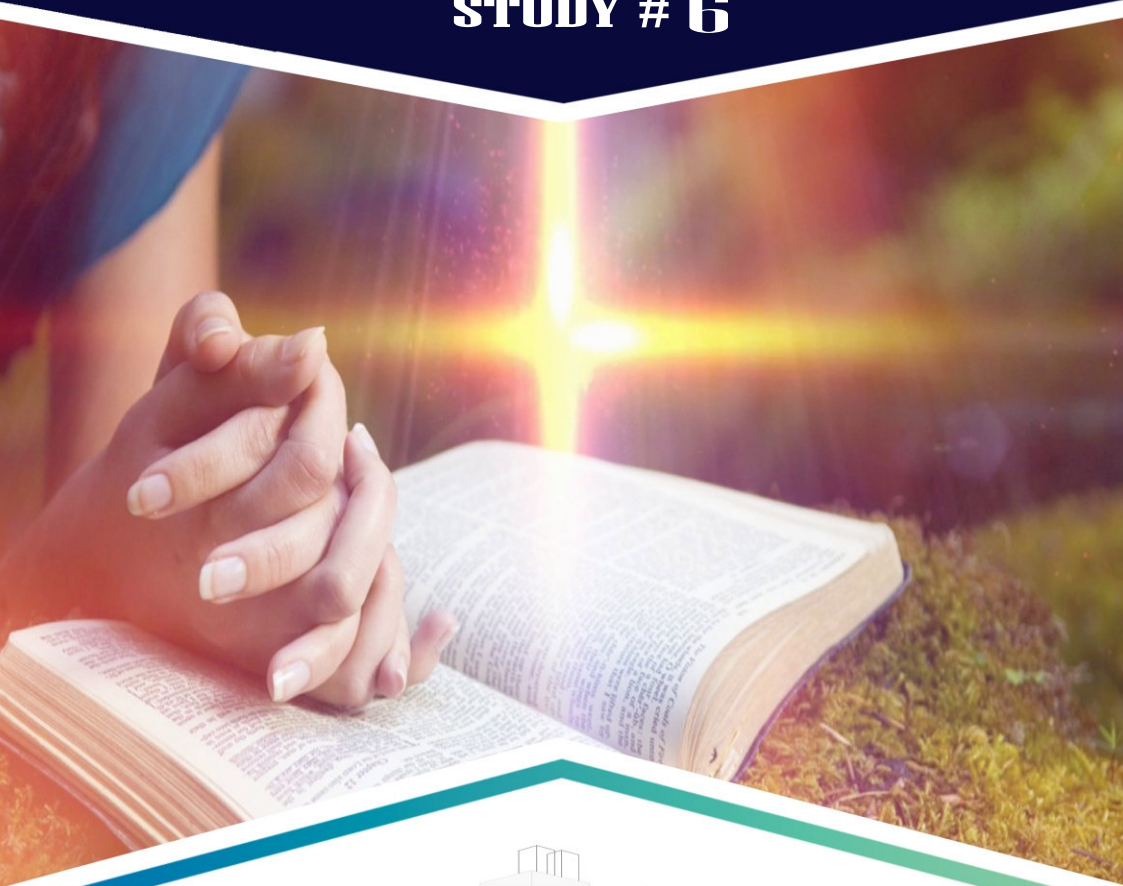


FAITH

STUDY # 6



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

"Thy word is truth" ...John 17:17



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY : # 6

FAITH

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we shall study about **FAITH**.

Faith is something that everybody **EXERCISES** everyday in some form or the other—

➡ One has **FAITH** that the sun will rise the following morning !

➡ One also has **FAITH** that **AFTER** working for a month one will receive the **WAGES** or salary.

➡ One also has **FAITH** that the money that is **DEPOSITED IN THE BANK** is safe. Then

there is the **FAITH** that is of a **RELIGIOUS** kind and it is very varied—

2



A **HINDU** has **FAITH** in the various idols, pujas, and rituals that are performed.

It is also believed that the **COW** is a sacred animal and thus its urine is considered to be sacred.

IT IS HIS FAITH !



A **MUSLIM** has his **FAITH**. He believes that a protection from evil spirits is gained by bathing in bath water mixed with a certain **SWEET SMELLING INCENSE POWDER**.



IT IS HIS FAITH !



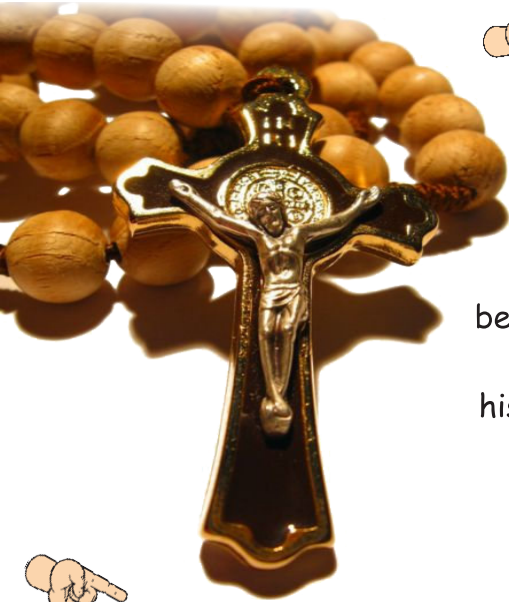
A **BUDDHIST** has his great faith in rebirth and reincarnation and a cycle of births aimed for attaining **NIRVANA** of the soul. (An escape from further rebirth)



IT IS HIS FAITH !



3



A **ROMAN CATHOLIC** will visit "Vellankani" church in **South India** and worship and pray to Mother Mary there and buy scapulars, rosaries, holy water, etc...

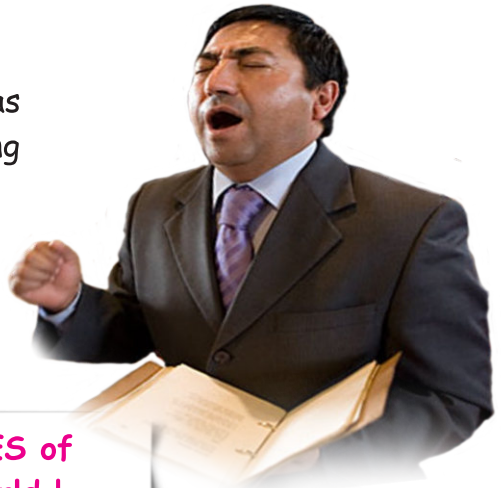
believing that by using these he will be protected and assured of his prayers and the solutions to his problems.

IT IS THEIR FAITH ! 



A **PENTECOSTAL** Christian has a belief in mass tongue speaking and miracles and pays special attention to glorifying the Holy Spirit.

 **THIS IS THEIR FAITH !**



So these are various **EXAMPLES** of **FAITH** as we see it in the world !

Now we come to the question—



WHAT IS EXACTLY MEANT BY FAITH ?

How **CAN** we **DEFINE** it ?



Let us look for the answer in the Bible as we read from—

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the SUBSTANCE of things hoped for,
the EVIDENCE of things NOT SEEN.”

Yes ! Faith is a strong belief or conviction about things unseen.

Example: God and.....His existence

This **FAITH** can be said to be divided into **THREE** kinds—

1. SAVING FAITH

This is the faith of a **SALVATION** from the present conditions of suffering and death. All religions have a plan of salvation.

In the Bible — **John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2. DAY TO DAY FAITH

This is the faith exercised for **DAILY** providence, protection and guidance.

In the Bible — **Matthew 6:11**

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

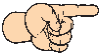
3. DOCTRINAL FAITH

This is the faith that is **BASED** on teachings or

5

DOCTRINES and vary among various religions and even among the many and various Christian denominations.

These THREE kinds of faith are exercised by ALL people in some way or other EVERYDAY.



This now brings us to **ANOTHER** and.....**VERY DIFFERENT FAITH !**

This is mentioned in the Bible !

Let us see this faith as we now read from —

Jude : 20

“.....building up yourselves on your MOST HOLY FAITH, praying.....”

Yes ! It is called- **“THE MOST HOLY FAITH” !**

Have you ever heard about this faith before ?



What is this **“Most Holy Faith” ?**

What does the **“building up”** mean ?

Let us see as we read of this **“faith”** again in—

Jude : 3

“...exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS.”

Yes ! This **MOST HOLY FAITH** was

“once delivered unto the saints” by Jesus Christ —God's Son,



To better understand this **“FAITH”** and what **“the Son”** brought with Him

let us now turn to -

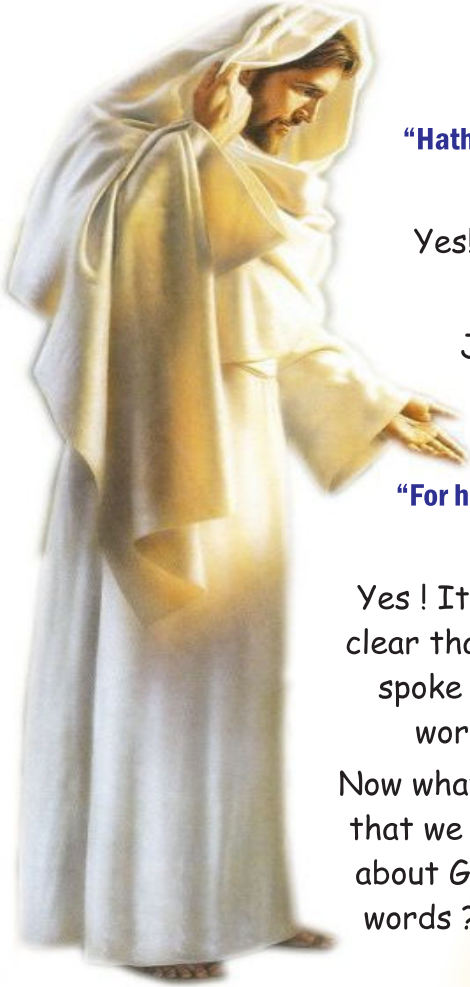
John 1:17

“For the law was given by Moses, but GRACE and TRUTH came by Jesus Christ.”

6

Yes! Here this Most Holy Faith is being referred to as —
“**grace and truth**”

What was this “**grace and truth**” that came by Jesus ?



We find that answer in-

Hebrews 1:2

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son,...”

Yes! This “**grace and truth**” are.....
GOD'S WORDS !!

Jesus **SPOKE** God's Words as we
read very clearly in.....

John 3 :34

**“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words
of God:....”**

Yes ! It is very
clear that Jesus
spoke God's
words !

Now what is it
that we read
about God's
words ?.....

We read of the matter in -

John 17 :17

“...thy word is truth.”

Yes ! God's words
are.....**TRUTH** and these words



of **TRUTH** were spoken by Jesus to his disciples and upon these words of **TRUTH** was built up a **FAITH** called



.....**THE MOST HOLY FAITH.**

THUS THE "MOST HOLY FAITH" IS THE FAITH BASED UPON GOD'S WORDS OF TRUTH- WHICH IS ALL RECORDED IN THE BIBLE.



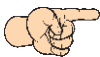
How many in this world are **SEARCHING** for **TRUTH** ? !



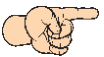
All around us we see various **CLAIMS** to being the truth.



But we hear these quiet words of His Word simply saying, it.....- "**is truth**".



DO YOU BELIEVE IT ?



Do you believe the Bible **TO.....BE THE TRUTH** ?

Today many have no **FULL FAITH** or belief in the Bible.

We see that, Christians in great **MAJORITY** have no idea even of the **BOOKS** of the Bible, leave alone the

understanding of it !

(Take for example some books like **Esther / Ezra / Titus, etc.** Many are unaware of these names being books of the Bible and have no idea whether they are in the **OLD TESTAMENT** or in the **NEW TESTAMENT** !!!)





For those of us who **FIRMLY BELIEVE** God's Word **IS** the Bible let us see how God revealed these words of **HIS** as we read from —

Hebrews 1:1,2

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,...”

**YES ! THIS IS THE WAY GOD
REVEALED.....HIS WORDS**

Here, this scripture as we see it **SYMBOLICALLY REPRESENTED** means —

- “times past”**  This is a reference to the **Old Testament** period
- “sundry times”**  This means over a period of **1600 YEARS** for the **Old Testament**
- “divers manners”**  A reference to prophecies, symbols and types and.....through the mouths of **angels and prophets.**
- “these last days”**  This is a reference to the **New Testament** over a period of **100 years** in the “**last days**” of the Jewish Age.

“by His Son”



These refer to the words of Jesus which would be revealed to and.....be recorded by the Twelve apostles.

God's Words are thus **DIVIDED** into **TWO** sections—



Thus in these 66 Books of God's Words is revealed...
"THE TRUTH".

These 66 Books are the **COMPLETE** revelation from God.
It begins at **GENESIS** and ends at **REVELATION**.

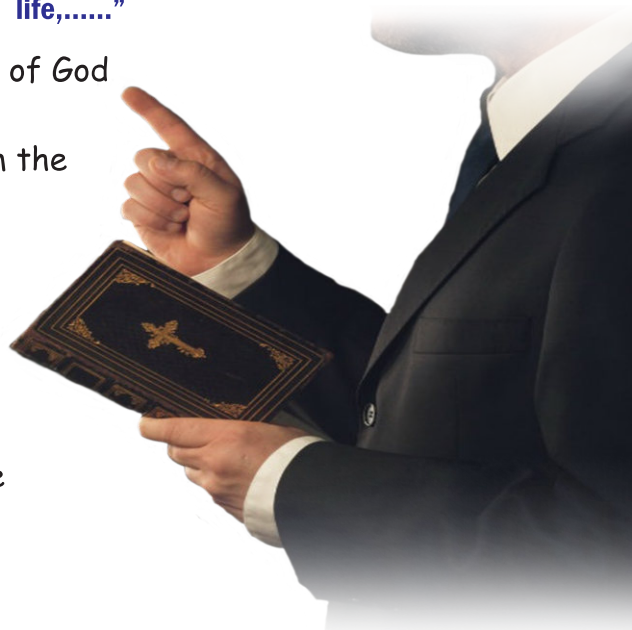
And this is further confirmed in-
Revelation 22:18,19

“....If any man shall add unto these things,..... take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life,.....”

This was a clear command of God cautioning not to **ADD** or **REMOVE** from the Word of God.

There are no more extra books in the Bible as some **Christians** seem to claim !

Then we read again of the same in-



Deuteronomy 12:32

“...thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it...”

Ah, Yes! Another clear command regarding God's words and of **NOT** “adding” and “removing” from it.

And again we read of the same matter in-

Proverbs 30:6

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Here is another **STRONG WARNING** from God to those who **DO ADD** to His words.

It seems **VERY CLEAR** that God is very strict about not adding or taking from His words and of maintaining the **ACCURACY** and **PURITY** of His Word.

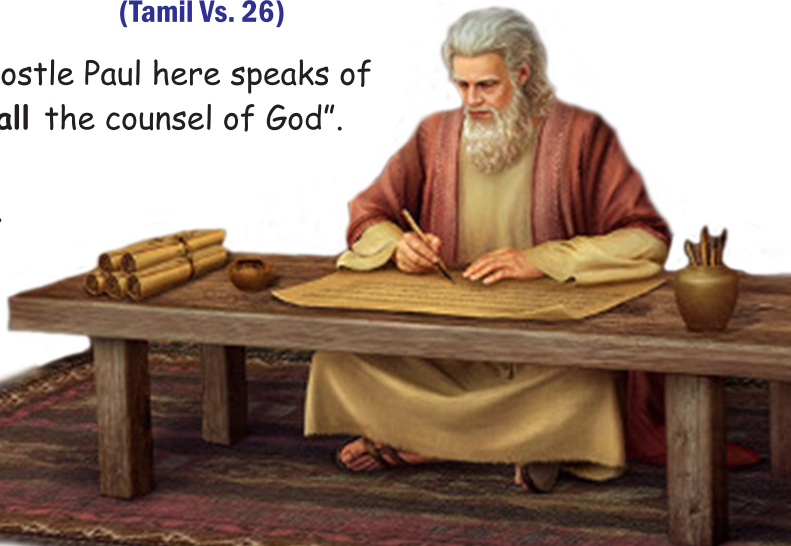
Thus of **THE APOSTLE PAUL** we read in-

Acts 20:27

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”
(Tamil Vs. 26)

Thus the Apostle Paul here speaks of speaking “all the counsel of God”.

Yes! God's words are **NOT** to be spoken **SELECTIVELY**



and care taken to please men



but.....rather **CARE** must be taken to please God !

So, seeing these **STRICT** commands from God, the question we ask is—

**IS THE BIBLE WE HAVE TODAY DEVOID OF
“adding and taking away” ?**

The **ANSWER** to this question is a **SHOCKING —NO !!**

There are **TWO PASSAGES** of the scripture which are today proven to be **SPURIOUS** by the **NIV** translation.

The printed Bible that we have today has been translated from what are called “**manuscripts**”



What are “manuscripts” ?

Before printing was invented the Bible was **HANDWRITTEN** upon skins of goats and cows.



These were called scrolls and the regular usage of these **SCROLLS** caused the handwritten matter to fade after 50-60 years.

Thus there was a need to **REWRITE** the whole Bible on another skin or scroll.

**WHAT A LABOUR !
JUST IMAGINE !**



Thus over a period of 1400 years the Bible was written and rewritten many times.

These handwritten copies are called "manuscripts" and are called **MSS** in short.

Example: *Syriac MSS, Vatican MSS etc.*

Now the authorised **KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)**

of today which was printed in 1611 was translated from a manuscript of the 16th century (about 100 years before).



THE QUMRAN CAVES NEAR THE DEAD SEA



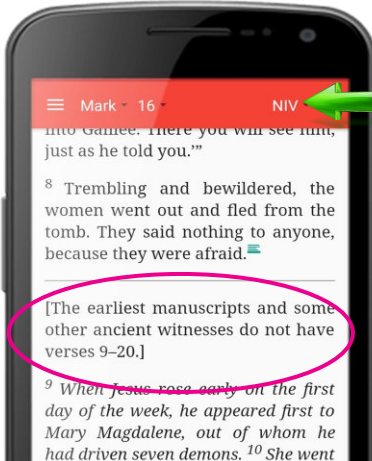
Then in the 1940's near the Dead Sea—in the **QUMRAN CAVES** which are full of salt was found manuscript scrolls dating to the second or third century.

It was wonderfully preserved in the salt for more than 1500 years !!



From these scrolls was made the translation called— **THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)** and through it was discovered the many verses and scriptures that had been added to the Bible later— the **INTERPOLATIONS !**

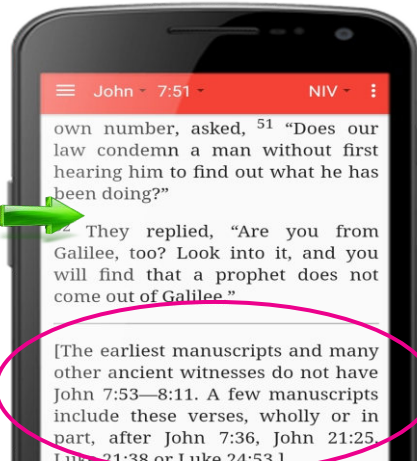
The **TWO** largest scripture passages that are spurious AND ADDED are—



1. Mark 16:9-20

and

2. John 7:53-8:11



THE NIV BIBLE FOOTNOTES ABOVE THESE PASSAGES
TESTIFY TO THESE FACTS.

DID YOU SEE THAT ??

IS THIS VERY SURPRISING TO YOU ?

Ah! That's why one must be very careful in studying God's
Word by COMPARING TRANSLATIONS in various
languages.

The two very necessary Bible translations required for
serious Bible study are—



1. The **KING JAMES VERSION (KJV.)**
(The **OLDEST** translation)



2. The **NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV.)**
(The **LATEST** translation)

An accurate understanding of God's Words are very
important
because the "faith" that is **BASED** on the revealed and
written words of God is—

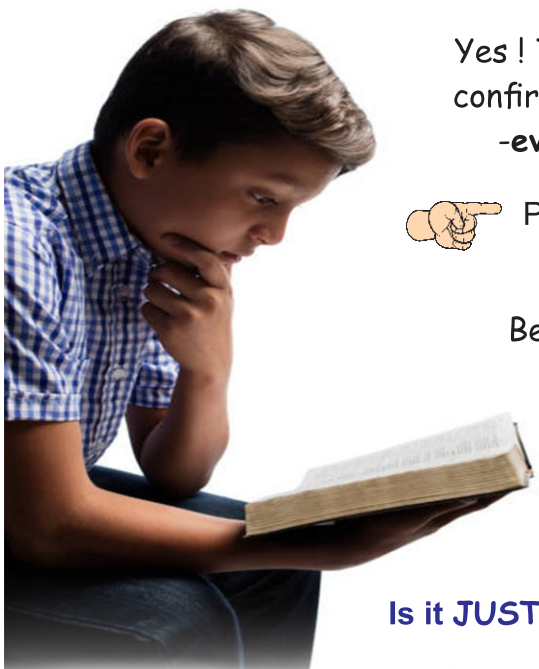
THE MOST HOLY FAITH

In the early church it was very important to them that
WHAT THEY BELIEVED.....be found written in the
scriptures

That is why in Berea - and about the Bereans we read in -

Acts 17:11

**"in that they received the word with all readiness of mind,
and searched the scriptures DAILY, whether those things were so.**



Yes ! The Bereans would search and confirm every scripture they heard, -even....of the Apostle Paul !



Paul called them “more noble” !!

We too must be like those Bereans if we would also have the **MOST HOLY FAITH** and be pleasing to God.



What kind of **FAITH** do we have ?

Is it **JUST** faith, or is it.... - “the Most Holy Faith” ?



IS THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION REALLY IMPORTANT ?

YES ! IT IS ! ...because we read of God's words—



“...thy word is truth”

And faith which is **NOT** based on God's words is—.....**UNTRUTH !!**
or **NOT** of God and referred to in the Bible as—

1 Timothy 4:1

“some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”

Yes ! Thus **FAITH** which is **NOT** based on the Bible words is of the devil of whom we read in —

John 8:44

“.....abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar and the father of it.”

So it is **VERY** important to examine what our beliefs are ?



Do we have the “Most Holy Faith” or is it merely “faith” ?

What do we BELIEVE ABOUT.....



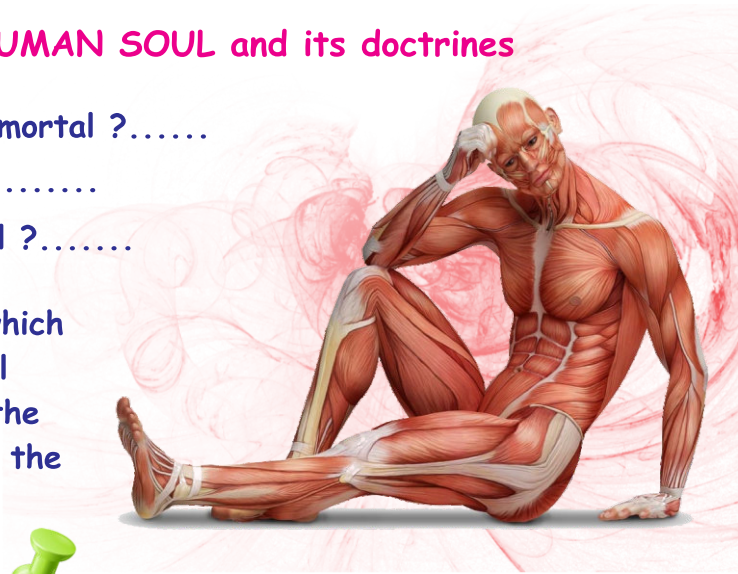
1.THE HUMAN SOUL and its doctrines

Is the soul immortal ?.....

Can it die ?.....

What is the soul ?.....

Is the teaching which is taught in all religions about the soul also found in the Bible ?



2.THE TRINITY

and its “mystery” of **THREE GOD's** being **ONE**.....

How is it understood ?

Is God a “Divine Mystery” ?.....

Can one never understand about God ?





3. What is HELL ?

Is Yamaloka of the Hindus and the Bible Hell the same ?

Can you die in Hell ?.....

What is the truth about Hell ?

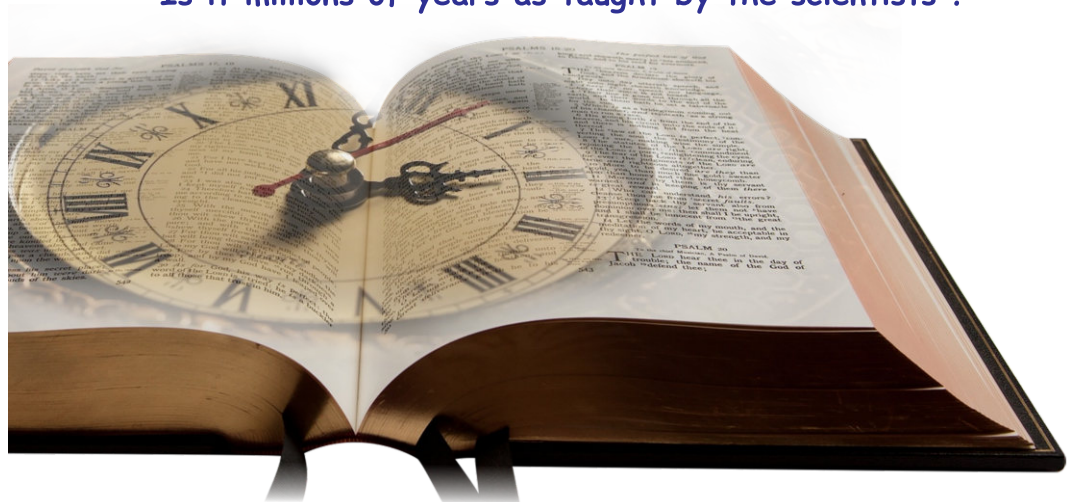


4. BIBLE CHRONOLOGY

and the study of time from Adam's creation till date.

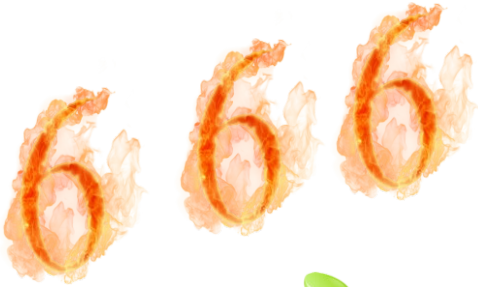
How many years has man been on earth ?

Is it millions of years as taught by the scientists ?





5. THE ANTICHRIST and 666



Who is this Antichrist ?.....

Is he one single
INDIVIDUAL person ?



6. THE ADVERSARY SATAN

Is he ugly ?.....

Is he immortal ?.....

Can he die ?.....

What about his power ?



7. THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD

Will anybody ever know when the Lord will
come ?



8. THE CHURCH....

...and its many denominations.

How come ?

Are all together the Church of Jesus
Christ ?

Why is there no unity as we see in—

Ephesians 4:3-6 — “one body”, one baptism,
“one hope of your calling” ?



9. What is **THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

and its meaning ? Is it real ?

Will it be established
on the earth ?

Or is it **ONLY**
in Heaven ?



.....and so many, many more !!



Are our **BELIEFS** about **ALL** these doctrines based
on God's Word ?

If you say - “Yes”..... Are you sure ?.....**WE MUST BE
VERY SURE !**

**IS OUR FAITH JUST FAITH.....OR IS IT.....“THE
MOST HOLY FAITH” ??**

**(WE WILL BE EXAMINING THE TRUTH ABOUT ALL
THESE DOCTRINES IN THE COMING CLASSES)**

Now let us read more about that
“The Most Holy Faith” again in -

Jude :20

“.....building up yourselves on your Most Holy Faith...”

20

This refers to **THE GRADUAL AND.....STEADY** growth in the **KNOWLEDGE** and Faith of God's Word— “...the truth”.

Yes ! **BIBLE STUDY** and the gaining of knowledge is **gradual and.....a continuous process**. This is the “**building yourselves upon**” !!

And there is a **PROMISE** too from the Lord which we read in -

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth (the Word) and the truth (the Word) shall make you free.”

Yes ! The **TRUTH.....the WORD** - makes free from **errors, superstitions and false doctrines (philosophies)** that are everywhere and.....**seeking to deceive and trap people**.

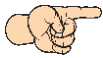
For we read about the Word of God and its knowledge and its blessings in-



2 Timothy 3:16,17

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Yes ! The Knowledge and study of the scriptures will be useful for-



“for doctrine”

All the **TRUTHS** about every teaching and on every subject as taught in the Bible.



“for reproof”

showing the **LIGHT** on **WRONG BELIEFS** and identifying **ERRORS** regarding teachings and doctrines.



“for correction”

the showing forth of the **TRUE TEACHINGS** and **DOCTRINES** according to the **TRUTH**.



“instructions in righteousness”

The perfect guide to the God approved **WAY OF LIFE** in all things of life and living.

**Having understood all these things we wonder-
WHY IS BIBLE KNOWLEDGE and the MOST
HOLY FAITH very weak among
.....MOST ALL Christians today ?**

We will find the answers in the next class when we study the **SECOND PART** of this study of Faith !

Finally, a QUESTION ? -

Which do you think is more important
BIBLE STUDY OR.....PRAYER ?

Let us see the answer in the Bible in -

Jude :20

**“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost.”**



DID YOU SEE THAT?

See ! The FIRST importance is given to GROWTH in Bible
knowledge through Bible STUDY
and.....THEN.....prayer.



Why THEN is that correct order of importance
REVERSED today ?

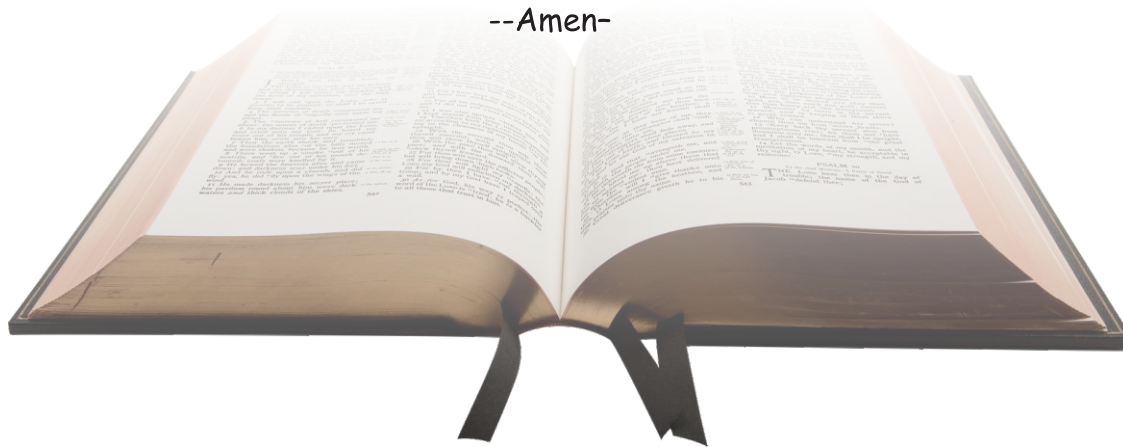


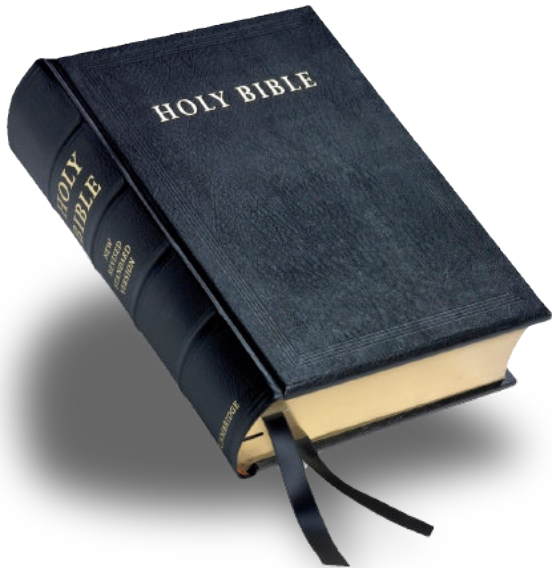
Why do Christians NOT give much importance to the
study of the Bible today ?

We will meet again in the next class

**TO HEAR THE ANSWERS.....AS WE WILL FIND IT
RECORDED IN THE BIBLE !**

--Amen--





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