

## Counterfeiting Jesus - Tracy Z

Theological Conference 2023



### Counterfeiting Jesus

This may not be the most theologically deep presentation, but like Jesus' disciples, that's not me, and I am sure *that* is not every person seeking to know the one true God and His Human Messiah. I believe the Bible is simple when we don't let the church make it difficult by making people think that they need a PHD or the church or "church fathers" to help them understand the Bible.

**Before I begin, I want to be clear that by talking about a counterfeit Jesus or antichrists and false prophets, I am not saying anything with the intent to insult or demean. It is not said flippantly, but in all seriousness of Scripture.**

Before discussing *counterfeiting Jesus*, I want to address Israel. Israel knew the one true God; but as we see in Romans, Paul was very distraught that they stopped their ears up when God's Messiah, the one they had been waiting for, came on the scene. Because they rejected YHVH's Messiah, **Paul feared for their salvation**, even though they *knew* the One True God.

Israel had everything going for them and they were chosen by God. But as we see, that is not enough, and **it isn't enough to just understand and know the one true God in order to be saved**. They and we must know God's Messiah. Let me read a few words from Paul in Romans 9 and 10.

#### Romans 9:1-19

*I am telling the truth in Christ (I am not lying!),<sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.<sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed—cut off from Christ—for the sake of my people, my fellow countrymen,<sup>4</sup> who are Israelites. To them belong the adoption as sons, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the temple worship, and the promises.<sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and **from them, by human descent came the Christ...***

*For not all those who are descended from Israel are truly Israel,<sup>7</sup> nor are all the children Abraham's true descendants; rather "**through Isaac will your descendants be counted.**"<sup>8</sup> This means it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God; rather, the children of promise are counted as descendants.*

#### Romans 10:1-5,17-18

*Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of my fellow Israelites is for their salvation.<sup>2</sup> For I can testify that **they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not in line with the truth**.<sup>3</sup> For ignoring the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking instead to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to God's righteousness.<sup>4</sup> For **Christ is the end of the law**, with the result that there is righteousness for everyone who believes.*

Consequently, *faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the preached word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Yes, they have: Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.*<sup>19</sup> But again I ask, didn't Israel understand?



The Jews knew God, but they rejected God's Human Messiah. Many saw the man Jesus and acknowledged that he existed, some thought that he was a trouble maker, others accepted that he was a prophet, but most did not embrace him as God's chosen and sent Messiah.

Paul says he is concerned for his fellow Israelites salvation. Although they are zealous for the one true God, their faith is not in line with the truth. He says they are ignoring the righteousness that comes from God and they do not submit to His righteousness. Faith and understood truth go hand in hand. According to Paul, it is not enough to have faith with a partial truth.

Faith comes as a result of hearing what Jesus had to say, not by a feeling or some supernatural event. He then asks, "Didn't Israel understand?" Faith involves understanding what Jesus said and taught.

This is our first clue that truly *KNOWING* Messiah matters and it is not enough to just believe that God is one. The demons believe and shudder, but they will not be spared. We must know, understand, and choose to follow the human Messiah Jesus.

The question Paul posed in Romans 10:19 is the question we should ask of professing Christians and Muslims; *do they understand?* Do they understand and know who the biblical Jesus is.



There is a crime scene and we must be willing to cross the lines and investigate. Who really was and is Jesus if we confess that he was God's anointed?

Centuries ago, today, and at the end of this age, there were, are, and will be counterfeit Messiahs that we must be aware of so that we will not be deceived. **Jesus and the Apostles warned us that there would be antichrists and even false prophets in the church.** And, in the end, **THE** final Antichrist, the Man of Lawlessness, would come on the scene.

In **Matthew 24:5** Jesus warned us that from that time on *many will come in his name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will mislead many.*

So, who are some of these messiahs claiming to be Jesus? And remember, Jesus said they would come in his name and that they would mislead people, intentionally or not.

Some, like pagan religions, are just against God and His Messiah. They are simply false teachers. But others actually claim to represent Jesus and claim his name (whether Christian or Muslim). They may look good and sound good, just like a counterfeit bill does to some extent, but if they are not the real thing, they are counterfeit.

A counterfeit bill must resemble the real thing so much that it is hard to tell it apart from the real thing.

**The same is true for a counterfeit Jesus.**



So, what does it mean to counterfeit something, *or in this case, someone?*

**Counterfeit** means “made in imitation of something else with the intent to deceive, or a fake or a forgery”

From this definition we see that a counterfeit is an imitation made with the intent to deceive, or something that is a fake, or something that is just not the real thing.

Let’s also consider what the definition of fraud is. A fraud is a person or thing intended to deceive others, typically by unjustifiably claiming or being credited with accomplishments or qualities.

False Messiahs are unjustifiably credited with the qualities of God’s Messiah and their followers profess Jesus’ accomplishments as the accomplishments of their counterfeit messiah. We even see at the end of this evil age that *THE* Antichrist will be said to have died and then comes back to life.

**We have been warned that counterfeit Messiahs will come so we must be alert!** Even if the person believing or preaching the false messiah or prophet is just deceived themselves and is not intending to deceive others (because they do not know that they are deceived), **the one behind the teaching desires to deceive and has been deceiving since the Garden and we have been told that he is the *father of lies*.**

Let us consider a few false Christs or prophets. Please keep in mind the Jesus they believe in and not their professed religion’s title.



### **The Historical Jesus:**

Many Jews would accept this Jesus. Those believing in this Jesus acknowledge that the man Jesus existed in history, but that is it.

Those believing in this false Jesus may even believe that he was a prophet, but they still reject him as God's human Messiah who was miraculously created in the womb of Mary. They reject him as the Son of God and do not believe that he was resurrected and made immortal, now at the right hand of the Father.

They reject God's Messiah.



### **The Islamic Jesus:**

This Jesus is similar to the historical Jesus, but contrary, they *do believe* their Jesus was miraculously created and was born by a virgin. They accept him as great Prophet. Unfortunately, they do not believe that he was God's son, and most Muslims do not believe that he died, or was resurrected.

Therefore, this too is a counterfeit Jesus.



### **The Trinitarian or Binitarian Jesus:**

This Jesus goes overboard the other direction. This Jesus is said to be God, alongside of the Father, which really makes two Gods, or three if you include holy spirit.

Unlike the Jews Paul was concerned about, those believing in *this* Jesus do not understand the one true God of Israel who says, "I alone created the heavens and the earth," and "Have no other Gods before you," which would include the Son of God.

They do not understand that the biblical Jesus had a God and was not himself the only true God, YHVH.

The trinitarian and Binitarian Jesus are also counterfeit Jesus'.



### The preexistent Jesus:

This Jesus too tries to counterfeit the true Messiah. Trinitarians and others believe in this Jesus as well, and unfortunately, so do many biblical unitarians. To believe in such a Jesus one must ask, **who was he prior to being the human Messiah?**

This Jesus denies the *HUMAN* Messiah who is like his brothers in *EVERY* way.

**This false Messiah takes away the humanity of Jesus.** Humans do not exist before they exist in any way. Preexisting in any way other than simply in God's foreknowledge, would disqualify the person from being 100% human.

The preexistent Jesus is also a counterfeit Jesus.



**Discerning Christians must ask then, who is the biblical Jesus? Who did God anoint?**

There is a crime scene and the church doesn't want people crossing the yellow tape. Those wanting to follow the true Messiah must be good detectives and be willing to slip behind the line, at all costs.

**Who is God's anointed, God's Messiah?**



He is not simply a historical figure. He is not Allah's anointed. He is not trinitarian Messiah anointed by a trinity god.



He is not some preexistent spirit being, angel or god.



He is a human like his brothers and anointed by his God as we will see when we investigate this crime scene.



A false prophet or a false messiah (anti-Christ) are one in opposition to the real Christ. They are in opposition to Jesus, God's Messiah.

If we desire to follow Jesus we must investigate; we must be like the Bereans and test everything with Scripture.

False messiahs or antichrists are not anointed by God. Although, they are anointed with a false "anointing" by someone other than God (as *THE* Antichrist will be).

False prophets are those who falsely prophesy. They **speak and teach** things that go against what the true Messiah spoke and taught.

They may appear to be representing God's messiah or a prophet of God, but they are counterfeit. This has been happening since the time of Christ and will continue to up until *THE* Antichrist and *THE* False Prophet come on the scene.

**Most today are not false Messiahs. But they are false prophets representing a false or counterfeit messiah.**



**2 Thessalonians 2:9-14** describes Antichrist, the *lawless one*.

The arrival of the lawless one will be **by Satan's working** with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders,<sup>10</sup> and with every kind of evil deception directed against those who are perishing, because they found no place in their hearts for the truth so as to be saved.<sup>11</sup> **Consequently God sends on them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false.**<sup>12</sup> And so all of them who have not believed the truth but have delighted in evil will be condemned. But we ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning for **salvation through sanctification by the spirit and faith in the truth.**<sup>14</sup> He called you to this salvation through our gospel, so that you may possess the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This passage is not Calvinistic regarding "predestination." It is a person's CHOICE in accepting or rejecting truth that determines their salvation. If they reject truth and "find no place in their hearts and minds for truth," then they are deceived and God allows them to believe what is false. It is by their choices and actions.

In the same way, if a person seeks to understand truth and embraces it, they are one of those who are chosen. Anyone who believes is chosen because of their "faith in the truth." We are all called through hearing the Gospel, like the parable of the seed sown by the farmer. The determining factor is our soil, and that is up to us!

Deception is dangerous. It leads to condemnation and destruction. It is important to know what the Bible says and to test what you hear.

We must reject Satan's deception and his powerful lies today, and be prepared to do the same in the future. **We can only do this if we know what is written in Scripture and listen to the warnings.**



God's prophets receive a message from God Himself (in the past verbally, or through a vision or dream, or His words spoken in Scripture) and then they pass it on to God's people. God sends prophets to communicate to His people. They are an ambassador or spokesperson for God. They speak on His behalf.

*The Hebrew word for prophet means “to bubble forth” like a fountain, to utter, to speak, pour forth and announce something typically to God’s people.*

**2 Peter 1:19-21** tells us that a true prophecy from God, a prophetic message, is completely reliable and must be 100% true, or it is not from Him. Also, the prophecy’s origin is not from men or the speaker, but from God who moved in the prophet by His holy spirit. God Himself gave them what to say.

**A true prophet or preacher of God’s words must speak His truth. If they do not, then they are not speaking on His behalf, even if some of what they say is true.**



**The difference between God’s true prophet and a false prophet is the origin of the message.** A true prophet speaks God’s words whereas a false prophet speaks his own words or speaks a message he got from some source other than from God. In the past it was often through divination, fortune-telling, sorcery, or from false gods.

Today this still happens and there are many such false prophets around the world, and sadly, many also come from within the church and from the so-called “church fathers.” False prophets cannot be trusted and their message is corrupt and dishonest if it does not align with what God and Jesus spoke.

**Nehemiah 6:10-15** is an example of a false prophet trying to mislead a person of God. It sounds good, but if one does not know what God says, he is likely to be misled.

He said, “Let’s set up a time to meet in the house of God, within the temple. Let’s close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. It will surely be at night that they will come to kill you.”

<sup>11</sup> But I replied, “Should a man like me run away? Would someone like me flee to the temple in order to save his life? I will not go!” <sup>12</sup> I recognized the fact that God had not sent him, for he had spoken the prophecy against me as a hired agent of Tobiah and Sanballat. <sup>13</sup> He had been hired to scare me so that I would do this and thereby sin. They would thus bring reproach on me and I would be discredited.

**Deuteronomy 13:1-3** warns us how important it is to be loyal to God.

Suppose a prophet or one who foretells by dreams should appear among you and show you a sign or wonder, <sup>2</sup> and the sign or wonder should come to pass concerning what he said to you, namely, “Let us follow other gods”—gods whom you have not previously known—“and let us serve them.” <sup>3</sup> You must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer, for the LORD your God will be testing you to see if you love him with all your mind and being. (Jesus told us that if we love God, we would obey Him. God demands unwavering loyalty!) <sup>4</sup> You must follow the



LORD your God and revere only him; and you must observe (DO) his commandments, obey him, serve him, and remain loyal to him. <sup>5</sup> As for that prophet or dreamer, he must be executed because he encouraged rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt, redeeming you from that place of slavery, and because he has tried to entice you from the way the LORD your God has commanded you to go. In this way you must purge evil from among you.

<sup>6</sup> Suppose your own full brother, your son, your daughter, your beloved wife, or your closest friend should seduce you secretly and encourage you to go and serve other gods that neither you nor your ancestors have previously known, <sup>7</sup> the gods of the surrounding people (whether near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other). <sup>8</sup> You must not give in to him or even listen to him; do not feel sympathy for him or spare him or cover up for him. <sup>9</sup> Instead, you must kill him without fail! **(That is pretty serious!)**

In **Deuteronomy 18:9-20** God speaks harshly about false prophets and warns His people not to engage in or receive anything for these false speakers. In fact, He even says those false prophets should be put to death as the previous passage!

In **Jeremiah 14:14-16** God calls false prophets “evil doers” and says that what they speak are lies and false, delusions from their own minds.

God not only does not approve of false prophets, but He is against them and even that they should be stabbed by their own parents. (Jeremiah 23:30-32, Zechariah 13:3)

*(Please do not think that I am suggesting killing or stabbing false prophets, but in reading this we should see how serious God was and is!)*



False prophets were also a problem in the early church. In **2 Peter 2:1 & 13** Peter warned us of false teachers, who like false prophets, introduce destructive heresies, often secretly. He then reminds us that these evildoers will get paid back for the harm they do by God, not by us.

Paul also warns us about false teachers in **2 Corinthians 11:3-15** and how they lead sincere people away from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. Paul isn't talking about pew potatoes, he is talking about those who are pursuing a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

**How is this possible? It is possible when another Jesus is proclaimed. It is possible when a different spirit is received. It will happen when you accept a different Gospel other than the one Jesus proclaimed, the Gospel of the Kingdom.**

Paul says that those who proclaim a different Jesus, a different spirit, or a different Gospel are false and deceitful, “disguising themselves as an apostle of Christ,” which means they are a false prophet.

He reminds us that Satan too disguises himself as an angel of light and he implies that these people are his servants and they disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Again, perhaps some unknowingly.

We must remember that if false prophets and teachers are disguised as “angels of light” that means that their whole message is not deceitful, most of it probably sounds good or is in line with Scripture. **That is why it is so deceptive.**

Just as the serpent deceived Eve by his treachery, your minds may be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if someone comes and **proclaims another Jesus different from the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit** than the one you received, **or a different gospel** than the one you accepted, you put up with it well enough! <sup>13</sup> For such people are **false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.** <sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for **even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.** <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is not surprising his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will correspond to their actions. **(2 Corinthians 11:3-15)**

A false anointing is a satanic counterfeit. When looking at cultic and occult manifestations in pagan religions around the world, they can resemble God’s anointing. But holy spirit can’t dwell in unholy vessels.



**Deuteronomy 18:22** tells us how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one. If what the prophet proclaims does not take place, then YHVH did not speak that message. **That sounds pretty simple!** This should be easy to distinguish.

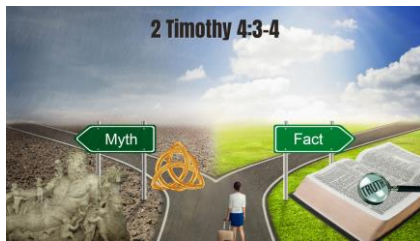
But what if *some* of what they say is true or biblical? What if they can perform miracles? Again, that is how they are able to deceive. Few would listen if it was obvious that they are not speaking God’s ordained message.

We must get out our magnifying glasses and look into Scripture and see if what they profess aligns with what God and Jesus spoke, especially with the “big” things.

Jesus says that a false prophet may appear gentle and good and these deceivers **appear to be “of the fold,”** they may **look and sound like one of the sheep,** but they are really a ferocious wolf. He tells us to beware and to look at their fruit. (Matthew 7:15-16)

And remember fruit is not just good deeds as most assume. It is the fruit of their lips, what they are speaking and teaching. Jesus said that we must hear his words (hear and understand his teachings) and then do what he says, which means to obey.

**We must beware and be wise. False prophets influenced God's people thousands of years ago, and they continue to influence the believer and the church today.**



**In Daniel 11:21** we get a glimpse of *THE* Antichrist.

There will **arise in his place a despicable person** to whom the royal honor has not been rightfully conferred. He will come on the scene in a time of prosperity and will seize the kingdom through deceit.

**Also in 1 Timothy 4:1-2** we see people turning away from God's voice to the voice of Satan.

Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the later times some will desert the faith and occupy themselves with deceiving spirits and demonic teachings, <sup>2</sup> influenced by the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared.

Paul warns Timothy that people desert the faith for other teachings. **Again, we see that teachings are what make or break one's faith.**

Unfortunately, we see **2 Timothy 4:3-4** all too often.

There will be a time when people will **not tolerate sound teaching**. Instead, following their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves, because they have an insatiable curiosity to hear new things. <sup>4</sup> And **they will turn away from hearing the truth, but on the other hand they will turn aside to myths.**

That time is now even more. Many do not tolerate the sound **teaching** of Jesus and they follow their own desires and surround themselves with false teachers who support their false beliefs. They prefer new teachings and ideas rather than the sound teaching of Christ.

We see a distinction between following Jesus' sound teachings, or not. And if we do not follow his sound teachings, we then have turned away from hearing what is true. **When we turn away from his truth, we turn to something else, to someone else's "truth."**

This passage clearly says that when this happens, people will turn away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Jesus warned us to be cautious and beware for today and for the future, and for the very end of this age.



Speaking of these last days in Matthew 24:4-6, 11, 24, Jesus said,

**“Watch out that no one misleads you.** <sup>5</sup> For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will mislead many. <sup>6</sup> You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. Make sure that you are not alarmed, for this must happen, but the end is still to come.

**Many false prophets** will appear and deceive many.

*False messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

**Jesus said that they will come “in his name.” This means they will be saying that they are Christians, someone claiming to follow Christ.** When this happens, we must follow Jesus’ advice and test their fruit to see if they are a sheep or a wolf.

Again, as we see in the Old and New Testament, the fruit which we are to test is not just if they are nice people doing good things, it has to do with the fruit of their *beliefs* and what they teach and preach.

**In Mark 12:21-23 Jesus said not to believe anyone, or any organization, that says that he has come, even if they do miracles. We know from other passages that he will not come until 3 ½ years after the Abomination of Desolation.**

**Jesus said he told us ahead of time to BE CAREFUL because even the elect could be deceived. He warned us about false Christs and false prophets.**

Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe him. <sup>22</sup> For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, the elect. <sup>23</sup> Be careful! I have told you everything ahead of time. (Luke 21:8)

In **Matthew 7:13-23** Jesus said,

**“Enter through the narrow gate, because the gate is wide and the way is spacious that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. <sup>14</sup> *How narrow is the gate and difficult the way that leads to life, and there are few who find it!***

<sup>15</sup> **“Watch out for false prophets,** who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are voracious wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruit. Grapes are not gathered from thorns or figs from thistles, are they? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree is not able to bear bad fruit, nor a bad tree to bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.

<sup>21</sup> “**Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven**—only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, **didn’t we prophesy in your name**, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’<sup>23</sup> Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’

Jesus said that nobody can come to the Father except through him (**John 14:6**). And we must remember, he said that the gate is narrow.

**We must study the true One and then we will then recognize the counterfeit.**

A banker does not need to know all the fake or false bills, just what the true one looks and feels like!



**So, let’s look at the evidence. Who is the true Messiah?**

The man God anointed was tempted. He got tired. He was not all-knowing. He changed – grew in wisdom and stature. God’s anointed died.

God’s Messiah was and is the Son of God, not God the Son.



God on the other hand, cannot be tempted, is all-knowing, He does not change, and cannot die!

**God wants us to know His Messiah.** He is a descendant of King David. He was human in every way, just as we are human (Hebrews 2:9, 17.)



Jesus was made ***lower than the angels for a little while*** (like all humans are), BUT now he is crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by God's grace he would experience death on behalf of everyone.

(He was crowned with this honor and glory AFTER his resurrection, not before his birth. He only had the "glory before the creation of the world" in God's mind and plan.)



**Jesus had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect**, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For since he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. **(Hebrews 2:17-18)**

The Greek word "brother" (adelphos) means "from the same womb."

(<https://biblehub.com/greek/80.htm>) Jesus came into existence in the womb of Mary by the working of God's holy spirit, not because he put on a flesh suit or because God had sex with Mary.

God simply created Jesus in Mary, just like He created Adam from dirt. Both humans, the first Adam and the second, were miraculously created, yet they were human, and neither existed before they came into existence.

Satan wants to deceive people and does not want people to know or worship the one true God or to know Jesus His appointed Messiah, the only one who can save.

People need to know the true Jesus and true hope; then they will know what is false when they hear it.



**This is the biggest crime scene of all time – the counterfeiting of Jesus!** Those desiring to follow Jesus must be good detectives. They must discover who Jesus is if they want to know if they are following God’s Messiah or some anti-messiah.

Are they following the unique Son of God or are they following another god, god the son, or god in the form of a son?

To distinguish what is true and what is counterfeit we must go to the earliest record, the Bible. We must investigate what those who were with Jesus had to say, not some false teacher 200 years later.

We must investigate what Jesus himself had to say! We must investigate what God said thousands of years earlier and see how it played out to a tee.

**What is one of the first things a good detective does?** He looks for fingerprints. Jesus had fingerprints. He was human and had his own human identity.

Yes, he was in the image of God, as was Adam, but an image is not the same as the real thing. An image merely represents what it is an image of.



The church holds people in bondage with the false evidence by claiming it is a “mystery.”

The mystery has been revealed and that mystery is that both Jews and Gentiles can be grafted into the one vine of Messiah Jesus. There is one vine and one body and people are not distinguished as Jew or Gentile.

In **John 20:17** Jesus replied, “Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to **my Father**. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

That can’t be any clearer! From Jesus’ own mouth he saith that he had a God *and* a Father, the same One we do!

We do not want to be deceived, whether intentionally or not, and certainly not out of ignorance.

If to not be deceived, we must know the hope Jesus preached about. He was the first to experience what he preached - resurrection to immortality!

We praise and worship Jesus, our brother, because of who he is and what he gave, not because he is God.

In **John 4:19-26** we see that Jesus was a prophet, the importance of worshipping God in spirit and in truth, and that Jesus was the anticipated Messiah who would tell us everything.

**1 John 2:20-26** tells us that no lie is found in the truth and that a person is a liar if he denies that Jesus is God's Messiah. It even boldly says that this person is an antichrist and he denies both the Father and the Son. "Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. The person who confesses the Son has the Father also."

So, what does it mean to deny the Son? Perhaps to deny who God said he was, who he said he was, who the apostles said he was, and to deny what he taught.

As we read at the beginning, the Jews, who believed in the One True God correctly, yet denied Jesus as God's Messiah, also deny the Father!

We also see in this passage that when we understand, accept, and follow both the Father and the Son, this leads to "eternal life," or life in the coming age when Jesus returns.

These things were written to us about those who try to deceive us and we must listen if not to be deceived.

In **Jeremiah 5:30-31** we are told that it is horrible and shocking when prophets prophesy lies, and when priests (or religious leaders) exercise power by their own authority.

The worst part God says, is that His people love it this way! He then warns them that these false prophets will not be able to help them at the time of judgment.

**2 Timothy 3:1-17** tells us that we must understand where the world is going. It is going from bad to worse not only in the world, but in the church. **People "maintain the outward appearance of religion but repudiate its power."**

We are to avoid people like that. These same people try to infiltrate families and teach false things to weak people, to people who do not know or follow the teachings of Christ, even though they are supposedly "following" him.

We are told that "**evil people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived themselves.**" <sup>14</sup> **You, however, must continue in the things you have learned** (knowledge) and are confident about. You know who taught you <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to give you **wisdom for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work.

In **Ephesians 4:11-14** we see that some are given the gifts of shepherding and teaching the saints for the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ so that there will be unity of faith and unity in knowledge of the Son of God.

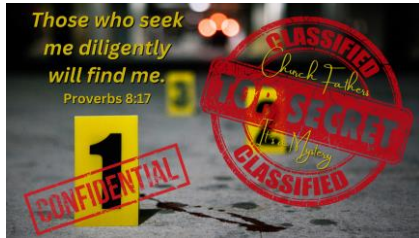
The church must be unified in their beliefs about Jesus and what he taught. Only then will believers be mature and no longer tossed back and forth between various teachings and beliefs of crafty and deceitful people who are trying to trick them to believe something false.

When the church is unified in truth and practicing this truth in love, then all will grow up into Christ as he desires.



**Ephesians 2:9-11** tells us that **God highly exalted Jesus and gave him** the name that is above every name, and that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

When we understand, believe in, put our trust in, and confess Jesus as YHVW's lord, this brings glory to God the Father, it makes God happy!



If to follow Jesus, we need to follow Jesus, not the church, not an organization, nor any man. We must seek God diligently because He promises to be found when we do. (Proverbs 8:17)

People need to be warned not to believe the fake news about a trinity mystery, or fall for a counterfeit Jesus. We must show them the good news, the news that is true and accurate and the real Jesus of the Bible, the Son of the Father, and the Messiah of the Most-High God.

Jesus is our example. If we want to follow him, we need to know him and what he taught.

Consider, **John 17.3, Ephesians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:3**.

Jesus said, “Now this is eternal life—that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.”

Paul opened his letters often by saying, “Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Jesus had a God. This is essential to know and understand, and accept. It could be very detrimental to hold on to a counterfeit Jesus.

**Jesus said that knowing the only true God and Jesus, the Messiah, is what leads to “eternal life,” that is life in the coming age.**

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