



## Spot On #17

- ☞ Restoring the Hebraic understanding of God's Word.
- ☞ Reemphasizing obedience-based loving trust in our Lord Jesus.
- ☞ Reaffirming the way of our Lord that glorifies our heavenly Father.

*Figuratively*, the center of the bullseye is the point around which everything else revolves.

### Is Your Life Revolving Around A Minimized Understanding Of Jesus?

#### Introduction

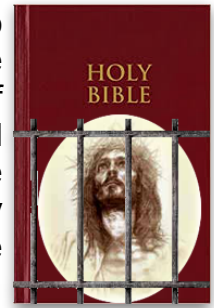
Have you ever considered that you may have been taught a minimal understanding of Who Jesus is? What we mean is that all that the Bible reveals concerning our Lord Jesus and His rule of His own through His ever-present indwelling Spirit may have been intentionally suppressed by those who instruct you in God's Word. For instance, anti-Semitic theology has minimized our Lord by obscuring His heritage as the Jewish Messiah and what this truth entails. Another example: Roman Catholics emphasize Jesus in perpetual weakness through imagery portraying Him as a dependent baby held in Mary's protecting arms. And many Protestants limit our Lord solely to His role of providing "fire insurance" so they can be "saved." So what's missing here? The ongoing role of the Lordship of Jesus as the personal Head of His own has been minimized or even eliminated in many parts of Christianity by the religious establishment.



Consider as well another societal-wide influence—**Humanism**—which has infiltrated much of Christianity and suppressed the central responsibility we have to Jesus as Lord. Please take this to heart. One of the benefits of education is that it's designed to help you gradually become prepared for an occupation that provides for you and perhaps even fulfills you. Yet public education in particular has become totally secular by design, and has been a bane which keeps many in Christianity from living the way of the Lord that Scripture commands. As we've noted previously, Humanism's domination of public education began with the signing of the Humanist Manifesto by the National Education Association in 1932. By placing "**humans at the center of all things, not our Lord**," many within Christianity have been brainwashed that the pursuit of personal happiness without moral boundaries is their chief goal in life — a goal they rationalize through misinterpreting God's grace. The self-obsessed and rebellious motives, goals and values that are at work all over this land are the bitter fruit of what Humanism has achieved through public education at all levels.

When you examine Christianity in this nation, you can readily observe that Humanist goals exert far more influence on people's lives than does any concept or practice of the Lordship of Jesus. Humanist life agendas occupy the center of many Christian goals and motivations, and will continue to do so until the indwelling Spirit of Christ rules those who claim to belong to Him as Lord of their lives. No wonder that Christianity is overflowing with people who are ignorant of or complacently passive about the biblical demand for the Lordship of Jesus in their lives and for doing their part in fulfilling our Father's will. The silence over giving way to man-pleasing Humanism among self-identifying Christians needs to stop! Only humble yieldedness to our Father's purposes for their lives will open people's hearts to understand and put into action the fullness of having the ever-present Spirit of our Lord Jesus within them.

Within the religious establishment, anti-Semitic teachers confine Jesus to His role as a historical personage whose “story” lies within the pages of the Bible, especially the Newer Testament. You can recognize that the Lordship of Jesus is being minimized when pulpiteers can’t recount any current personal experiences of the miraculous going on around them, or any divine interventions which only our Lord could bring about. If religious leaders truly lived in the fullness of the Headship of Jesus, those they taught would take Jesus at His Word and live likewise:



"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who trusts in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12).

"[Jesus] said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever trusts and is immersed will be saved; whoever does not trust will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who trust: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well'" (Mark 16:15-18).

### ***"In this world we are like Jesus"***

In order for you to experience the fullness of our Lord Jesus in your life, you must trust His promises. But if you've spent years within the religious establishment, you'll need to experience deprogramming and reprogramming by the Holy Spirit to internalize the fullness of our Lord Jesus in your own life. Isn't this what the Bible confirms as a key aspect of your sanctification into Christ-likeness?

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2Corinthians 3:18).

"This is how love [of Jesus] is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus" (1John 4:17).

Our personal insight: Having shared and lived by the Hebraic foundations for almost 30 years, we view *the way of our Lord* as akin to the relationship our father Abraham had with God in his actions that came from his obedient trust. Our inner being identifies us as **"followers of our Lord Jesus"**. As with Abraham, this is an active identification that people can attest to about us: we trust and love and serve our Lord. Our lives revolve around relying on the ever-present, indwelling Spirit of our Lord Jesus Who promised that we would do greater things than He did.

It's important to note that the Hebraic foundations are not a myriad of rules you identify yourself by. Rather, the foundations start with the simplicity of Abraham's trust in God. Don't minimize the importance of Abraham's trusting obedience in your own way of life (see Genesis 18:19 for why Abraham was chosen by God). The Holy Spirit tells you, •"*Therefore, the promise comes by trust, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all"* (Romans 4:16). •"*So also Abraham, He trusted in God and*

was faithful to Him, and that was credited to his account as righteousness.' Understand, then, those who live by trusting and being faithful are really children of Abraham" (Galatians 3:6,7). •"Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that [Abraham's] faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" (James 2:21,22).

As it was with Abraham, *the way of the Lord* is seen in your **love-grounded, obedience-based trust** that's demonstrated by putting His commands into action and seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance. Your actions, prompted by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus and empowered by Him, reflect the authenticity of your true identity in heaven.

***"If anyone desires to do [My Father's] will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God..."*** (John 7:17).

There are many ways by which people identify themselves as "Christian" today: by the congregation they attend, by their denomination, by whether they think they are born again or not, or by their belief that they became a Christian when they were baptized as an infant. The very word "Christian" has many identifiers that have nothing at all to do with Christ. The Bible tell us that the disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch (Acts 11:26). We don't know if it was unbelievers or not who gave them this identifying name. But today it seems that the "Christian" label is like being called a Republican, Democrat or Independent.

No "Christian" who identifies themselves by the congregation they attend, or by their denomination, or by whether they think they're born again or not, or by believing they became a Christian when they were baptized as an infant can verify they are walking in the steps of Jesus as Lord until they seek to do their Father's will (Matthew 12:50). The true identity of someone who loves and follows Jesus as Lord of their life is one whose way of life is in step with His indwelling Spirit in fulfilling our Father's will. When a person lives in step with the Spirit of our Lord Jesus, they can readily distinguish truth from error as well as recognize the Spirit within others who love and follow Jesus as Lord.

Paul described himself and others who followed our Lord Jesus as **"the Way"** (Acts 24:14; see also 19:9,23; 24:22). It's vital that we who belong to and serve our Lord Jesus in love engrain into our hearts Paul's identification of "the Way" because it originates from our Lord Jesus' description of Himself:

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

The **way of the Lord** comes from the Hebrew word *halak*, which means *to walk* — in other words, the way you live. Our Lord Jesus' earliest followers were known as "the Way" because their way of life revealed Jesus to others. Their way of life both fulfilled their Father's will and applied His commands to their lives. In this light we want to present four attributes by which our Lord and the Way were interconnected and identified:

- 1. Life revolved personally around the Headship of Lord Jesus in bringing glory to their heavenly Father through doing His will.** (John 15:5-8; Ephesians 1:15-23)
- 2. Living repentantly by grace and helping others to live likewise in love produced communal righteousness within the relational connectedness of a home fellowship, ensuring that their Father would hear and answer their prayers.** (Psalms 34:14,15;

Ephesians 4:15,16)

3. **They diligently sought the Holy Spirit's *rhema* so that by the Spirit they could specifically carry out their Father's will and glorify Jesus.** (John 16:13; Romans 8:14)
4. **The aroma of Jesus was manifested among our Lord's first followers beginning with His love, forgiveness and compassion even for those who persecuted them.** (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 5:44)

How do these four attributes compare to your own spiritual life and how you walk our Lord's way? It's one thing if these aren't your attributes yet because the religious establishment you've been part of has kept these and the fullness of the indwelling Spirit of Jesus from you. It's an entirely different consequence if now that you do know them you do nothing about it. It's time for you to make each of these your way of life with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. •Don't ever be found denying Jesus by refusing His Lordship in any area of your life. •Don't ever be in a position in which you never sought and followed the *rhema* of the Spirit regarding where you live or where you work, for example •Realize that your sanctification into Christ-likeness will continue until your last breath. In this light, don't ever be self-satisfied in your walk with Christ, thinking "This is as far as I'm going, Lord, and no more!" We're warned, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" 1Corinthians 10:12).

You've been given the grace to love and obey Jesus as Lord of your life. He is assessing whether or not you keep in step with His Spirit as He guides and empowers you to fulfill His Father's will. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). Be sure you heed the warning that God's Word gives before you extend authentic fellowship to anyone who considers themselves a "Christian" no matter how they live: "Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9). It's the indwelling Holy Spirit Who enables you to walk in the four attributes we mentioned above. A lesser way of life may enable you to be a "good Christian" in the eyes of other people. But it's the "Audience of One" whom those who love and serve Jesus as Lord are eager to please.

Mike & Sue

**"...Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ" (Colossians 1:27b,28).**

It doesn't matter how much of the Bible you can recite that verifies whether you know the truth firsthand. Truth as our Lord wants you to live it only comes when you put God's commands into practice and actively do your Father's will. This is the litmus test: The truth of the Bible isn't truth for you until you do it! Those within Christianity who don't live this way are easily deluded into believing that the United States is a "Christian nation".

For over a half century Christianity's influence on society has been replaced by **Humanist values**. If your way of life is in step with the Holy Spirit, don't allow yourself to falsely believe that we are a "Christian" nation or that we can regain Christian influence through politics. Without **repentance** prevailing *within* Christianity itself, our nation will continue its perilous sinful slide. Even with repentance we need a redemptive view of those who peddle the lies of Humanism and live by them. Our Lord Jesus shed His blood as much for them as for us. And don't ever allow the **(un)righteous indignation** that's so popular among "Christian conservatives" today to sway you into the sin of despising another human being!

As research by Christian pollster George Barna and others has made abundantly clear for many years now, there is absolutely no moral difference between Christians and unbelievers in this nation. The institution of Christianity is just as unrighteous in goals and values as the unbelieving world around it. Barna noted in past years that well over 20 million people in this land are actively seeking the restoration of the early Church. We hope you are one of these.

- For further understanding into "being Jesus" in the world, read: ***TODAY! What Would Jesus Be Doing If He Were You?***, Insight 9.
- Also, for more insight on raising children during the Humanist domination of this nation, see: Teaching E-mail 43. (August 15, 2008) ***Are You A Revolutionary Parent?***