

## Which is the True Christian Denomination?

Every Christian denomination claims to be the true Christian denomination. But which one really is the true one? That question can very easily be answered with the Bible.

It's not about which denomination has all the accurate Bible teachings because none do, as Paul points out in the following verse.

**(1 Corinthians 13:12)** For now we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be **face-to-face**. At present I know partially, but **then** I will **know accurately**, just as I am accurately known.

Only when we come "*face-to-face*" with Christ in the future will humanity "*know accurately*". Besides, nowhere in the Bible is accurate knowledge said to be a requirement for survival. Strived for, yes, but not required. (Php 1:9; Col 1:8-9)

So which Christian denomination should we follow today? The Bible answers that question with these few simple verses:

**(Isaiah 2:22)** For your own sakes, quit trusting in mere man, Who is only the breath in his nostrils. Why should he be taken into account?

**(Psalm 146:3)** Do not put your trust in princes Nor in a son of man, who cannot bring salvation.

**(Jeremiah 17:5)** This is what Jehovah says: "Cursed is the man who puts his trust in mere humans,

**(Matthew 23:10)** Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ.

**(John 14:6)** Jesus said to him: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**(1 Timothy 2:5)** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,

So which Christian denomination is the right one? **None** of them are. Proof is that all of them have human spiritual leaders in stark contradiction to the Bible's commands that Christ should be your one and only spiritual leader. (Mt 23:10)

In Jesus' day there were also men who inserted themselves between God and men.

**(Matthew 23:2)** The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the seat of Moses.

Moses was the spokesman for God. The scribes and the Pharisees seated themselves in his seat by claiming to be God's spokesman, the God-ordained interpreters of God's written word. There are many today who do the same thing. For Christians today the equivalent of taking the seat of Moses is taking the seat of Christ. But that position belongs exclusively to one person:

**(1 Timothy 2:5)** For there is... one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,

Jesus himself said:

**(John 14:6)** I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Do you understand what that verse is saying? If you try to 'come to the Father' by following anyone else, you will not get there. He is "the way".

Isaiah 2:22 Says "*quit trusting in mere man*". It doesn't say to quit trusting in wicked men, or bad men, or untrustworthy men. It says to quit trusting in "*man*", meaning any man.

Psalms 146:4 says the same thing: "*Do not*" trust men. Or as other Bibles put it: *children of men, mortal man, human beings, anyone*. Even if the men have the best of intentions, following and believing what other men say has brought nothing but harm. (Jer 17:5; Mic 7:5)

So heed Jesus' words at John 14:6. Anyone who claims that they can bring you to the Father is taking the seat of Christ and is a false Christ. Jesus gave many warnings about such men:

**(Matthew 24:4, 5)** In answer Jesus said to them: "Look out that nobody misleads you, <sup>5</sup>for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

**(Matthew 7:15)** "Be on the watch for the false prophets who come to you in sheep's covering, but inside they are ravenous wolves.

**(Matthew 24:23, 24)** "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look! Here is the Christ,' or, 'There!' do not believe it. <sup>24</sup>For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones.

**(Mark 13:6)** Many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am he,' and will mislead many.

**(Mark 13:21, 22)** "Then, too, if anyone says to you, 'See! Here is the Christ,' or, 'See! There he is,' do not believe it. <sup>22</sup>For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the chosen ones.

**(Luke 17:23)** And people will say to you, 'See there!' or, 'See here!' Do not go out or chase after them.

**(Luke 21:8)** He said: "Look out that you are not misled, for many will come on the basis of my name, saying, 'I am he,' and, 'The due time is near.' Do not go after them.

Are there men running around claiming to be Christ today? No, there aren't. Then how are those verses being fulfilled?

Those verses are being fulfilled, not by men who are claiming to be Christ, but by men who are claiming the position of Christ, just as the scribes and the Pharisees claimed the position of Moses. (Mt 23:2). What is the position of Christ? "*Leader*" and "*Mediator between God and men.*" (Mt 23:10; 1Ti 2:5)

And how do they "*come on the basis of (his) name*"? By claiming to be his representative. By claiming to be the only channel to gain his approval and have the proper interpretation of his word. By claiming to be his earthly organization.

So those verses are referring to **those who say** "*There he is*", or in their case: *Here he is. He is with us and only us. **They** are the "false Christs"*.

Only those who are new to the teachings of Christ need a teacher. (see my article "Feed My Lambs") But how does a mature Christian learn more about God and Christ if you don't attend one of the many Christian denominations? Answer: By opening that book in your hand (the Bible) and reading it.

You *can* read, can't you? Bibles in paper-back or digital format are readily available for free. You can even get the Bible in audio, so there is no good excuse.

As a Christian i recommend starting your in-depth study with the "New Testament", which has Christ's teachings, and then move on to the "Old Testament".

The first Christians didn't have the New Testament to read so they had to rely on the apostles to inform them of Christ's message. But we have their words and Christ's written down for us in the Bible. Many today try and position themselves above you as if they had special information that you don't, like the apostles had, but since we all have the same source for information we are all on equal footing:

**(Matthew 23:8)** But you, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your Teacher, and all of you are brothers.

**(2 Corinthians 1:24)** Not that we are the masters over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy, for it is by your faith that you are standing.

Paul warned us that men would rise up among the Christian fold:

**(Acts 20:29-30)** I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness,<sup>30</sup> and from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves.

The Greek word (barus) translated as "oppressive" refers to "heavy, weighty, burdensome".

In the wild "wolves" prey on sheep, and when they attack, the flock scatters.

So those men are "oppressive wolves" because they prey on Christ's sheep by drawing them away with false doctrines to get Christ's sheep to follow them. Then they weigh them down with man-made rules and the burden of financially supporting them in their leadership roles.

Jesus said "You received free, give free" (Mt 10:8) but those men have made a career out of being religious leaders. They are the "hired man" that Jesus spoke about at John 10:12. Their food, clothing, car, home, all their expenses, are paid for by fleecing Christ's sheep. In contrast Paul earned money by being a tentmaker. (Ac 18:3) He paid his own way. (Ac 20:34)

Human spiritual leaders twist scripture and introduce their own false doctrines in an attempt to force Christ's sheep to follow them which divides and scatters Christ's sheep, just as happens when wolves attack. If they did not do that then once "lambs" become mature sheep they would only have Christ Jesus between themselves and Jehovah God. (Mt 23:10; 1Ti 2:5) They would feed on the word of God directly without any human interference. There would not be all of the Christian denominations in the world. There would just be "Christians". We would all be brothers and sisters in the faith.

But it happened just as Paul said it would. (Ac 20:29-30) The greed of man and his lust for power caused many to rise up, twist the true meaning of the scriptures, and "draw away the disciples after themselves", thus scattering Christ's sheep into the many different denominations (flocks) that we have today in Christ's fold of Christianity. (Jn 10:1-15)

Have you allowed men to come between yourself and God? If so, what are you going to do? Will you continue being under the leadership, or as Jesus called it, under the "yoke", of a human spiritual leader?

**(Matthew 11:28-30)** Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you.<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am mild-tempered and lowly in heart, and you will find refreshment for yourselves.<sup>30</sup> For my yoke is kindly, and my load is light."

Christ's yoke truly is "light" (minimal). Here are the basic requirements of his yoke for life:

**(Mark 10:17-19)** As he was going on his way, a man ran up and fell on his knees before him and put the question to him: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?"<sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him: "Why do you call me good? Nobody is good except one, God.<sup>19</sup> You know the

commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and your mother.'"

**(Acts 16:30, 31)** He brought them outside and said: "Sirs, *what must I do to get saved?*" <sup>31</sup> They said: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will get saved, you and your household."

Of course, your heart condition will also motivate you to act as a Christian, which is what we will all be judged on. (See my article "Who will survive Armageddon?")

Now i ask you: Why do you hold on so tightly to the yoke of those men you follow when you could swap it for Christ's yoke which is refreshing, kindly, and light? (Mt 11:28-30)

God installed only one mediator between mankind and Himself; Christ Jesus. (1Ti 2:5) So when men try and convince you to join their denomination and be their follower, will you answer as Peter and the other apostles did:

**(Acts 5:29)** In answer Peter and the other apostles said: "We must obey God as ruler rather than men."

I recommend reading the following articles, found at the link below:

- Are You Worshiping Jehovah Acceptably? - Expanded
- A Lesson Hard Learned
- Do Not
- Take the Cramped Road

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