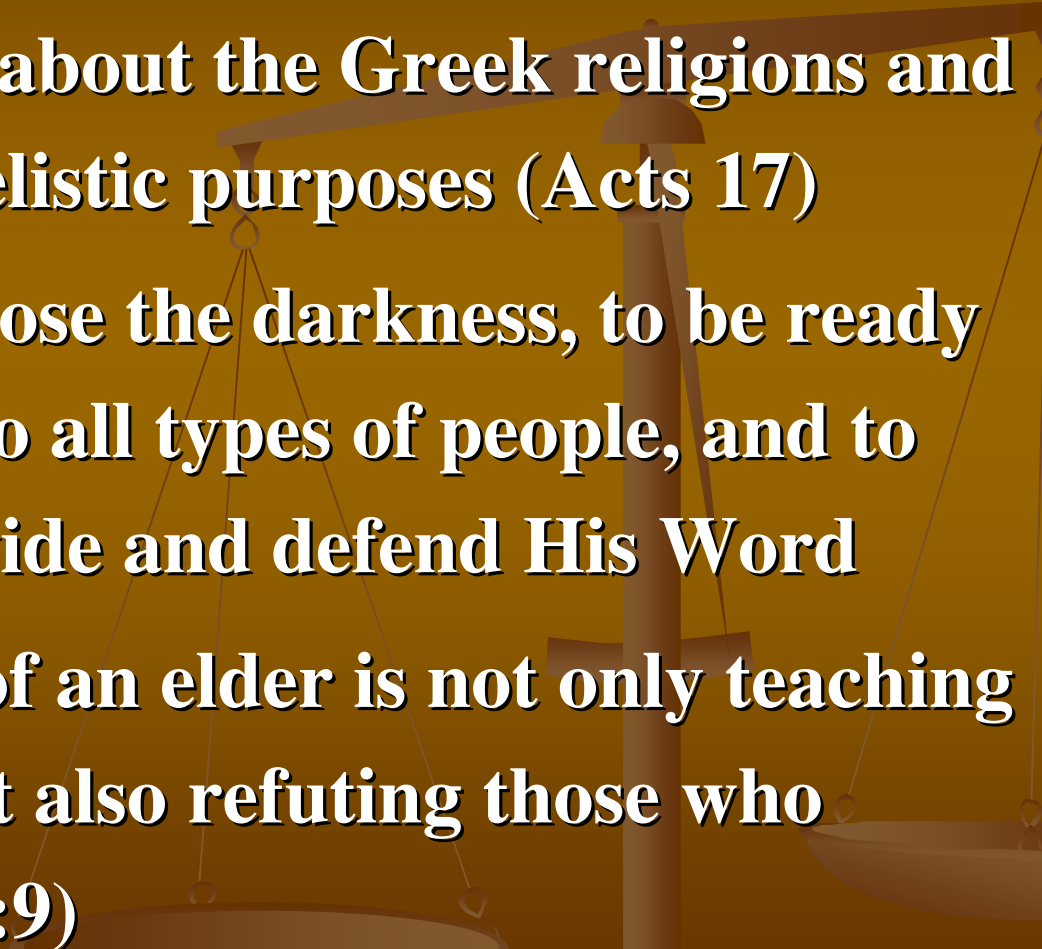
- *Solus Christus* – Christ alone saves sinners by His perfect righteousness, life, death, and bodily resurrection for them. Christ alone is the church's founder, head, builder, substitutionary atonement, and its only Redeemer, Mediator, Lord, Savior, Prophet, Priest, and King. As fully God and fully man, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and the only way to heaven.

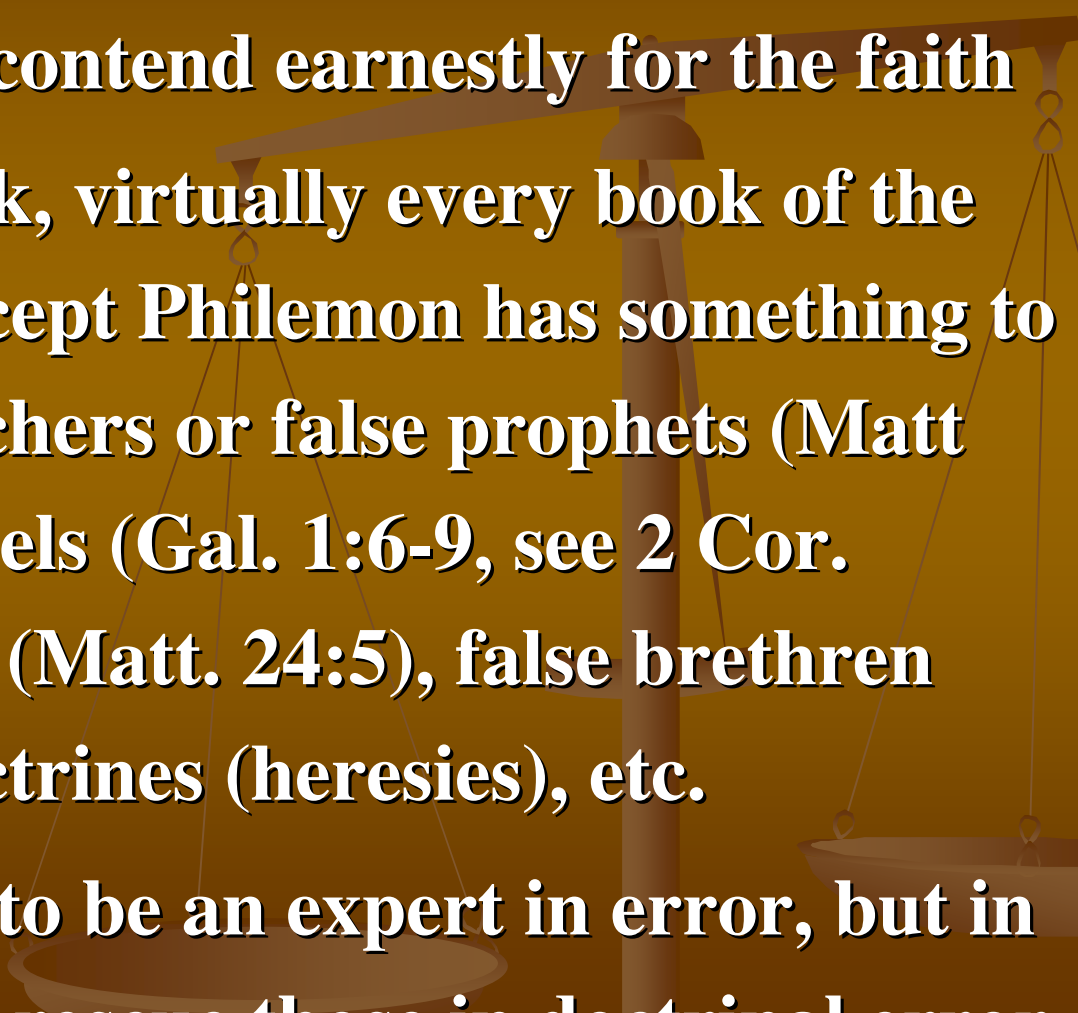
***Is it biblical to teach about false doctrines, false religions, etc.?***

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- 
- **Many of the Old Testament prophets spend chapters showing the futility and falseness of other religions and their idolatry and refuting their contradictory folly while contrasting the specifics of false faiths to the true faith of the living LORD God of the Bible**
  - **Jesus spends an entire chapter (Matt. 23) on the false religion and practices of distorted Judaism**
  - **Paul writes Galatians to counteract the Judaizing cult and contrasts the true gospel of grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone**
  - **Heresies including early gnosticism and others are addressed in NT letters to be read in church services**

- 
- Paul addresses false teachers by name and warns of specific “doctrines of demons” and heresies such as denying Christ’s bodily resurrection
  - Paul learned some about the Greek religions and writings for evangelistic purposes (Acts 17)
  - Paul calls us to expose the darkness, to be ready to give an answer to all types of people, and to study to rightly divide and defend His Word
  - The two-fold task of an elder is not only teaching sound doctrine, but also refuting those who contradict (Titus 1:9)

- 
- **Read the book of Jude, which spends most of the book addressing false doctrines and urging true believers to persevere in the truth, seek to rescue the perishing, and contend earnestly for the faith**
  - **As we saw last week, virtually every book of the New Testament except Philemon has something to say about false teachers or false prophets (Matt 7:15-23), false gospels (Gal. 1:6-9, see 2 Cor. 11:4), false Christs (Matt. 24:5), false brethren (Gal. 2:4), false doctrines (heresies), etc.**
  - **Yet our goal is not to be an expert in error, but in the truth to seek to rescue those in doctrinal error**



# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

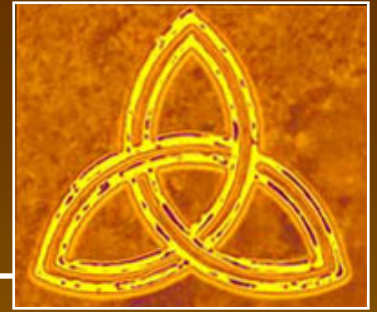


## ***BELIEFS***

- “We believe that Almighty God has revealed all that is necessary to life and salvation in the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture, which are the Word of God. All Scripture was given by verbal plenary inspiration of God, is infallible and inerrant and sufficient for all of life and godliness, and is the final arbiter in all disputes. Its authority is derived from its Author and not from the opinions of men. It is to be interpreted according to normal literal, historical, grammatical hermeneutics within its contexts.”

-- Adapted from <http://www.firefellowship.org/confession.shtml>

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

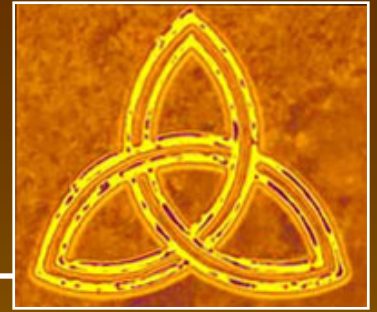


## ***BELIEFS***

- Below is from Pastor Phil's "Philosophy of Ministry" paper (p. 1):

“Above and beyond everything as the source and supreme authority, the *only* authority, is God's Word as revealed in the 66 books that make up our Bible. Any aspect of ministry [of our church] or even in the largest or most respected of ministries must subordinate itself to the scrutiny of Scripture (Acts 17:11, I Thessalonians 5:21) and be refined or even replaced where biblical truth warrants ... Having a high view of God and His Word is the greatest need of the church, and a church or individual will be spiritually strong or weak in proportion to this view.”

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

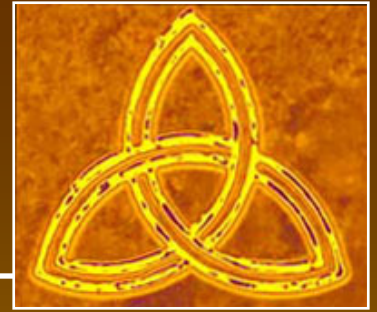


## ***BELIEFS***

### ■ **Philosophy of Ministry (continued, p. 1):**

‘The Word of God in the original is inspired, infallible, inerrant, sufficient, and authoritative for all of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 19:7-12, 2 Peter 1:20-21, etc.). There is no need to turn to secular men to solve man's spiritual problems (2 Peter 1:3), it is the counsel of scripture rightly understood which has the power (Hebrews 4:12, Romans 1:16) rather than the counsel of the ungodly which we should avoid (Psalm 1:1) ... Ministry begins with those who "tremble at God's Word" (Isa. 66:2), who reverence it, cherish it, submit to it, interpret it carefully and prayerfully, accurately handle it, apply it, protect it, and pass on its truth to others.’

# BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY



## ***BELIEFS***

Coupled with this idea is the Latin phrase *Tota Scriptura*, which means "all of Scripture." That is to say, our understanding of God, His will for us, and our salvation is not derived from random proof-texts, but from the entirety of Scripture. Scripture stands as a whole, and our understanding of one part *must* be consistent with everything else that Scripture says on that subject, or consistent with the character of God as revealed elsewhere in Scripture. Scripture does not contradict itself.

--From James White website, [www.aomin.org](http://www.aomin.org)

**If God were to give further revelation, how would we know and evaluate it?**

Isaiah 8:16, 19-20 (NKJV)

16 Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples ...

19 And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God?

*Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?* 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, *it is because there is no light in them.*

## Deuteronomy 18:20-22 (NIV)

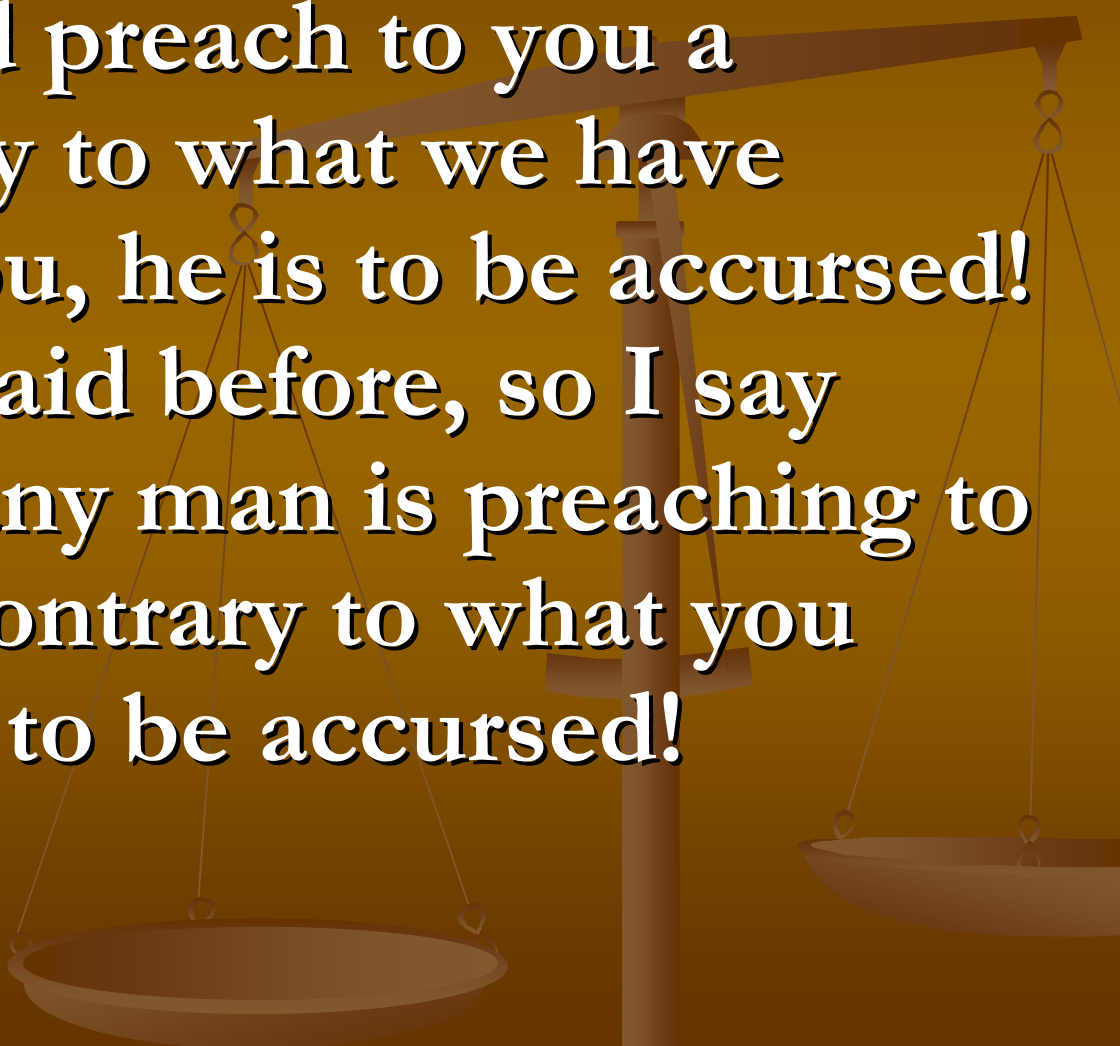
20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

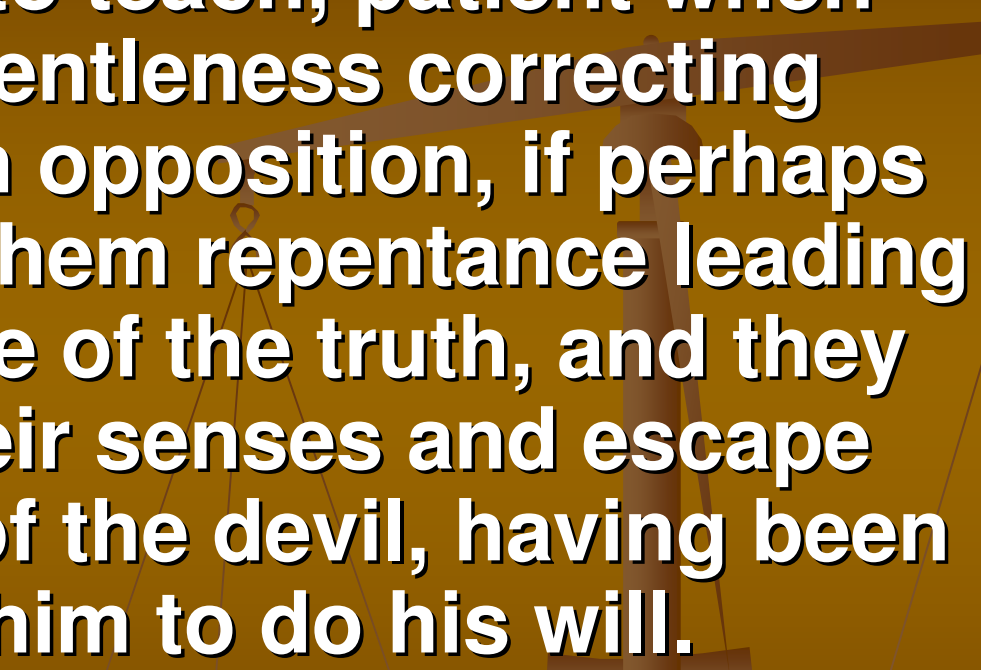
21 You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” 22 If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously.

## Galatians 1:8-9 (NASB95)

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!





**And the Lord's bond-servant [lit. slave] must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**

***2 Timothy 2:24-26***



**You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness;**

**but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

**To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

***2 Peter 3:17-18 NASB***

