

Dear reader, because of Mr. Prayther and staff, and of course Fiesta, it is again a blessing, to be able to share with you some scriptural truths, and for this we are so thankful. We truly hope these articles are taken in the intent that they are written. The intent is not to point fingers at any specific ones, but to expose unscriptural practices that are done by those proclaiming Christianity (followers of Christ). These exposures are to help us all, that proclaim Christianity find the truth, according to God through Christ and His apostles, which is in New Testament scripture; thereby all speaking the same things, and all ending up in the same place, which is heaven(**1Cor.1:10; Philip.3:16-21**). New Testament scripture is the **only** place one can find the commandments of God through Christ and His apostles (**Matt.28:16-20; John17:14 and 20; Acts 1:1-4; and 2:41-42; 2Pet.3:2-3**). It is the **only** place Christians are found (**Acts11:26**). It is the **only** place, The Church of and by Christ, the one faith, the one body, that Christ is the head of, is found (**Matt.16:17-18 Rom.16:16; Eph.3:20-21; 4:3-6; 5:23-24; Col.1:18-19; 2:8-12**), as well as the instructions, by which it **MUST** be run. We believe by using definitions and the preponderance of scriptures; which is having superior weight, force, importance, or influence of scripture, allows **SCRIPTURE** to **INTERPRET** scripture, thereby allowing a better understanding on that topic. We also believe, according to scripture, it is of the **UTMOST** importance to know **BY THE WRITTEN WILL** of **GOD**, through Christ and His apostles, the **PATH OF BELIEF!**

**Let's read and listen to God** as He starts the path of belief IN HIM, for a Christian:**“Matt 17:4** Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here **three** tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. **5** While **he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; \*hear ye him.** **6** And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. **7** And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. **8** And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.”\* **Now let's read and listen to Jesus** as he verifies the power that his Father in heaven gave Him and also the commandments he gave the apostles: **“Matt 28: 16** Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. **17** And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. **18** And **Jesus** came and spake unto them, **saying, All power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching **them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” **“Mark 16:14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. **15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

**Continuing the God-given path of belief; again let's listen to Jesus: John 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words:** ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. **In John the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven** for his glorification which was, leaving flesh and returning to a spiritual being, leaving this sinful earth and returning home to **Heaven**. He also prayed not for the world (**verse 9**) but for his disciples (apostles) whom he gave the word, and they kept it (**verse 6**), the ones that he kept while here on earth (**verse 12**), the ones the world hated (**verse 14**). He also prayed for those of us who will believe on him through their, the apostles' word (**verse 20**), that we all may be one even as God the Father and his Son are one, and that the world may know that God sent his Son (**verses 21-26**). **Now, let's read and listen** to parts of the Lord's prayer to his Father in heaven: **“John 17:18** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be **sanctified through the truth.** **20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:” **In Acts chapter 1** it is revealed unto us how he gave commands to the apostles, the ones that he had chosen, after his ascension back into heaven. And, **in chapter 2** we have the example of those doing exactly what Jesus had prayed for in John the **17<sup>th</sup>** chapter, after gladly receiving the word of the apostle Peter. It is also revealed what they continued steadfastly in. **Let's read and listen:** **“Acts 1:1** The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** Until the day in which he was taken

up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: **3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: **4** And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.” “**Acts 2:41** Then they that gladly received his word **were baptized:** and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. **42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” **Now** let's read and hear the Lord's apostles as they instruct the Lord's body the church, thereby verifying their authorization by God, through Jesus Christ. Let's start with the apostle Paul:(Eph.3:1-5) “**Eph 5:14** Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. **15** See then that ye walk (1)circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **16** Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”...Definition: (1)circumspectly-199 akribos (ak-ree-boce'); adverb from the same as 196; exactly, accurately: KJV-- circumspectly, diligently, perfect (-ly). **Now** the apostle Peter:“**2 Pet 3:1** This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: **2** That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:” **Now** the apostle John:“**I Jn 4:5** They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. **6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” **And** Jude: “**Jude 1:17** But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; **18** How that they told you there should be (1)mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.”...Definition: (1)mockers-1703 empaiktes (emp-aheek-tace');from 1702; a derider, i.e. (by implication) a false teacher: KJV-- mocker, scoffer...1702 empaizo-to play with, to trifle with, to delude, to deceive. After reading the preceding scriptures hopefully the order (path) of belief is \*scripturally clear: God, through Christ and His apostles. Again, the reason why it is of the utmost importance to follow God, through Christ and His apostles, is because of the mockers, (false teachers, deluders and deceivers), that profess Christianity. All that ever was, is, and want to be a Christian, **MUST** follow this God-given path of belief, to be right, righteous with Him; whether we believe it or not. **Listen again** to the apostle Paul: “**2 Tim 2:13** If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.” This is THE WILL OF GOD, and it is simply WRITTEN.

We will now get into the study on one of the idols that many worship, **THE TREE:**

As we start this study remember the scriptural path of belief. Again, we believe this to be very important in knowing how to live a Christian lifestyle. Christians have been instructed by God almighty, through Christ and His apostles, on **WHAT** to observe and **HOW** to observe the things authorized by Him. As **faithful, obedient** Christians, we **MUST** remember what Jesus commanded His apostles to teach us to observe (Matt.28:16-20). **Listen** again to Jesus: “**Matt 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” We cannot find **any** **SCRIPTURAL** instructions for and/or how to observe such a **day and/or tree**, from God through Christ and His apostles. And if the apostles didn't teach it, and they didn't, then we cannot observe it, as **faithful, obedient** Christians! Again, as **faithful, obedient** Christians we must do it Christ's way because this is how we believe on Him. Remember, according to Jesus we Must believe on Him through the word of His apostles (John17:1-22). **Listen** again to Jesus: “**John 17: 20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” The belief of the words of the apostles, as they were guided by the Holy Ghost, is verified by the Lord's apostle John. According to the apostle John, hearing them, the apostles, thereby being obedient to God through Christ, is how we prove whether we are of God the Father or of the god of this world, the devil. It also proves whether we are of the spirit of truth or the spirit of error! **Again,** let's listen to the apostle John: “**I Jn 4:5** They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. **6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of

**error.” “I Jn 5: 19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world (1)lieth in wickedness. 20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is **the true God**, and **eternal life**. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”....**Definition: (1)lieth** in-2749 keimai-to lie; metaphorically: to be (by God's intent) set., that is, destined, appointed, lies in the power of the Evil One., that is, is held in subjection by the Devil. **Now** let’s read and listen to the apostle Paul as he warn us of the devil, the god of this world: “**2 Cor 4:1** Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; **2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **3** **But if our gospel be hid**, it is hid to them that are lost: **4** **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. **5** For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.” So then if the Lord’s apostles didn’t say it, **it is NOT of God**. For if they said it then it is written. And as we read it, according to God through Christ and his apostle Paul, it is the only way for us to hear it. **Again**, let’s listen to the Lord’s apostle Paul: “**Eph 3:1** For this cause **I Paul**, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, **2** If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: **3** How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, **4** **Whereby, when ye read**, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) **5** Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**;” By reading, listening and obeying the written instructions of the Lord’s apostles, is the ONLY way to be a **faithful, obedient** Christian. It is also the ONLY way to have fellowship with the apostles; thereby having fellowship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, rather than the devil. **Let’s** listen again to the **Lord’s apostle John**: “**I Jn 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; **2** (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) **3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. **4** And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” **Now** let’s read and listen to **the apostle Paul** as he admonishes the church in Corinth, **against the fellowship of the devil**: **1 Cor 10:20** But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would **not** that ye should have fellowship with devils. **21** **Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils**. **22** Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?”**

The tree, that is called “The Christmas Tree,” is an idol and is worshipped by many, as though it has something to do with Jesus Christ. Yet, those professing Christianity worship such. Some, if not many, may say, the use of the terms idol, idolatry, idolater and/or worship is too strong in this case. With all due respect, we believe that according to scriptures and/or definitions they carry the exact strength that is due. Now let’s prove it one way or the other. Let’s get started with some definitions which we believe to also be very important in Proving All Things, thereby also identifying what is EVIL by SCRIPTURE! Please read and listen to the apostle Paul: “**1Thes 5:21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. **22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.” **Definitions: IDOLATRY**-1495 eidololatrea-the worship of false gods, used of the formal sacrificial feasts held in honor of false gods, used of avarice, as a worship of Mammon, in the plural, the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it: see **IDOLATER**, worship of idols, excessive devotion to or reverence for some person or thing. **WORSHIP**-4576 sebomai (seb'-om-ah; middle voice of an apparently primary verb; **to revere**, i.e. adore: KJV-- devout, religious, worship. **REVERE**:**1. (v.)** To like or enjoy enthusiastically, often excessively: • adore • idolize • cherish • worship (colloquial) • glorify • relish • revel in • dote upon • love • be infatuated with • loathe (antonym) • despise (antonym) • abhor (antonym) • hate (antonym)...**2. (v.)** To have a high opinion of: • admire • esteem • look up to • respect • reverence • venerate • honor • regard • value • think highly of • rate highly • disdain (antonym)...**4. (v.)** To recognize the value of: • appreciate • esteem • go for (colloquial) • hold dear • praise • prize • treasure • belittle (antonym) • scorn (antonym) • dislike (antonym)...**6. (v.)** To regard with great awe and devotion: • idolize • worship.

Now keeping in mind the definitions and the antonyms lets ask our selves some questions. Isn't it expected and/or even essential to have a tree on "Christmas Day"? Are there not many that patiently wait to see and cherish the trees that are displayed in their cities and even at the White House? When choosing a tree is it not time consuming to make sure it is just the right one? Are not hours spent on the securing and the decorating of the tree to be admired? Is not the tree decorated with lights, little shiny, glittery things, stars and even "angels" etc., to be doted upon? Is not the tree the center of attraction in that it is the thing that the so-called gifts are surrounded by? Is there not care taken by some, to ensure that the tree will not dry out and cause a fire as some do? Are they not put in windows for others to glorify when passing by? Is not the tree something that during the year is looked forward to having, decorating thereby being admired, for the next "Christmas Day"? Finally, are not the trees that are saved, packed with care, held dear and treasured for the following year? If the answer is **yes to any** of these questions then one **MUST** conclude, while keeping in mind the definitions of IDOLATRY, IDOLATER, WORSHIP and the antonyms; that the TREE is an IDOL that many WORSHIP. One then **MUST** also conclude that **NONE** of these antonyms define how the worshiper feels about the TREE; for they prove the feelings of a **NON-WORSHIPER** of IT. Please note the antonyms: loathe (antonym) • despise (antonym) • abhor (antonym) • hate (antonym) • disdain (antonym) • belittle (antonym) • scorn (antonym) • dislike (antonym).

If I may, I would like to veer from the main subject for a moment to explain the use of "so-called" when dealing with gifts. If we are honest; for those professing Christianity **MUST** be about honesty right? We know that most, if not all expect some type of carnal return (compensation), equal or better than the so-called gifts that they have given, and it must be something that they want and like, rather than something they need. Give someone socks, fruit, a tooth brush, tooth paste, a belt, pots or pans, work gloves, and even a BIBLE. Then it will be seen just how they were appreciated as the receiver of these things stand in the return line at their nearest store. So-called is used here for the term gift because of the definition of gift: Gift (g<sup>1</sup>ft) *n.* 1. Something that is bestowed voluntarily and without compensation. **Compensation:** *n.* Syn. recompense, payment, indemnity, satisfaction, requital, remittal, and this is also verified by Jesus Christ. **Please read** and hear the instructions giving by Jesus Christ, for TRUE gift giving: "**Luke 14:12** Then said he also **(1)to him that bade** him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also **(2)bid** thee **again**, and **(3)a recompence** be made thee. **13** But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: **14** And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot (\*)recompense thee: for thou (\*)**shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.**"

**Definitions:** **(1)to him that bade** him-2564 kaleo-to call, to invite...(2)**bid** thee **again**-479 antikaleo (an-tee-kal-eh'-o); from 473 and 2564; to invite in return: KJV-- bid again...(3)**a recompence** be made thee-468 antapodoma (an-tap-od'-om-ah); from 467; a requital (properly, the thing): KJV—recompense, the thing paid back, requital...(\*)for they cannot **recompense** thee-467 antapodidomi (an-tap-od-ee'-do-mee); from 473 and 591; to requite (good or evil): KJV-- recompense, render, repay.

So if we are GIVING "gifts", looking for the PRAISE of men, for a TAX break, or even with the intent of WOOING the receiver to ones so-called worship service for their money or any other reason, **it is not a gift**. For Christians are to woo souls for their salvation by the **word of God** through Christ and His apostles and the obedience of **IT!** Last but not least, while we are dealing with Gifts. Let's remember the idea of exchanging gifts was not what was happening on the day that so many cunning devise for the observation of such a day that God through Christ and His apostles, have not authorized. The wise men, and there is no scriptural evidence of how many, came to worship **Jesus**, not Mary nor Joseph. The wise men brought gifts to **Jesus**, not Mary nor Joseph. There is no scriptural evidence of wise men nor the shepherds receiving gifts, so there was no exchange of gifts. Now let's read and listen to the TRUTH, especially since we are Christians right? "**Matt 2:7**Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared." "**Matt 2:10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. **11** And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." The **ONLY** gift that can be given to Jesus at this point is to believe on Him (John17:14 and 20), to suffer for his sake (Luke 9:23; John12:25-26; Phil.1:29-30; 3:16-20; 2Tim. 2:11-16; James 1:27; 4:4; 1Pet.4:1-2; 1John 2:15-17) and then obey Him

for the exchange of eternal salvation! **Please read** and understand: “**Heb 5:5** So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. **6** As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; **8** Though he were a **Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered**; **9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”. **Now that** is an eternally good gift exchange. But, those professing Christianity must have the same mind-set as Christ did according to the apostle Peter. Now let’s read and listen to God through Christ and His apostle: “**1 Pet 4:1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; **2** That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. **3** For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: **4** Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: **5** Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.” There is also an eternal gift exchange of Torment for those that choose not to obey God through Christ and His apostles (Matt.18:8-9; 13:38-43, and 49-50; Mark9:43-48; 2Thes.1:7-10 and Rev.14:9-13). By the way, God did save Christ from death, for He yet LIVES evermore in HEAVEN from whence He came,!! Christians must not reject His words; listen to Jesus **John12:47-50**.

Now let’s get back on track, if you will. This is not a new tradition of man; the traditional tree worship has been observed before by those professing to be of God. God Almighty condemned it then through the prophets and has never authorized it since. For it makes no difference for the reason of tree worshipping, according to God Almighty it is the **WAY** of the heathen. **Let’s read** and listen to God Almighty through His prophet Jeremiah “**Jer 10:1** Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: **2** Thus saith the LORD, Learn not (1)the way of (2)the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. **3** For the customs of the people are (\*vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. **4** They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not. **5** They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good. **6** Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. **7** Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee. **8** But they are altogether **(4)brutish (5)and foolish: (6)the stock is a doctrine of (\*vanities.**” “**Jer 10:14** Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them. **15** They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.”

**Definitions:** **(1)the way of**-1870 derek (deh'-rek); from 1869; a road (as trodden); figuratively, a course of life or mode of action, often adverb: KJV-- along, away, because of, + by, conversation, custom, manner, a path, a direction, a habit....**(2)the heathen**-1471 gowy (go'-ee); rarely (shortened) goy (go'-ee); apparently from the same root as 1465 (in the sense of massing); a foreign nation; hence, a Gentile: KJV-- Gentile, heathen, nation, people....**(\*)are vain, of vanities**-1892 hebel (heh'bel); or (rarely in the abs.) habel (hab-ale'); from 1891; emptiness or vanity; figuratively, something transitory and unsatisfactory; often used as an adverb: KJV-- X altogether, vain, vanity...1891 habal (haw-bal'); a primitive root; to be vain in act, word, or expectation; specifically to lead astray: KJV-- be (become, make) vain....**(4)brutish**-1197 ba` ar-(Pual) to burn, as a denominative verb: to be stupid, to be brutish, to be barbarous, (Qal) to be stupid, to be dull-hearted, to be unreceptive....**(5)and foolish**-3688 kacal (kaw-sal'); a primitive root; properly, to be fat, i.e. (figuratively) silly: KJV-- be foolish, to be stupid....**(6)the stock**-6086 `ets (ates); from 6095; a tree (from its firmness); hence, wood (plural sticks): KJV-- + carpenter, helve, + pine, plank, staff, stalk, stick, stock, timber, trees, wood.

God warned the children of Israel, and these things were WRITTEN before for our learning. **Please read** and listen to God through Christ and the apostle Paul: **Rom 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might

**have hope.** Christians also have been warned by God through Christ and His apostles, against idols and idolatry, which is idol worshipping, thereby being idolaters. We have also been warned against following Doctrines, Traditions and Commandments of men, rather than those of the apostles. **Now** let's read and listen to God Almighty, the Lord Jesus and His apostles, the apostles Paul and John, as Christ has commanded those of His Body The Church:

**1 Cor 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

**1 Cor 10:14** Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **(1)flee** from **(2)idolatry**. (KJV)

**Definitions:** **(1)flee**-5343 pheugo (fyoo'-go); apparently a primary verb; to run away (literally or figuratively); by implication, to shun; by analogy, to vanish: KJV--to seek safety by flight, metaphorically, (to avoid by flight) something abhorrent, especially vices, to be saved by flight, to escape safely out of danger...**(2)idolatry**-1495 eidololatreia (i-do-lol-at-ri'-ah); from 1497 and 2999; image-worship (literally or figuratively): KJV—idolatry, the worship of false gods, used of avarice, as a worship of Mammon, in the plural, the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it...1497 eidolon (i'-do-lon);from 1491; an image (i.e. for worship); by implication, a heathen god, or (plural) the worship of such: KJV-- idol.

**1 Cor 10:14 ... flee from idolatry...Ref. Scriptures:**

**Exod 20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me. **4** Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: **5** Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor **(1)serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God**, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;(KJV)

**Definition:** **(1)nor serve them**-5647 `abad (aw-bad'); a primitive root; to work (in any sense); by implication, to serve, till, (causatively) enslave, etc.: KJV-- to dress, husbandman, keep, labour, to serve, to make oneself a servant, to compel to labor or work, to cause to labor, to cause to serve to be led or enticed to serve, worshipper.

**Note here** the conversation Jesus and the devil had about worship. Also note what we become when we choose to glorify something that is not of God, and when even the manner that it is glorified has been forbidden by Him: **Luke 4:4** And **Jesus** answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. **5** And **the devil**, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And **the devil** said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the (1)glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. **7** If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. **8** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV)

**Definition:****(1)glory** of them1391 doxa (dox'-ah);from the base of 1380; glory (as very apparent), in a wide application (literal or figurative, objective or subjective): KJV-- dignity, glory (-ious), honour, praise, worship, aview, splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence, preeminence...1380 dokeo- to think; by implication, to seem (truthfully or uncertainly): KJV-- be accounted, (of own) please (-ure), be of reputation, seem (good), suppose, think, trow, it seems to me, it pleased me.

**1 Cor 5:11** But now I have written unto you not to keep company, **if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. (KJV)**

**1 Cor 10:6** Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they

also lusted. **7** Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. (KJV)

**2 Cor 6:14** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? **15** And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? **16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (KJV)

**Gal 4:8** Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. **9** But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? **10** Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. **11** I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you **labour in vain.** (KJV)

**Phil 3:17** Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. **18** (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: **19** Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, **who (1)mind** earthly things.) **20** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)

**Definition: (1)MIND** earthly things-from 5424; to exercise the mind, i.e. entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication, to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively, to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience): KJV-- set the affection on, (be) care (-ful), (be like-, + be of one, + be of the same, + let this) mind (-ed), regard, savour, think.

**Phil 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.(KJV)

**Col 2: 18** Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. **20** Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, **21** (**Touch not; taste not; handle not;** **22** Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? **23** Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh. (KJV)

**The “TRAP”!!** Now let’s read and listen to the apostle Paul as he instructs Timothy: **1 Tim 6:5** Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. **6** But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. **8** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. **9** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the (1)love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **11** But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. (KJV)

**Definition:(1)love of money**-Idolatry image-worship (literally or figuratively): KJV—idolatry, the worship of false gods, used of the formal sacrificial feasts held in honor of false gods, used of avarice, as a worship of Mammon, in the plural, the vices springing from idolatry and peculiar to it

**No “Sowing of Wild Oats” in the Lord!!!** Now let’s read and listen to the apostle Paul as he instructs

Timothy: **2 Tim 2:21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. **22** Flee also youthful (1)lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. (KJV)

**Definition:** (1)youthful **lusts**-1939 epithumia-desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust....1937 epithumeo-to turn upon a thing, to have a desire for, to long for, to desire, to lust after, to covet; used of those who seek things forbidden.

**I Jn 5: 21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (KJV)

DOCTRINES TRADITIONS AND THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN:

**Matt 15:7** Ye (1)**hypocrites**, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their (2)**heart is far from me**. **9** But (3)**in vain they do worship me**, (4)**teaching** for (5)**doctrines** the (6)**commandments** (7)**of men**. (KJV)

**Definitions:** (1)Ye **hypocrites**-5273 hupokrites; from 5271; an actor under an assumed character (stage-player): KJV-- a pretender, feign, to decide (speak or act) under a false part, i.e. (figuratively) dissemble. ....(2)**heart**-2588 kardia (kar-dee'-ah); the heart, i.e. (figuratively) the thoughts or feelings (mind); also (by analogy) the middle: KJV--the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors, used of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence, used of the will and character, emotions....(3)**in vain**-3155 maten (mat'-ane); accus. of a derivative of the base of 3145 (through the idea of tentative manipulation, i.e. unsuccessful search); folly, i.e. (adverbially) to no purpose:KJV-- in vain, fruitlessly....(4)**teaching**-1321 didasko-to teach, to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them, deliver didactic discourses, to be a teacher, to impart instruction, instill doctrine into one, the thing taught or enjoined, to teach one something....(5)**for doctrines** 1319 didaskalia;from 1320; instruction (the function or the information): KJV-- doctrine, learning, teachings, what is taught, doctrine, precepts....(6)the **commandments**-1778 entalma; from 1781; an injunction, i.e. religious precept: KJV-- commandment...1781 entellomai; from 1722 and the base of 5056; to enjoin: KJV-- (give) charge, (give) command (-ments), to order, to command to be done....(7)**of men**-444 anthropos-a human being, whether male or female, generically, to include all human individuals

**Matt 15:9 ... in vain they do worship me...Ref. Scriptures:**

**Exod 20:7** Thou shalt not (\*)**take** the name of the LORD thy God in (\*\*)**vain**; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that (\*)**taketh** his name in (\*\*)**vain**.(KJV)

**Definitions:** (\*)**take taketh**-5375 nasa' or nacah-to take, to bear, to carry continuously, to support, to sustain, to endure, to lift up, to exalt, to aid, to desire, (figurative)....(\*\*)**vain**-7723 shav';or shav (shav); from the same as 7722 in the sense of desolating; evil (as destructive), literally (ruin) or morally (especially guile); figuratively idolatry (as false, subjective), uselessness (as deceptive, objective; also adverbially, in vain): KJV-- lie, lying, vain, emptiness, vanity, falsehood, nothingness, emptiness of speech, worthlessness (used of conduct)

**Isa 1:13** **Bring no more vain oblations**; incense is an **abomination** unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. **14** Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. **15** And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. **16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; (KJV)

**Matt 7:15** **Beware of false prophets**, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. **16** Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of

thistles? **17** Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. **19** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **20** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. **21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **24** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: (KJV)

**Mark 7:7** Howbeit **in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** **8** or laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. **9** And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. (KJV)

**Luke 6: 45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. **46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (KJV)

**James 1:21** Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. **22** **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** **23** For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: **24** For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. **25** But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed...**James 1:27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (KJV)

**James 2:17** Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. **18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. **19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. **20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

**James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (KJV)

**Matt 15:9** ... **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...**Ref. Scriptures:

First let's read and listen to God as He gave instructions (commandments), to the Children of Israel through Moses and the prophets. Remember, according to the apostle Paul, these things were written aforetime for our learning (Rom.15:4; 2Pet.3:1-2):

**Deut 12:32** What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. **And: Deut 13:1** If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, **2** And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; **3** Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **4** Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. **5** And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. **6** If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; **7** Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off

from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; **8** Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: **9** But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. (KJV)

**Prov 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. **6 Add thou not unto his words,** lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (KJV)**

**Isa 29:13** Wherefore **the Lord said,** Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: (KJV)

Now let's read and listen to God as He gives instructions (commandments), to the Church of and by Christ (Matt.16:16-19; Rom.16:18; Eph.3:21; Eph.4:1-5; Col.1:18-19), through Christ and His apostles (Matt.28:16-20; 2Pet.3:1-2):

**Matt 22:29** Jesus answered and said unto them, **Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.** (KJV)

**John 5: 38** And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. **39 Search the scriptures;** for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me **40** And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. **41** I receive not honour from men. **42** But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. (KJV)

**Col 2:5** For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. **6** As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, **as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.** **8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.** **9** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:(KJV)

**Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism** wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **14 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;** **15** And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. **16** Let no man therefore judge you **(1)in** meat, or **in** drink, or **in** respect **(2)of an holyday,** or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: **17** Which are (3)a shadow of things to come; **but the body is of Christ.**

**Definitions:** **(1)in**-1722 en- in, by, with, among, etc....**(2)of an holyday** -1859 heorte (heh-or-tay'); of uncertain affinity; a festival: KJV-- feast, holyday, a festival....(3)a shadow -4639 skia (skee'-ah); apparently a primary word; "shade" or a shadow (literally or figuratively [darkness of error or an adumbration]): KJV-- shadow.a) shade caused by the interception of light **ad·um·brate. 1.** To give a sketchy outline of. **2.** To prefigure indistinctly; foreshadow. **3.** To disclose partially or guardedly.

As those baptized into Christ thereby putting on Christ (**Gal.3:27**), the ONLY way to not be judged **in** something, is to not participate **in** it. It is impossible to be judged **in** when one is out. Those that are within the Body of Christ must be judged by those of the Body. For the Body is of Christ through the word of HIS apostles, neither of Moses nor ANY other Man. Therefore, the written word of God through Christ and His apostles must be used to Judge those that are in the Body; that choose to follow traditions of men, rather than those of the apostles! This is what the Church of and by Christ has been commanded to do; note also (Rom.16:17-18; 2Thes.3:3-7; 1Tim.6:3-5; 2Tim.3:1-7). Now let's read and listen again to the apostle Paul: "**1 Cor 5: 11** But now I have written unto you **not to keep company, if any man that is**

called a **brother** be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. **12** For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? **13** But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**”

**II Th 3:3** But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. **4** And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, **that ye both do and will do the things which we command you**. **5** And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. **6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye (1)withdraw yourselves from every brother (2)that walketh (3)disorderly, and not after the (4)tradition which he received of us**. **7** For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; (KJV)

**Definitions:** (1)withdraw yourselves-4724 stello; probably strengthened from the base of 2476; properly, to set fast ("stall"), i.e. (figuratively) to repress (reflexively, abstain from associating with): KJV--avoid, to diminish, to cause to cease, to remove oneself, to depart, to abstain from familiar intercourse with one....(2)that walketh-4043 peripateo; from 4012 and 3961; to walk: figuratively, to live, deport oneself, follow (as a companion or votary): KJV-- go, be occupied with, to regulate one's life, to conduct oneself, to pass one's life....(3)disorderly-814 ataktos-disorderly, out of ranks (often so of soldiers), irregular, inordinate, deviating from the prescribed order or rule....(4)tradition-3862 paradosis-a giving over which is done by word of mouth or in writing, that is, tradition by instruction, narrative, precept, etc., objectively, that which is delivered, the substance of a teaching

**1 Tim 1:3** As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, **4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do**. (KJV)

**1 Tim 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy**; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **3** Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **4** For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. **6** If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. (KJV)

**1 Tim 4:7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. **8** For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. **9** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. **10** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. **11 These things command and teach**. **12** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **13** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (KJV)

**Titus 1:13** This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith**; **14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth**. **15** Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. **16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate**.

**Titus 2:1** But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: (KJV)

**Heb 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. **8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. **9** Be not carried about with **divers and strange doctrines**. For it is a good thing that

the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (KJV)

**Rev 22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. **20** He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. **21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. (KJV)

We believe that we have established by definitions, their antonyms, and most of all by Scriptures that the “Christmas Tree” is an idol, and that it is worshipped by many. We also believe that in the same manner we have proven that it is not of God, for He said it is the WAY of the HEATHEN (**Jer 10:1-4**). **Definition: (1)the way of-1870** derek; a road (as trodden); figuratively, a course of life or mode of action, often adverb: KJV-- conversation, custom, manner, a path, a direction, a habit. Also, God said that it is a Vain custom and is a Doctrine of Vanities, **verses 3 and 8 of Jeremiah the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter**. So it is **impossible** for it to be, neither the WAY of a CHRISTIAN, nor the doctrine of the apostles!! We also believe that by Scriptures we have proven that it is of the doctrines, traditions and commandments of MEN; thereby not following the doctrine, traditions and commandments of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ! Neither does it follow the SCRIPTURAL path of belief. As Christians we MUST follow THE TREE OF LIFE if we want eternal life with Him, **not** THE TREE OF DEATH. **Let’s read and listen to Jesus and His apostle John: “John 12:25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. **26** If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.” “John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” “Rev 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. **14** Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. **15** For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. **16** I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” “I Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the (1)lust of the flesh, and the (2)lust of the eyes, and the (3)pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

**Definitions: (1&2)lust** of the flesh and eyes-1939 epithumia-desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust...1937 epithumeo-to lust after, to covet; used of those who seek things forbidden....(3)pride of life-212 alazoneia; from 213; braggadocio, i.e. (by implication) self-confidence: KJV--an empty pretender, a boaster, boasting, pride, an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights, an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthy things.

Please remember always, the purpose of these articles is to seek the TRUTH according to THE written WORD of God, through Christ and His apostles. Thereby, exposing ERROR, which is false doctrine; for the purpose of saving our souls. We believe this is best done by definitions and the PREPONDERANCE OF SCRIPTURES; which is having superior weight, force, importance, or influence of SCRIPTURE. Again we believe this allows SCRIPTURE to INTERPRET SCRIPTURE, thereby allowing a better understanding on that topic. Again, thank you so much for your interest in the WORD of TRUTH; GRACE and SALVATION; John 17:17-21; Acts 20:29-32; James1:21-25. After all it is our MAP to HEAVEN and away from HELL, and the continuance in it, is the ONLY thing that allows the man of God to be perfect, 2Tim.3:12-17!!!

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