

SCRIPTURE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST.
MATTHEW

CHAPTER 11

Mt 11:1. And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding (or instructing) his twelve disciples, he departed thence (or went on from there) to teach and to preach in their cities (or in the towns of Galilee).

Mt 11:1 goes to Mt Mk 6:12.

Mk 6:12 goes to Mk 6:13.

Mk 6:13 goes to Lk 9:6.

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 11

Mt 11:1. Jesus began the teaching in these verses back in Mt 10:5-6, where He commanded the twelve where to go and not to go.

Now, in Mt 11:1, He ended His teaching and He left to teach and preach in the cities and towns of the **Galilee** area. The Galilee area is west of the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee.

The southern part may be said to be south of a line drawn across Israel from north of Capernaum.

The upper Galilee would be north of this line.

To keep it simple, the Galilee area is the northern part of Israel.

As it has been said in **Mt 11:1**, And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding (or instructing) his twelve disciples, he departed thence (or went on from there) to teach and to preach in their cities (or in the towns of Galilee).

The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Chapter 11 verses 2 to 30 takes place approximately 22 months after He began His ministry.

Lk 9:6 goes to Mt 14:1

Mt 11:2. Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ (or what Christ was doing), he sent two of his disciples (to ask Him),

Mt 11:2. Now the subject changes to John the Baptist, ref Lk 7:18-35.

Before being put into prison, John had been telling people about the One that would come after him, that is, Jesus.

For a period of time, both John's ministry and the ministry of Jesus had been doing as God directed.

John has been preaching that it was unlawful for Herod to have his brother's wife-ref Mt 14:3,4; Mk 6:18. Then John had been put in prison for doing so.

Even though John was in prison, he was still allowed to communicate with his disciples.

John had admitted that he was not worthy to even untie the shoe laces of Jesus.

After John had been put into prison, he began having doubts, perhaps because things were not going the way he expected.

Many do fall by the wayside when things are going badly and death may await them.

John heard about the **works** (or miracles) that Christ was doing, so he sent two of his disciples to Christ. Note, he did not send one alone.

It appears the things John's mother knew about Mary may not have been known to John.

Oftentimes as a person serves Jesus, things do not go they way one expects. Hinderances and obstacles are a way of life for the follower of Jesus. One's faith will be tested and tested over and over to see if it is genuine. Many fall by the wayside during this testing and become unfruitful.

Mt 11:3. And said unto him, Art thou (or you) he that should come, or do we look for another (or expect someone else)?

As has been said in **Mt 11:2**, Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ (or what Christ was doing), he sent two of his disciples (to ask Him),

Mt 11:3. Note again, two are together, not one by himself.

Once John's disciples came to Jesus, they asked him that which John had sent them to ask—Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?

Ps 118:26 tells us, Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

This reveals to us something that seems surprising. John had been teaching about the coming of Christ and had seemed sure about Jesus, but **now was beginning to wonder**.

Sometimes, if things don't go the way we expect, it can cause us to have doubts. He wondered if Jesus was the One that he had been proclaiming would come, or should we look for someone else?

He might have wondered what was going on. He was announcing the coming of the Messiah, yet now he has been stopped and was in jail. He expected the Messiah would bring in the Kingdom. It was not understood that the Messiah would come and teach, then die for the sins of many, but then return at a much later date following the Tribulation. Then during the Battle of Armageddon, He (Jesus) would return and put down all rebellion, and then reign and rule for 1000 years.

These things are now clearly understood, but for the unbelievers and the nominal Christians, they are still not understood.

Satan is the deceiver. He is the father of lies.

Many wrong thoughts that we **all have** would not even be in our mind, if Satan did not exist.

The Bible tells us that Satan deceiveth the whole world. Satan sows doubt.

Life is a test to see if we will trust the Word of God in the Bible, or not.

The thoughts many have that the Bible is not the Word of God would not exist, if there was no Satan.

Evil thoughts would be gone.

Hate would be gone.

People would love the Jews, if Satan did not exist, as will happen during the Millennium to come.

Deceit, lying, dishonesty, little white lies, and all sin should be gone, if Satan did not exist.

But who can understand this teaching today, unless they are well-grounded in God's Word and can recognize the many thoughts we all have.

As John said through his two disciples to Jesus: Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another? John had baptized Jesus and called him the Lamb of God, yet now he had doubts, as he is in prison undoubtedly in deplorable conditions.

He "might" have heard the voice that said to Jesus: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased?"

As you read the Bible, do you have **thoughts** that run contrary to the Scriptures? Everyone does, but most do not recognize this.

How many times do people have a thought to read their Bible, but then another thought comes along afterward that tells you to do something else like clean the house or go and buy

Mt 11:4. Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew (or report to) John **again** those things which ye do hear and see:

Mt 11:5. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed (or cured), and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel (or Good News) preached to them.

something. Then the person makes the choice whether to spend time in the Bible or do something else instead. Most choose the wrong thought, do something else, and then the Bible collects more dust.

These thoughts come from the devil. He was created to do exactly what he does—that is, to deceive people.

The bottom line is this. If you believe the Bible and obey it, you will have eternal life. If you do not, you will have eternal damnation.

Satan was created to do exactly what he does. As it is written: He deceiveth the whole world—ref Rev 12:9, and that includes us all at various times.

As has been said in **Mt 11:3**, And said unto him, Art thou (or you) he that should come, or do we look for another (or expect someone else)?

Mt 11:4. Jesus did not answer with a yes or no. Rather, He told John's two disciples to go and show John **again** (which indicates a second time) the things which they **heard** and **saw**. Note, two things are mentioned: 1-that which the ears have heard, and 2-that which the eyes have seen.

As has been said in **Mt 11:4**, Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew (or report to) John **again** those things which ye do hear and see:

Mt 11:5. Jesus then told them things which they could see and which could not be disputed.

Those that were blind received their sight.
Those that were lame could now walk.
The lepers were cleansed.
People that were deaf could now hear.

Then He said something that was impossible.

People that were dead were raised up back to life. The wording seems to indicate that this (the dead being raised) had happened other times, not just once. And these things were done openly, not in secret, so the multitudes could see and would know that this is God. This is the Christ that should come.

And, lastly, Jesus said that the poor have the Gospel preached to them. This was more important than all the others. It is through the preaching of God's Word that people are saved.

What Jesus said can be related to Isa 35:5-6- Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing:

The proof that Jesus is the Messiah, the One that should come, was as clear as it could be. Even His enemies admitted—He doeth many miracles-ref Jn 11:47.

Isa 61:1-2-The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

It is through the teaching of God's Word that faith comes. Faith comes in no other way.

This is why so many preachers today preach all sorts of stories, but very little of God's Word.

Stories may attract people, while the preaching of God's Word does drive some away.

God's Word convicts people of sin.

God's Word can drive some people to their knees in repentance.

Again, a lack of God's Word is far more pleasing to most. As it is written: For the time will come (which is right now) when men will no longer put up with sound doctrine, but rather they will seek out teachers that will say what their unrepentant ears itch to hear.

To be offended in Jesus is to be offended by His words. To be offended by the words Jesus spoke, is to be offended in Jesus.

We know of a certain church that speaks mostly God's Word. Although many people have come to that church, many have also left. Many prefer a milder type of teaching in the church that will not speak as the apostles did.

The time has come and is now here when people will no longer tolerate good, sound Bible doctrine. People now-a-days want teaching that does not convict them of sin.

Of course, many choose to attend the "Great Whore" of Rev 17. Those that understand the Scriptures know what it is.

As has been said in **Mt 11:5**, The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed (or cured), and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel (or Good News) preached to them.

Mt 11:6. Jesus appears to end what He was saying to the two that John had sent, by saying, "Whosoever shall not be offended in Me—shall be blessed."

Jesus is the Word of God. Whosoever shall not be offended by the Word of God shall be blessed. Never underestimate your enemy the devil. He knows how to exploit your weaknesses and magnify your doubts. Every person's mind is usually packed with things that Satan speaks to each person. Nearly all people

Mt 11:6. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me or does not fall away or stumble on account of Me.

never realize the power to deceive that Satan has been given. Nearly everyone does greatly underestimate the power of Satan which deceiveth the whole world.

Self-centeredness (me, myself, and I) is embedded in every person. Satan knows and understands the things which men want and crave.

The proof of biblical wisdom is in the actions it produces.

How many people might be reading their Bible, but when someone comes in, they quickly hide it.

How many people will shy away from one of the few preachers that preaches God's Word boldly, rather than lots of worldly stories, including stories about themselves and their families.

How many people crave God's Word like a baby craves milk and cries out for it?

How many people will speak the words of God when friends or relatives visit, or when they visit relatives or friends?

How many people can quote even one verse of Scripture, except for perhaps a few regarding John 3:16?

Many of today's latter day churches bear little resemblance to those of 150 years ago, or those in the days of the Apostles.

Perhaps some people have noticed the following.

They find some quiet time. They begin to read their Bible.

Then the baby starts screaming.

Strong thoughts come into their mind that they

Mt 11:7. And as they (John's disciples) departed (or were going away) (or leaving), Jesus began to say unto the multitudes (or crowd) concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness (or desert) to see? A reed shaken (or swayed) with the wind?

need to dust the house.

The telephone rings.

The next door neighbor begins using a noisy tool of some kind.

Then the doorbell rings. People you haven't seen for years just happen to stop by, as you begin to read your Bible.

Do not underestimate your enemy, the devil, as nearly everyone does.

Perhaps someone comes to visit. Invite them in and begin reading the Bible to them.

Do they become uncomfortable or quickly make excuses how they have to leave?

It is not uncommon, when some people begin witnessing about Jesus, they become very uptight. That uneasy, fearful feeling does stop some from witnessing; however, faith can overcome this. Regretfully, many people's faith is very small.

As has been said in **Mt 11:6**. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me or does not fall away or stumble on account of Me.

Mt 11:7. As the two disciples of John departed back to John, Jesus began to teach on other things.

Jesus begins to exalt John the Baptist. He was talking to the multitudes.

He asked the people: #1-What went ye out into the wilderness to see? In most cases, the people had traveled long distances. Most of them had presumably walked.

Then Jesus begins to give them examples.

Did you go to see a reed shaken with the wind? John was not someone that would be shaken easily by any means.

Mt 11:8. (If not) But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment (or fine clothes)? (No), behold, they that wear soft clothing (or fine clothes) are in kings' houses (or palaces).

Reeds should have been abundant along the Jordan River.

As has been said in **Mt 11:7**, And as they (John's disciples) departed (or were going away) (or leaving), Jesus began to say unto the multitudes (or crowd) concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness (or desert) to see? A reed shaken (or swayed) with the wind?

Mt 11:8. #2-Again Jesus asks the question in talking to the people. What went ye out for to see?

Did you go out to see a man clothed in soft clothing? Those that wear this kind of clothing are found in kings' houses.

John was not a person to exalt himself. He considered himself not even worthy to untie the sandals of Jesus.

He was completely opposite of the religious leaders of his day that dressed elegantly and loved to be greeted in the market places.

John was clothed with camel's hair.

John preached the message of repentance. This is a message that has largely been lost in the generation we are now in—the Laodicean church age.

The message John preached was taken from Mal 3:1 (NIV)-See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me.

Isa 40:3-5-A voice of one calling in the desert prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. (He preached the time of the Millennium, which follows Armageddon) Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord

Mt 11:9. But (then) what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea (or yes), I say unto you, and (one) more than a prophet.

Mt 11:10. For this is he (or this is the one), of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face (or ahead of you), which shall prepare thy (or your) way before thee (or you).

will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

As has been said in **Mt 11:8**, (If not) But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment (or fine clothes)? (No), behold, they that wear soft clothing (or fine clothes) are in kings' houses (or palaces).

Mt 11:9. #3-Again Jesus asks the question: What went ye out to see?

Then Jesus exalts John by saying: A prophet. Is this what you went to see?

Jesus then said of John that he was more than a prophet. Jesus is elevating the status of John above that of a prophet.

As has been said in **Mt 11:9**. But (then) what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea (or yes), I say unto you, and (one) more than a prophet.

Mt 11:10. Jesus then uses the scriptures regarding John: This is he, of whom it is written: Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee.

In other words, John was sent in advance of Jesus to prepare the way for Jesus.

John (which is called "my messenger") had been telling the people of the coming of the Messiah.

It appears he went in advance of Jesus about 6 months.

Lk 1:17 tells us: And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

As has been said in **Mt 11:10**. For this is he

Mt 11:11. Verily (or truly) I say unto you, (or I tell you the truth) Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a (or anyone) greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding (or yet) he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Mt 11:12. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth **violence**, (or has been forcefully advancing) and the **violent** (or forceful men) **take it by force** (or lay hold on it).

(or this is the one), of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face (or ahead of you), which shall prepare thy (or your) way before thee (or you).

Mt 11:11. Jesus continues speaking.
John never healed any person.
He wrote no books of the Bible.

However, Jesus, Who is God manifested in the flesh, emphasizes the importance of what He is about to say with these words: "Verily I SAY UNTO YOU."

These words given by Jesus in verse 11, places John the Baptist as the greatest messenger or prophet ever born of a woman.

But then He makes the statement: he which is the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

Jesus came to bring forth the New Covenant, which saved the lost through His blood.

John was the last of the prophets of the Old Testament, as he came before Jesus.

Many Old Testament prophets pointed to the coming of the Messiah.

However, John introduced Him.

John said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Mt 11:12. First, this verse gives us a specific time.

John was a link from the Old Testament to the New.

He introduced Jesus, which bridged the gap from the Old to the New Testament, from the law to grace.

The Old Testament gives us much history, and the Ten Commandments, and many prophecies of the coming Messiah. It looked forward to the days of Jesus.

The New Testament (which went into effect after Jesus' death and resurrection) looks at Jesus, and then at the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, and looks back at the finished work of Christ.

This verse speaks of the kingdom of heaven suffering violence, and the violent take it by force. Those opposed to Jesus used deceit and violence, even Jesus' death on the cross, to achieve their purpose. It is no different today.

All that truly follow Jesus should be no stranger to hindrances, and sometimes violence, and sometimes death.

Jesus is the kingdom of heaven.

Satan is directing and behind all those opposed to Jesus.

Most of the religious leaders of that time were strongly opposed to the teachings of Jesus. They were forcibly advancing their deceitful beliefs which led people to hell.

They resisted the kingdom that Jesus preached which was mercy and grace.

They opposed Jesus openly.

They tried to catch Him in His words.

They asked Jesus questions to discredit Him, but Jesus sometimes turned their questions into an embarrassment for them.

The transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant came as a result of great violence. Jesus is the Door to the kingdom of heaven.

Gen 3:15-And I will put enmity (or hatred)

between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Col 2:14,15-Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The kingdom of heaven alluded to here is the promised kingdom that the people believed the Messiah would bring in. Jesus preached this kingdom (which we call the Millennium) much during His time on this earth.

This is the kingdom they were waiting for.

None at that time realized that Jesus had to die for the sins of the people first. Then there would be a time of testing for seven church ages, which would be followed by the Tribulation.

Then Armageddon would explode, and Jesus would return in power and great glory. Then the Millennium would begin, which would last for 1000 years. During this millennial kingdom, Jesus will reign for 1000 years as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Lk 16:16 NIV The law and the prophets were proclaimed until John.

Since that time, the Good News of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. Again, this is the Millennium kingdom which the people thought would appear when the Messiah came.

Jesus makes it clear in Lk 17:21-Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

From the time it became known that Jesus was

coming forth, all the way to the cross, **VIOLENCE** existed. Multitudes of children died, as Herod tried to kill the child Jesus.

Jesus sometimes had to change locations.

Finally, Jesus was arrested, and killed, but He arose from the dead.

Violence pursues followers of Jesus. Eleven of the twelve apostles reportedly died a violent death.

Even today, missionaries, ministers, and Christians are being killed in some parts of the world for their faith in Christ.

The few true preachers of God's word are no stranger to ridicule and persecutions, even in the United States sometimes.

The worst is yet to come, which is during the Tribulation.

As has been said in **Mt 11:12**, And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth **violence**, (or has been forcefully advancing) and the **violent** (or forceful men) **take it by force** (or lay hold on it).

Mt 11:13. The last words of this verse are "prophesied until John." Thus, a specific time is presented. Up to this time, there were all the prophets and the law. These pointed to Jesus and the New Covenant.

Then John came preparing the way for Jesus.

Then Jesus brought in the age of grace. Salvation from the time of Jesus was: 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.

Mt 11:13. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Mt 11:14. And if ye will receive it (or are willing

Mt 11:14. Originally, Elijah was translated that

(or care) to accept it), this is Elias (or Elijah), (who) which was for to come.

he should not see death-ref 2 Ki 2:11.

Mal 4:5,6-Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

What the world did not understand is there would be two comings of Jesus, and two comings of Elijah.

John was the first, and then during the Tribulation, Elijah will return and continue till around the end of the Tribulation, when he will be taken to heaven just before Armageddon.

As the Scriptures are studied, it is discovered that the spirit of Elijah was upon John the Baptist.

It is written: 2 Kings 2:2-And it came to pass, when Jehovah would take up Elijah by a whirlwind into heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

2 Kings 2:9-12-And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I am taken from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, **let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.** And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: (nevertheless), if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, (there appeared) a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, which parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof! And he saw him no

Mt 11:15. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mt 11:16. But whereunto (or to what) shall I liken (or compare) this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows (or calling out to others),

Mt 11:17. And saying, We have piped (or played a flute) unto (or for) you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned (or sang a funeral song) unto you, and ye have not lamented (or mourned).

more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

In the future, as the Antichrist appears on the scene during the Tribulation, so does Moses and Elijah.

As has been said in **Mt 11:14**, And if ye will receive it (or are willing (or care) to accept it), this is Elias (or Elijah), (who) which was for to come.

Mt 11:15. If any person has ears to understand what has been said, let him hear and understand what has been written.

It is interesting that following the Scriptures regarding John the Baptist in conjunction with Elijah, the words appear that reinforce the importance for a person to hear, and thus to understand.

As has been said in **Mt 11:15**, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Mt 11:16. Jesus asks: to what shall he compare the generation that existed at that time?

He then answers His own question.

Jesus said: It is like children that sit in the markets and call out to others.

As it has been said in **Mt 11:16**, But whereunto (or to what) shall I liken (or compare) this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows (or calling out to others),

Mt 11:17. The children say, "We have played music to you, but you did not dance."

We have mourned (or expressed grief, or cried to you), but you have not expressed grief (or

mourned) in return.

In other words, they are saying: We did such and such, but you did not respond to what we did.

Jesus rebuked them, because they were behaving childishly, like children that wanted their own way. They were comfortable with the way things were and did not want to change. They were not prepared to meet God, and they did not want to hear.

It is much the same in this present lukewarm generation. People have little desire to hear God's Word. They are comfortable and satisfied with the way things are. They do not want to hear that Jesus Christ may return within their lifetime and set up the millennial kingdom, following the Battle of Armageddon.

Indeed, that was an evil and adulterous generation. They were children of little or no faith.

Jesus did miracles that no other had ever done in the history of the world; yet, He was rejected. And when God, Who came to this earth in human form, was crucified, many were still mocking.

The result of their rejecting Christ was catastrophic. Within a generation, the temple would be destroyed, and the Jews would be scattered throughout the world for about 2000 years.

But now, a miracle of miracles has happened. In 1948, the nation of **Israel was reborn**. The Bible refers to this time as the "latter days."

The Scriptures are very clear—when that would happen, a generation would not pass till Jesus Christ would return at the time of Armageddon.

Mt 11:18. For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil (or demon).

How long is that generation? Perhaps, 80 years from their rebirth.

As has been said in **Mt 11:17**, And saying, We have piped (or played a flute) unto (or for) you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned (or sang a funeral song) unto you, and ye have not lamented (or mourned).

Mt 11:18. Jesus continues speaking of **John**. Jesus indicates that John came, but lived a very simple life.

The Scriptures seem to indicate he did not partake of special foods. Rather, he ate locusts and wild honey.

He did not partake of strong drink. He probably drank only water.

John wore clothes of camel hair with a leather girdle.

He did not partake of the world's luxuries and pleasures.

He did not get involved in the cares of this life, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of all sorts of things.

He did nothing that would give anyone any cause to accuse him of doing anything wrong.

However, he did tell people to repent. This angered some. He announced that One was coming after him that was greater than he. He preached the words of God.

So, the unrepentant, having nothing at all that they could find to accuse him of, so they chose to make up things and lie to the people. They told them that John had a devil. Oh, how great is the wickedness in some people!

Ref Jn 10:41 John did no miracles, yet he was falsely accused.

Jesus did many miracles, and He was also falsely accused.

Some people get very irritated when the uncompromised Word of God is preached, as both John the Baptist and Jesus did.

This is because it is written: Heb 4:12-For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This is also why so many preachers preach very little Scripture, or they mix lots of worldly stories or philosophy in with God's Word.

This neutralizes and waters down some of the effect of God's Word, so they will not lose their congregation. God forbid.

Caution. It is a very dangerous thing to relate the Spirit of God in any way with a devil.

They said of John: He hath a devil.

Regarding Jesus casting out a devil, it is written: Mt 12:24-37-But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.**

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the **blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.**

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but **whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.**

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Each person is known by his fruit (or what he does).

The end result of the false accusers is the lake of fire.

As has been said in **Mt 11:18**, For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil.

Mt 11:19. As mentioned back in Mt 19:6, **The proof of biblical wisdom is in the actions it produces.**

Here Jesus addresses Himself. He contrasts John the Baptist's lifestyle with His own.

Jesus came eating and drinking, which was very different from John.

So the unrepentant accused Him also, seeking

Mt 11:19. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and "they" say, Behold (here is) a man gluttonous (or glutton), and a winebibber (or a drunkard), a friend of publicans (or tax collectors) and sinners. But wisdom is justified (or vindicated) (or proved right) of her children (or by her deeds or actions).

to drive the people that were repenting away.

Jesus said of Himself that He came eating, and the people **accused** Him of being a glutton.

Jesus said of Himself that He came drinking, and they **accused** Him of being a winebibber, which was not true.

They also **accused** Him of being a friend of tax collectors. Tax collectors were highly despised. They also **accused** Him of being a friend of sinners. This was true. Jesus is a friend of those that repent. All that come to Jesus in repentance, He will in no way cast them out or forsake them.

When God's Word comes forth, some run away. Some find fault. Some are broken and repent.

Many of the religious leaders of that time considered themselves to be pure or above it all, as they would not defile themselves by being a friend of such as these tax collectors and sinners.

Jesus responded to their accusations by saying: "Wisdom is justified of her children" (or wisdom is proved right by her actions-NIV, or by its results).

Understanding is shown to be justified or correct by the results it brings.

The different lifestyles of John and Jesus were shown to be correct by the results they brought.

The wisdom of the different approaches that John and Jesus used were shown to be correct (or justified) by the results they brought forth (or the children it produced).

Those that follow Christ may find there are many that may accuse them of things they know nothing of.

Mt 11:20. Then began he (Jesus) to upbraid (or denounce) the cities wherein most of his mighty works (or miracles) were done, because they repented not:

As has been said in **Mt 11:19**, The Son of man came eating and drinking, and "they" say, Behold (here is) a man gluttonous (or glutton), and a winebibber (or a drunkard), a friend of publicans (or tax collectors) and sinners. But wisdom is justified (or vindicated) (or proved right) of her children (or by her deeds or actions).

Mt 11:20. Jesus then began to rebuke (or denounce) the cities in which He did most of His miracles. The reason He did this was because He did great miracles in these cities, but still the people did not repent of their sins.

Is it any different these days? The Christianity that is taught in many churches and on the radio and television today is nothing more than believe on Jesus Christ, but repentance and conforming to the image of Christ is left out. Teaching on the judgments, hell, the lake of fire, Satan, repentance, and Bible Prophecy is rare. The **meat of God's Word** is seldom ever taught, as most preachers do not even know what it is. It is perfection.

If a house has a Bible these days, oftentimes the dust on it can be heavy.

Do the ministers in these latter days encourage their congregations to **devour God's Word** and **obey it**? The answer is only rarely.

Does the **conversation** of people in the streets, in their homes, and in the work places **reflect Jesus**? No, it very rarely does.

Are people repenting? Very seldom.
Acts 17:30 tells us God...commandeth all men everywhere to **repent**.

As has been said in **Mt 11:20**, Then began he (Jesus) to upbraid (or denounce) the cities wherein most of his mighty works (or miracles)

Mt 11:21. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! (or Korazin) woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works (or miracles), which were done in you, had been done (or performed) in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

were done, because they repented not:

Mt 11:21. (Note Lk 10:13). Jesus specifies certain cities in particular where His mighty works had been performed.

The miracles He did there appear to have been more or beyond what He had done in some other places.

These cities were **Chorazin** and **Bethsaida**.

These were both not very far from Capernaum, where He had also done some miracles. It has been said that it may take about 1 hour to travel there by foot.

The first word He uses is "**Woe**." This word carries with it the strongest possible warning.

This word "woe" is also used in the Revelation, denoting horrible judgments that were to come.

Chorazin was a small town or village located on a hill on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. It was about 2 to 3 miles from **Capernaum**. Mighty works had been done there, but the inhabitants did not repent.

Bethsaida was also on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. Mighty works had been done there also, but they did not repent.

Both **Chorazin** and **Bethsaida** were warned by Jesus, as He said, "Woe unto thee," indicating a curse was upon these cities.

It was here that a blind man was brought to Jesus in Mt 8:22.

Lk 9:10-mentions a desert place belonging to the city of **Bethsaida**.

Jn 1:44-tells us that Philip was of **Bethsaida**,

the city of Andrew and Peter.

Then Jesus compares these two unrepentant cities with **Tyre** (or Tyrus) and **Sidon** (or Zidon) in this verse.

Jesus had said regarding **Chorazin** and **Bethsaida**, if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Tyre is mentioned about 37 times in the KJV Bible. This was a Phoenician city on the Mediterranean Sea, which is west of the Sea of Galilee.

Sidon is mentioned 14 times. Its name reportedly came from the firstborn son of Canaan-ref Gen 10:15. It was also located in a westerly direction from the Sea of Galilee on the Mediterranean Sea. It is written, And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth.

Both cities are in Lebanon and date back thousands of years.

The prophecies regarding their destruction are in Ezekiel chapters 26 to 28.

Tyre and **Sidon** were very wicked cities. However, Jesus said they would have repented a **long time ago**, if the same works were done in them that were done in **Chorazin** and **Bethsaida!**

Not only would they have repented, but they would have humbled themselves greatly in sackcloth and ashes. Repentance is necessary for all that seek to follow Jesus. This message is largely omitted in the churches in these latter days.

There is no grace,
if there is no repentance.

Sackcloth was a very uncomfortable material made of black goat's hair. It might be worn by people that were in great mourning, or had repented, or were in great sorrow over something. It might be worn at the death of a loved one.

Ashes were often used when a person wore sackcloth. A person might sit in ashes or put them on their head. They might use ashes for their bed.

Fasting might also be included, when a person wore sackcloth and sat in ashes.

These might be used when a person was begging for forgiveness, or seeking God to intervene when the armies of a hostile nation surrounded their city.

These could signify brokenness, hopelessness, an attitude of no where to turn, except to God. These also signified desolation and ruin.

One person may go through grief and curse God.

Another person goes through grief, but humbles himself in prayer and fasting. In the midst of the greatest storm, he praises God.

Which of these two people best fits you?

No matter what miracles were done there, these people were hard toward the Gospel. They were hard toward God's Word. They had no desire to repent. This sounds like most people of the world right now.

If a person turns away from God's Word, they often become harder and harder like cement. Some may get so hard, they become reprobate. They have no fear of God at all. Their thinking is so twisted that they blame God, for the things that Satan does.

Mt 11:22. But I say unto you (or I tell you), It shall be more tolerable (or bearable) for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

They will eventually join the billions of people in hell awaiting the Great White Judgment. Their only hope to escape this judgment is, in this life, to repent and place their trust in Jesus Christ.

As has been said in **Mt 11:21**, Woe unto thee, Chorazin! (or Korazin) woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works (or miracles), which were done in you, had been done (or performed) in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Mt 11:22. Jesus lets the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida know that when the day of judgment comes, it will be very, very bad for them.

The judgment of the wicked cities of Tyre and Sidon will be bad, but Chorazin and Bethsaida's judgment will be worse.

Jesus is revealing that the sins of those in these two cities is clearly known by Him.

Judgment is coming for all, but for some it will be worse than others.

The judgments **for the people** in the cities that Jesus performed many miracles in, will be more severe than others which had less chance to hear the Gospel.

The judgments for the people in the cities in the United States can be expected to be more severe than for those which have had little teaching regarding the Gospel.

People throughout the United States can hear the Gospel in churches, on the radio, and on the television. But have they repented, even though the teaching is only lukewarm? For the most part, they have not, even though many homes do have a Bible. Regretfully, most of those Bibles are not read.

Mt 11:23. And thou (or you), Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven (or will you be lifted up to the skies?), (No, you) shalt be brought down (or descend) to hell (or Hades): for if the mighty works (or miracles), which have been done (or had occurred) in thee (or you), had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

As has been said in **Mt 11:22**, But I say unto you (or I tell you), It shall be more tolerable (or bearable) for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

Mt 11:23. Now He turns to **Capernaum**. Capernaum is located on the northwest part of the Sea of Galilee. The remains of the city is on the edge of this lake. Excavations, to our knowledge, are still going on there. It was a prosperous city. Some estimate it had a population of about 1500.

The Romans came within a generation of Jesus being crucified, as Israel had not only refused to repent, but they had crucified the very One that loved them.

Jesus makes it clear that most of its inhabitants went to hell, even though Jesus had made His headquarters there, and had spent time there, and done some miracles there.

Although most did not repent in Capernaum, yet neither is it recorded that they ever mocked Jesus or tried to throw Him out of the city. It might be said that they were indifferent.

The remains of a synagogue that was built on top of another synagogue has been excavated.

This was also a very wicked city. It was **prideful** in that it exalted itself unto heaven. It was very ignorant of its true spiritual condition.

Jesus had already judged them. That judgment was terrifying. Its occupants shall perish to hell.

Jesus had done miracles in Capernaum.

Then Jesus makes a statement that reveals that their wickedness may have been even worse than Sodom. This is because if the miracles Jesus did in Capernaum, had been

done in Sodom, they would have repented and would not have been destroyed. Not only would it not have been destroyed, it would have remained to that present time.

Did they repent? No.

Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, but it exists today and prospers. One estimate puts the cities' population at that time at 20,000 to 50,000. This number is not confirmed.

Capernaum from the times of Jesus is in ruins. It has been excavated and some rebuilt. There is a new city that has been built.

The remains of some of this old city is on most sightseeing tours. Excavations seem to be on going.

As has been said in **Mt 11:23**, And thou (or you), Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven (or will you be lifted up to the skies?), (No, you) shalt be brought down (or descend) to hell (or Hades): for if the mighty works (or miracles), which have been done (or had occurred) in thee (or you), had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Mt 11:24. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable (or bearable) for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Mt 11:24. In verse 24, Jesus repeats some of what He had said previously in verse 22.

v. 22-But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.

v. 24-But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Jesus is emphasizing that the judgment of Capernaum will be worse than the land of Sodom, and Tyre, and Sidon.

What a horrifying indictment. Capernaum was

even worse than Sodom.

Note the words: **the day of judgment**. This is mentioned in Mt 10:15; 11:22; 11:24; 12:36; and Mk 6:11.

There is a day of judgment coming.

For those that have not repented and trusted in Jesus, as their only hope of salvation, that day will be horrible.

For the unsaved, the **Great White Throne Judgment** will be a day of sheer terror, as a person is delivered up from being in hell. (Hell is a place of fiery torment, and worms cover those there.) The people are delivered up to face Jesus Christ.

No human words can adequately describe the **FEAR AND TERROR** that will fill people just before they are cast into the eternal lake of fire which will never have an end.

They are cast into the everlasting lake of fire to be tormented day and night, forever and ever. They will never have a day of rest from that horrifying, fiery torment. It will be a place of complete darkness and eternal agony. It will be a place of complete hopelessness.

Yet, mankind utter stupidly and with self-confidence that such a place does not exist and such a judgment will never happen to them.

If one might say, it sounds like you are trying to scare us into repenting, the reply is absolutely yes! It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God-Heb 10:31.

All will be judged. Fear God and depart from your sinful ways.

The self-righteous are among the worse kind of people. For these have no heart to seek the grace that can only come from Jesus.

Mt 11:25. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank (or praise) thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast **hid** these things **from the wise** and prudent (or learned)(or intelligent), and hast **revealed** them **unto** babes (or little children).

Religions, such as the Roman Catholic, but others also, leave a person with a false hope. And the person never comprehends this until they die and perish for eternity. Satan has the power to blind people's minds; as it is written: Satan which deceiveth the whole world-ref Rev 12:9.

As has been said in **Mt 11:24**, But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable (or bearable) for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Mt 11:25. Jesus now openly talks to His Father. First, He thanks His Father.

He addresses His Father as: O Father, Lord of heaven and earth. The Father is over all things, everywhere.

The relationship between Jesus and His Father is that the Father was in Him, and He is in the Father. As it is written: He that hath seen me hath seen the Father-Jn 14:9.

The more self-righteous a person thinks he is, the less he really is, as the only righteousness we can have is through placing our trust in Jesus Christ.

Jesus now expresses why He is thanking His Father. It is because His Father **has hid** these things from being understood by many people. He has hid how horrible the day of judgment shall be for certain people.

These blind people include, the prideful, those that think they are wise, and those that are prudent and, perhaps, aloof or sophisticated or highly educated. The blind usually include the rich. Those that seek for riches and love money are not in harmony with the Word of God.

It includes those that were someone in this

world and were not humble. God resisteth the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

God in heaven has **revealed these things** to (babes), that is to the humble, the meek, the repentant, the brokenhearted, those that are childlike to correction, and those that obey the Bible.

The more a person **exalts himself** in this world, the more he is actually blinded regarding the Scriptures.

God reveals the understanding of His Word to those that do not exalt themselves in their own eyes.

This blindness includes many preachers and clergy. They think they understand, but their understanding is darkness, and that darkness has blinded their eyes. As a result, they do not understand God and His Word; yet, they think they do. That is part of the darkness that is upon them.

The deceived do not think they are deceived. This is part of the deception they are in.

The more a balloon is blown up, the less air can be added. The more deflated a balloon is, the more air can be added. Do you understand?

For most people, their balloon is full of this world. Their eyes are full of "Me, Myself, and I." Their thoughts are full of the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of other things, the cares of this life, and the pleasures of this life.

There is no space left for God, especially if it means they must repent, and then let the Bible become their life. Jesus is the Word.

It is God Himself that hides the understanding of the Bible from the people that think they

"know it all," the selfish, the self-centered, the rich, the prideful, the owners of many things, and oftentimes the highly educated.

It is God Himself that opens the minds of those that are childlike, humble, the hurting, the sick, the downcast, and those that are not self-centered. There are far more that are saved that are **not** highly educated, than there are college professors.

It is nearly impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven, as his trust is in his possessions, rather than Jesus. The rich man is not broken and humbled, but the down and out people are usually more open to the Gospel.

Mankind cannot understand the Word of God. It is hidden from him, unless Jesus opens a person's understanding. That is one reason there are so many religions. Each has its own view, regarding the words in the Bible.

Then, one day, **for a very few**, it is as if a light is turned on. All of a sudden, there is a thirst to look at the Bible. All of a sudden, there is a thirst to find a Bible-teaching church. However, Satan is also there to mislead such a person with deception.

Many people in many churches never have this happen to them.

But, as a result, a few find themselves having this urge to see what the Bible says. Some resist. Some do not.

As a person begins to read, **most of it, they do not understand**. It is a great temptation to stop reading; yet, a few will persist. As they keep reading, their understanding of the Word of God should increase and increase.

Some turn to Bible commentaries rather than seeking God to open their understanding

through study and patience. Fasting with Bible study is another way to seek God.

They begin to understand they are a sinner and are without hope. They begin to understand that Jesus Christ paid for their sins on the cross. They ask Jesus Christ in prayer to save them. They repent. After this, they obey God's command to be baptized by full immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

As they continue to study the Bible, their faith grows. Sooner or later, doors begin to open up for them to serve God, which is in harmony with the Bible.

They crave a good, Bible-teaching church that teaches God's Word, but most can only find one that teaches an occasional verse, and then talks and talks, using worldly stories to explain, rather than God's Word.

Yet, if they will be faithful in their personal Bible study, and they repent, as God opens their understanding more and more, they can grow. But if they let the things of this world hinder or stop their Bible study, these will shrink back as a pig returning to the mud.

Capernaum did not see themselves as God saw them. They were spiritually blind. How about you?

Mt 7:13-14-Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few there be that find it.**

As has been said in **Mt 11:25**, At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank (or praise) thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast **hid** these things **from the**

Mt 11:26. Even so, (yes) Father: for so it seemed good (or was well-pleasing) in thy sight (or for this was your good pleasure).

wise and prudent (or learned) (or intelligent), and hast **revealed** them **unto** babes (or little children).

Mt 11:26. It is good to fear the Lord and to depart from evil.

Lk 1:50-And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Lk 12:5-But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

The Word of God is hid from most. It cannot be understood by those that are wise in their own eyes, or self-centered, or full of pride. Only those that are humble and childlike, those that are like babes and are correctable may be called by God; for their understanding can begin to open up, if they repent and humble themselves. This seemed good or pleasing in the Father's sight.

Regretfully, we are now in the generation that will not endure sound doctrine. It is wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

Rather, the people willingly choose to gather around themselves teachers that say what their unrepentant ears itch to hear.

Many claim they are a Christian. **Yet they have no understanding of what that means.**

To be a Christian is to have the Spirit of God inside you. Very few do.

What most people are is this. They may go to a Christian-type of church on a special day like Christmas, so they call themselves a Christian. In reality, they are nothing. They may have a Bible, but they almost never read it. They might listen to a church service at Christmas time on the TV, but they have very little knowledge about

Mt 11:27. All things are delivered (or handed over) (or committed) unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but (or except) the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save (or except) the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will (or chooses to) reveal him.

God the Father and Jesus Christ.

They do not understand that only those that have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of them are true Christians. The rest are counterfeits.

How much time do you spend reading God's Word? Is it a few minutes a day? Is it a few minutes a week? Is it a few minutes a year?

True Christians want to be in God's Word. They want to hear God's Word. They crave God's Word, so they can grow in the Lord.

God has chosen to hide these things from the self-centered, know-it-all, unrepentant people. **For so it seemed good in God's sight.**

God is not mocked. A person shall reap what they sow. If a person's life is centered around the world, their family, friends, job, and personal desires, that is what they will get. To follow Jesus is to follow the Bible. Can you follow a road map without looking at it? Can you follow the Bible without studying it?

As has been said in **Mt 11:26**, Even so, (yes) Father: for so it seemed good (or was well pleasing) in thy sight (or for this was your good pleasure).

Mt 11:27. There are four parts to this verse.

The first is: All things are delivered unto me of my Father:

The second is: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father;

The third is: neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son,

The fourth is: and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

The first part is: All things are delivered unto Jesus by His Father, which is in heaven. Jesus is the second Person of the Trinity. He is God come in the flesh. Thus, all things are delivered

to Jesus. As it is written, He has a name that is above all names-note Phil 2:9.

This means the earth belongs to the Lord. Note the following verses.

Gen 1:1-**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** The heavens would include such an expanse (or distance, or space) and so many suns, and planets as to cause a person's mind to have difficulty comprehending it.

Ex 9:29-And Moses said unto him,...that thou mayest know how that **THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S.**

Ps 24:1-The **EARTH IS THE LORD'S**, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

1 Cor 10:26-For **THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S**, and the fulness thereof.

1 Cor 10:28-for **THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S**, and the fulness thereof.

The second part of the verse is: and **no man knoweth the Son, but the Father.**

This verse might be turned around to help us understand more fully and put in three ways.

Only God in heaven knows His Son,
or only the Father, which is in heaven, fully knows His Son or,
only God in heaven knows and understands absolutely and completely His Son.

Do you understand that God also knows you completely? He understands you completely. He knows and understands your smallest and most secret desires, and thoughts, including those most wicked and hateful ones, and the ones of love. No matter how intimate, deep, and hidden your thoughts are, God knows them

and understands completely what causes even you to so much as blink an eye.

The third part is: neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son. Only Jesus completely and fully knows and understands in every way, His Father and Who the Father is.

The fourth part of the verse is: and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

No person can comprehend the Father. No person can understand God in heaven.

This is why there are so many varied opinions about God and so many cults, which all have a very different and distorted view of God and biblical things.

These range from self-enlightenment to things that are nearly unspeakable. These distorted views include evolution, which is only one of the thousands of distorted views, or misled opinions, or ideas.

But, then, there are a few, a very few, to whom Jesus Christ, the Son chooses or desires to reveal the Father.

At the very foundation of this revealing is the written Word of God.

Apart from the Bible and the Spirit of God giving a person the understanding, there is no understanding of truth. There are only thousands of distorted ideas and understandings, which are, in fact, confusion.

And many of the confused that believe they have truth, spread their distorted truth to others.

That understanding of God and His Word is only given to the humble and repentant. For it is written: "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the humble"-ref Ja 4:6.

The Scriptures tell all that will hear: Be clothed with humility. For God resists the proud. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

God scorneth the scorers. He gives grace to the lowly or humble-ref Pv 3:34.

The religious leaders at that time thought they knew God in heaven. They considered themselves as anointed of God. They exalted themselves, dressed elaborately and made long prayers for a show. Yet, they were very deceived as most people are.

Jesus said Jn 10:30-I and the Father are one.

What do you believe? Is it God's Word and His Word alone, or is it something else?

Has **Jesus given** understanding of the Scriptures **to you**, or is your understanding a combination of distortions from your own mind, and teachers you listen to that are really confused themselves, but the darkness in them makes them think they see clearly.

As has been said in **Mt 11:27**, All things are delivered (or handed over)(or committed) unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but (or except) the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save (or except) the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will (or chooses to) reveal him.

Mt 11:28. The religious leaders at the time of Jesus gave rules, regulations, and laws that burdened and weighted-down the people. Jesus said (NIV), They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders-Mt 23:4.

But Jesus said: **Come unto me**, all ye that labour (or [are] struggling) and are heavy laden (or burdened), and I will give you rest.

Mt 11:28. Come unto me, all ye that labour (or are weary) and are heavy-laden (or burdened), and I will give you rest.

This verse appears only in Matthew's Gospel with this exact wording.

Jesus gives all that trust in Him **rest** from the burden and guilt of sin.

In verse 27, Jesus had spoken that no one could know the Father, except those to whom the Son will reveal Him.

We may say, no one can know the Father apart from Jesus, Who is the Word of God. How foolish and misled people can be to think they can be saved and know God apart from the Bible.

In verse 28, First, Jesus said to all that will hear: "**COME UNTO ME.**"

Then, He is specific to whom He is speaking.

It is those #1-that are tired, that toil, or work, or struggle, or just want to give up. It is those that **LABOUR, AND, ARE HEAVY-LADEN.**

It is for those, as we may say, that feel like they are knocking their head against an unmovable wall; and then second, it is to those that are also burdened and feel like they have a huge weight on them and can't get out from under their situation, or problems, or difficulties. This verse is for those that have no where to turn, they have no hope in the midst of their despair, anxiety, and hurt, and crying or pain.

This verse is for those that may be going through the worst times in their life. It may be the death of a child, or a loved one. It may be horrible pain, or the news that you have a short time to live, and then it will all end with great suffering. It may be for some that are being tortured for the sake of Christ.

Whatever it is that has caused a person to be

Mt 11:29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of (or from) me; for I am meek (or gentle) and lowly (or humble) in heart: and ye shall find rest unto (or for) your souls.

so greatly depressed and burdened, Jesus says: **I WILL GIVE YOU REST.**

Jesus is saying to those that are cast down, to those that have no where to turn, to those that are just tired of it all, He will be there.

It may be said that when a person is flat on their back, they can only look up.

In the midst of a person's great grief, Jesus is there to give a person comfort.

Religion kills in that it offers a false hope.

As has been said in **Mt 11:28**, Come unto me, all ye that labour (or are weary) and are heavy-laden (or burdened), and I will give you rest.

Mt 11:29. Then Jesus says to the hurting person two things.

The **first** is to **TAKE MY YOKE**. The **second** command is to put it **UPON YOU**.

To put the Yoke of Jesus on, one must take off the yoke they are currently under. The yoke all are under is sin.

One may ask, what is a yoke?

It is an object that: joins, or binds, or attaches, or harnesses, or couples, or ties, or unites a pair of animals together, such as oxen. It is an object that brings an animal into subjection to the one in control.

It is usually a cross piece with two bow-shaped pieces, each enclosing the head of an animal.

Are you yoked to Jesus?

Have you surrendered your life to Him?

Have you given the control of your life to Jesus willfully?

Have you repented?

After repentance, have you obeyed His command to be baptized by full immersion?

Regretfully, very few give their life to Jesus without a struggle. Few will trust in Jesus to guide them. What a person usually wants is to go to heaven when they die, but without allowing Jesus and His Word to reign over them now. Hell is filling up with these self-centered, self-pleasing people.

Millions have asked Jesus to be their Savior, but have not repented and surrendered their life to Him.

Few have taken the yoke of Jesus and put it upon themselves, enabling Jesus to reign and rule over them for their good.

Few serve God His way.

Rather, many claim they are saved, but in their daily life they are not yoked to Jesus. They are not conformed to the image of Christ.

Next, Jesus commands those that have surrendered to Him and taken His yoke, to do the following, which is **LEARN OF ME**.

Devour God's Word (the Bible)

Bury your excuses for not being in God's Word, once and for all, and let God's Word become more necessary to you than your necessary food.

Put aside

the cares of this life,

the pleasures of this world,

the deceitfulness of riches, and

the lusts of other things.

God forbid, in this latter day, Laodicean church age we are now in, in this church age that will see the Rapture—few, very few, obey this command.

ONLY A FEW DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST BY DESIRING TO HEAR HIS WORDS, AND DWELLING IN HIS WORD

FAITHFULLY, daily, weekly, and yearly.

To learn of Jesus means a person needs to hear and study God's Word. There is no other way.

Regretfully, the condition of the preaching in the churches, on the radio, television, and the Internet is wretched miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

But because most professing Christians have not made the Bible their main source of learning of Jesus, they are easily misled with the winds of doctrines which blow in every direction.

Preachers preach lots and lots of stories. They talk of nearly everything imaginable, including philosophy. But where is Jesus? Where can the pure Word of God be found that brings a person to their knees in tears and repentance?

Where can: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints" be found anymore?

In these last moments of time, Jesus (that is, the pure Word of God) is now found outside the church. He is no longer on the inside. He is looking in from the outside, as if to say: Preach the Word, preach the Word, preach the Word.

But the ministers of this latter day generation do not hear Jesus knocking. They do not know their true spiritual condition is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Note, they are blind.

For the most part, they do not teach the Bible. They do not encourage their flock to devour the Word of God, as if it is more necessary than the food they put into their mouth.

So many church-goers today do not know what it means to be part of the family of Christ. Many may view the members of their own church or

denomination as their family in Christ, but not the born again members of the church down the street. Indeed, this church age has left off teaching God's Word in favor of lukewarmness.

Little is heard about **hell** and the **lake of fire**, which is where nearly all are destined to go.

Little is heard that exhorts a person to **study** and **study** the Word of God.

Little is heard that a person is to **obey God's Word**.

Little is heard that a person is to **forsake all** and **pick up their cross and follow Jesus**.

Rather, many television evangelists live extravagant lifestyles.

The apostles forsook everything. John the Baptist forsook all. Jesus had not where to lay His head.

Soon, the Rapture will come. It will be at the time God has appointed. Most will be left behind that thought they would be taken. They believe they know God, but God does not know them. They deceive themselves. The Word of God is not the center of their lives.

The command of "**LEARN OF ME**" means to dive into God's Word (which is the Bible) with both feet and never look back. A person can read the Bible 100 times, and the very next time the person will read it, they will learn even more. This continual learning, as one studies God's Word and obeys it, can lead to being transformed to be more like Christ. However, Satan is constantly hindering a person. Satan knows that every person has certain worldly desires and things in their life that he can use to distract them. That is why the Scriptures tell a person to deny themselves.

Obedience to God's Word enables a person to keep learning. Disobedience to God's Word can cause a person to become dormant.

Their learning can come to a standstill. They can then backslide. However, when they do

backslide, their memory is often erased, so they can honestly say, I have not backslidden. Those Christians that are around a backslidden Christian can often see it clearly, but the person that has backslided is usually blind to this. As a person backslides, they forget what manner of person they were, when they followed Christ.

If only people could understand that the Word of God is more important to them than any other thing.

It is more important than your very necessary food, that is, the food you put into your mouth.

Every person that has gone to hell should agree with this. If only every person that is going there could understand this, they should humble themselves and repent. They should pick up their Bible and learn about Jesus. They should learn that the best this world has to offer is nothing, when compared to eternity with God, rather than eternity in the lake of fire.

When a person becomes saved, little do they understand the road that lies ahead for them.

Each person is to become a new creature, a new creation in Christ Jesus. Each person begins walking a road called Transformation, that is, being transformed. This includes their mind and thinking being renewed. This transformation actually happens to only a few that claim they are saved. Each person needs to begin walking a road of being conformed to the image of Christ. It is a road many start, but few finish. The starting sign of that race that is set before each person reads "Repentance." Then, through immersing oneself in God's Word, faith should begin to grow, which leads to more and more self-denial, and picking up one's cross and following Jesus (Who is the Word).

Thus, Satan's attack often begins with keeping a person away from Bible reading and study.

Satan is an expert at making a person believe that the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of all sorts of things, and the pleasures of this life should all come before Bible study. Many find lots of time for their hand-held devices, but little time for the Bible that sadly collects dust. As has been said, many begin the race that a person needs to run in following Jesus, but only a very few finish that race and will hear the words: WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

The next part of the verse is: **FOR I AM MEEK.**

Jesus is describing Himself. In describing Himself, He is also telling each person that follows Him to become the same way. For the Scriptures tell us that we are to be transformed to the image of Christ. We are not to be conformed to this world-ref Ro 12:2.

What does it mean to be **mEEK** in heart? Meek can mean gentle, submissive, yielding, obedient, compliant, tame, and also humble, teachable, patient, kind, and long-suffering. Blessed are the meek.

Next are the words: **AND LOWLY IN HEART.**

Lowly can mean low in status, or importance, or position. It can mean humble, born low, low ranking, softly, or modest, and inferior.

This may be understood through these verses: Phil 3:7,8-He made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant and made in the likeness of men...He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The last part of the verse is: **AND YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS.**

Come to Jesus.

Come to His Word.

If the Word of God is not the center of your life,

how can you say you have come to Jesus? Satan deceives the whole world. People that think they are saved, but the Bible is not the essence and center of their life, have deceived themselves greatly.

The Word of God can give you rest for your soul.

The more faith you have, the more rest you should have.

However, faith is not automatic. Faith cometh only by hearing, and hearing by THE WORD OF GOD, that is, the Bible.

THE WORD IS JESUS. JESUS IS THE WORD.

Pick up your Bible, and study it daily. Study it, as if you would perish if you do not do this. And then do what the Bible tells you to do. Obey the Bible.

Do this, and you shall find rest for your soul.

Jere 6:16 says: Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.

As it is written in v.28: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

As has been said in **Mt 11:29**, Take my yoke upon you, and learn of (or from) me; for I am meek (or gentle) and lowly (or humble) in heart: and ye shall find rest unto (or for) your souls.

Mt 11:30. Jesus concludes this exhortation with these words—**My yoke is easy.**

The yoke and the burden of obeying the various rules of Judaism was heavy.

Mt 11:30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden (or load) is light.

However, the yoke and load of following Jesus is light.

Jesus asks those that come to Him, to follow and obey Him.

Following Jesus begins with learning His Word.

When a person receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they are to take upon themselves the yoke of Jesus. He has a path or road for each Christian to follow.

That path begins with consuming the Word of God, which is the Bible. A person is not following Jesus apart from the Word. He is following the deceiver, which is Satan.

Any person that thinks they are following Jesus, but does not devour His Word when they are able to, is lying to themselves.

Not to love God's Word is not to love Jesus.
Loving God's Word is loving Jesus.

Salvation is through faith. Faith comes only through God's Word. As it is written: FAITH COMETH BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD-Ro 10:17. Without faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God-Heb 11:6.

In following Jesus, many will suffer in various ways. Many have been tortured and killed, as they follow Jesus and do the works He has called them to do. Many have been falsely accused. Some have been put in jail and been forgotten.

Reportedly, eleven of the twelve apostles died a violent death. Jesus Himself was crucified and marred worse than any man.

Yet, **the yoke of Jesus is easy**, and His burden is light.

This is because Jesus is with those that follow Him every step of the way.

He is the Christian's comfort. For those that devour God's Word as they ought, their faith and trust in Jesus should strengthen them through every trial and tribulation they face, even death.

Regretfully, few devour God's Word as they ought. They allow the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, the lusts of all sorts of things, and the pleasures of this life to enter into their life. Their eyes get off Jesus, and they look at other things.

This is not the age of devouring God's Word.

This is not the age of strong faith.

This is not the age of preachers being an example of Christ.

This is not the age of fearing God.

This is not the age of surrendering all for Christ.

This is the age of lukewarm teaching.

This is the age of lots of worldly storytelling and a verse of Scripture mixed in here and there.

God's yoke is easy.

Then the verse concludes with **My burden is light.**

The word "**burden**" can mean several things. This includes a load, a weight, a difficulty. It can include an obligation. The difficulty (or load, or burden) in following Jesus often comes from a person's own self-will and self-centeredness. It can come from allowing the cares of the world to hinder and distract them.

They may not have truly repented.

They may resist being baptized by full immersion, as commanded by the Bible.

They may not trust in Jesus as they ought.

They may not obey the Bible, and may be ignorant of this, as they spend little time reading it.

They may not devour God's Word and esteem it as more necessary than their daily food.

Faith and trust makes a **burden** much lighter.

The **burden** associated with following Jesus is much lighter, for those that keep their eyes fixed on Jesus (Who is the Word). But once a person begins looking at the world's comforts and pleasures, and gets their mind off the words of Jesus, the difficulty in following Christ increases.

Jesus is there to help a person with their **burden**, whose mind is stayed on Him. It is written: Isa 26:3-Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

A DOUBLE MINDED PERSON IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS-Ja 1:8.

It is not a heavy **burden** for those that have repented and have their heart and mind set on His Word.

Do not be as one that deceives himself. Do not be like the following:

Jere 6:16-Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and **ask for the old paths**, where is the good way, and walk therein, and **ye shall find rest for your souls**. But **they said, We will not walk therein**.

Jere 6:17-Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. **But they said, We will not hearken**.

As it is written: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.



rest unto your souls.

As has been said in **Mt 11:30**, For my yoke is easy, and my burden (or load) is light.

[Click here for Mt. Chapter 12](#)

