

**Matthew 10:21** - "Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and the children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death."

Or this passage from:

**Mark 7:21** - "For from within, out of the streams of consciousness of men proceed evil thoughts, sexual immorality, thefts, murders, adulteries,

**v 22** - "deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, evil, slander, arrogance, and foolishness."

32- What overrides all this is submission to the command of our verse: "But keep on growing ..."

33- The environment in which this growth is to occur is stated next in a prepositional phrase:

'εν plus the locative of sphere from the noun:

χαρις - "in the sphere of grace"

Our verse now reads: "Keep on growing in the sphere of grace ..."

Let's pause here and take a look at the Doctrine of Grace as it pertains to the spiritual growth of the believer.

E-10/23 B  
B-10/30 A  
15

TITLE: "The Doctrine of Grace"

1- Grace is the policy of God in providing everything necessary for the believer to execute God's plan, purpose, and will.

\* NO TUESDAY OR THURSDAY CLASS, 25 & 29 OCT 1994, DUE TO ST. LOUIS BIBLE CONFERENCE. NO CLASSES SUNDAY, 30 OCT, TUES, & NOV AND THURSDAY 3 NOV DUE TO FATHER'S SURGERY AND TRIP TO ALA. RESUMED STUDY SUN., 6 NOV.

Romans 5:8 -

God demonstrates  
His own love toward  
us, in that while  
we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.

Announce 2-16  
Before giving pt. 10

- 2- God is the aggressor in establishing a relationship with man. When man is the aggressor, it results in human attempts to impress God which are fruitless.
- 3- Grace is the policy of God in blessing mankind totally apart from any human merit or ability.
- 4- Under the grace policy of God, every believer has equal privilege and equal opportunity to execute the Christian way of life.
- 5- The divine policy of grace is presented to the believer in the Scriptures.
- 6- Grace policy provides us a spiritual IQ through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit by which we grow spiritually.
- 7- Our spiritual growth develops in relationship to our expertise in using the spiritual skills: the filling of the Holy Spirit, GAP, and execution of the problem-solving devices.
- 8- Grace does not give us what we want, but rather what God wants.
- 9- Under grace God takes the initiative by making an eternal relationship with Him *possible* for everyone.
- 10- Spiritual death emphasizes the importance of God's policy of grace. Knowing our failures even at physical birth, God still imputed human life to our souls; that's grace. Selection must precede adoption.
- 11- ~~THE GREATER CONCEPT OF BLESSINGS~~ "DIVINE GOOD AND PROBLEM SOLVING"  
Spiritual death is the dichotomous status of mankind at birth under three categories of condemnation from God:
  - 1- Total separation from God through the imputation of Adam's original sin.
  - 2- Total depravity which means that there is nothing in fallen man which God can find pleasure in or accept.

E-11/6A

B-11/6B

(16)

neither  
Jesus nor the Apostles nor any of the  
Church Fathers ever advocated violence  
against the pagan Roman state, nor did  
any Christian ever engage in violence;  
the point back then was not to stop abor-  
tion, prevent the worship of pagan gods,  
or improve the sexual morals of the Ro-  
mans but to convert the Empire, and  
once that conversion was accomplished,  
these Christian theological and ethical  
goals fell into place.

FROM: SAMUEL FRANCIS. "MYTHS TO  
KILL FOR," CHRONICLES, No. 11.  
1994, p. 12.

- 3- Total inability to do anything to gain the approval of God.
- 12- These barriers are removed through faith in Christ, not through works of the Law.
- 13- At the moment of salvation, grace then provides all the assets necessary for the new believer to grow in grace and fulfill the plan of God for the Christian life.
- 14- The only way Christian service counts in the eyes of God is when they are accomplished through His grace policy and under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- 15- There are many problems with regard to our temporal fellowship with God which short-circuit the production of divinely-approved good:
  - 1- The problem of post-salvation sinning which is solved by the rebound technique taught in *1 John 1:9*.
  - 2- The problem of ignorance of Bible doctrine.
  - 3- The problem of failure to make the correct application of doctrine because of ignorance.
- 16- You have to accumulate an inventory of truth in your stream of consciousness in order to have divine viewpoint which is the basis for making right applications.
- 17- The thinking of Bible doctrine under every circumstance of life is the only viewpoint by which you can enjoy tranquility of soul in the Devil's world.  
" THE GREEK CONCEPT OF KNOWLEDGE "
- 18- Three things are necessary as part of the grace process of problem solving:
  - 1- Spiritual Inventory of Ideas. We have a spiritual IQ provided in grace ( $F/HS + HuIQ = SpIQ$ ). To this is added a Grace Apparatus for Perception which produces a Spiritual Inventory of Ideas ( $F/HS + HuIQ = SpIQ + GAP = SpII$ ).

$\epsilon - 11/6 \beta$   
 $\beta - 11/2$   
(17)

- 2- Spiritual Thinking. Recall and consideration of the pertinent doctrines in your Spiritual Inventory which apply to your problem.
  - 3- Spiritual Problem-Solving. The application of these pertinent doctrines under pressure.
- 
- 19- Without understanding the principle that God solves problems through His grace policy, grace provision, and grace system, the believer will never successfully execute the Christian way of life.
  - 20- Grace is the divine policy of providing us with a spiritual IQ, so that our human IQ is no longer an issue in the perception of divine thought.
  - 21- The Grace Apparatus for Perception is the system by which we are enabled to understand God's thinking, God's plan, and God's purpose for our lives.
  - 22- Grace is the divine policy by which we learn 10 problem-solving devices, so that we can resolve every problem in life from our own inventory of ideas.
  - 23- The believer who fails to utilize this system or take advantage of its assets is described in Scripture as follows:
    - 1- In *Hebrews 12:15*, such a believer "comes short of the grace of God."
    - 2- In *2 Corinthians 6:1*, such a believer "receives the grace of God in vain."
    - 3- In *Galatians 2:21*, such a believer "nullifies the grace of God."
    - 4- In *Galatians 5:4*, such a believer is "fallen [**drifts off course**] from grace."
  - 24- *2 Peter* records the divine mandate to stay on course in:  

**v 18** - Keep on growing in the sphere of grace ...

This is followed by another locative of sphere:

και + γνωσις - "... and in the sphere of  
 \kai\ \gnosis\ knowledge"

The entire verse as far as we have gone reads this way in its corrected translation:

v 18 - But keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of knowledge ...

There are several words for *knowledge* in the Greek language. Two of them are significant with regard to the system established by God for the spiritual growth of the individual believer.

To properly understand the technical point made by Peter in this verse we must pause and do some work on the etymology of the words γνωσις \gnosis\ and ἐπιγνωσις \epignosis\.

### TITLE : The Greek Concept of Knowledge

- 1- There are two Greek words for knowledge that we need to define:
  - a) γνωσις \gnosis\ : a seeking to know; an inquiry or an investigation; knowledge of spiritual truth; knowledge of scientific data.
  - b) ἐπιγνωσις \epignosis\ : full knowledge; discernment; a strengthened form of gnosis which expresses an understanding which goes beyond that of gnosis.
- 2- There is a synonym to epignosis which appears in several important passages:

οἶδα \oida\ : full knowledge

Antikristos

Signs = σημεια

4 lying = ψευδος +

wonders = τερατα

2 Thos 2:9



- 3- There is yet another Greek word for knowledge which we will consider only in the sense that it is the source of the English word "epistemology":

ἔπιστημη \episteme\ : to understand. It is the source for the English word:

**epistemology:** The science that investigates the origin, the limits, and the validity of knowledge.

- 4- In actuality, the challenge of the Angelic Conflict is an exercise in epistemology.
- 5- The quest of the human soul is to identify truth and thus establish what is true from that which is false.
- 6- Thus the search for truth and the rationales by which it is validated is called epistemology.
- 7- The Angelic Conflict is characterized by the effort of the human soul to discern from all the information which is available that portion which is truth.
- 8- God is the source of all truth and has made it available to us through His revelation in the Scripture.
- 9- He has set up a communication system by which the believer in Jesus Christ may learn divine truth and then utilize its inventory of ideas for decision making and problem solving.
- 10- This system of epistemology has been classified in our study as the Grace Apparatus for Perception.
- 11- On the other hand, Satan seeks to distort divine truth by presenting the lie within a package of deception.
- 12- Thus he has teachers who knowingly or unknowingly dispense his lie while presenting it as if it were truth.

- 13- The secret to success in the pursuit of truth thus lies in which system of didactics one chooses to submit.
- 14- Didactics is an English word which finds its source in the Greek word διδακτικός \didaktikos\.
- 15- This word and its derivatives are used throughout the New Testament to define the grace system of epistemology and the Satanic system of epistemology.
- 16- For example, let's note how the faculties of the Divine and Satanic Academies are identified by this word group in Scripture.
- 17- First of all the Chancellor of the Divine Academy is identified in:

**John 14:26** - "But the Helper, namely the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you [διδασκω \didasko\ : **one who gives instruction; a teacher**] all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

- 18- The Holy Spirit is said to use a divinely authorized system of didactics in:

**1 Corinthians 2:12** - We have not received the world's spirit [**cosmic systems of perception such as rationalism or empiricism**] but the human spirit from the source of God [**the Holy Spirit**] in order that we might have a permanent knowledge [οἶδα \oida\ : **a synonym for epignosis or full knowledge**] of things that have been graciously given to us by God.

v 13 - which things [systematic theology] we [the Flag Apostles] also speak, not by teaching [διδακτος | *didaktos* |: by means of the Satanic Academy's system of rationalism and empiricism] from the source of man's wisdom, but by teaching [διδακτος | *didaktos* |: by means of the Divine Academy's system of grace] from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual truth [Bible doctrine] to a spiritual system [πνευματικός | *pneumatikos* |: in the neuter referring to a system, i.e., GAP].

- 19- The tenured faculty of the Satanic Academy is revealed in:

*1 Timothy 4:1* - But the Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits [the demonic faculty of the Satanic Academy] and doctrines [διδασκαλία | *didaskalia* |: the content of that which is taught] of demons.

- 20- One of the major productions of the Satanic Academy was a first century religion known as Gnosticism.

TITLE: "Principles on Gnosticism"

- 1- The term Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word γνωστικός | *gnostikos* |: "one who knows."
- 2- What he knows is γνωσις | *gnosis* |: knowledge of an esoteric nature.
- 3- The gnosis claimed by the Gnostic was considered different from other kinds of knowledge and allegedly derived not from ordinary sources but from special divine revelation.

E-11/8  
B-11/10  
18

- 4- Gnosis was viewed as knowledge of the divine mysteries reserved for the élite.
- 5- Salvation was therefore associated with the attainment of this esoteric knowledge.
- 6- Gnosis, or knowledge, originated from the divine being through what the Gnostics called "emanations," and thus was different from ordinary human knowledge.
- 7- As one mastered these gnostic emanations the more knowledge he possessed and thus was able to acquire salvation.
- 8- Gnostic doctrine was a synthesis of Greek philosophies with Jewish monotheism, Babylonian astrology, and Iranian dualism.
- 9- From this matrix came such Gnostic writings as *The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Philip, The Apocryphon of James, The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles, and The Apocryphon of John.*
- 10- This Gnostic religion and its writings were in their formative stages during the Incarnation of our Lord and is therefore the Satanic counterattack against the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the New Testament Scriptures.
- 11- As New Testament doctrine was being revealed through the epistles, the Apostles were confronted with individuals who, if not in Gnosticism, were influenced by its teachings.
- 12- Thus the Apostles sought to present the truths of Christianity within a Zeitgeist which was influenced by Gnosticism.
- 13- Inspired by the genius of Satan himself, Gnosticism presented to the heathen mind a system of salvation based on the acquisition of esoteric knowledge.

- 14- Acquisition of this knowledge was available only to the élite ... the select few who were able to master the emanations from the divine source of gnosis.
- 15- Of course, this gnosis was nothing more than the philosophies and opinions of men presented within a mixture of established religions.
- 16- Two passages from Paul illustrate his opposition to Gnosticism as a major field of study in the Satanic Academy.

*Colossians 2:8* - See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy [**Aristotle, Plato, et al.**] and empty deception [**Eastern religious beliefs**], according to the elementary principles of the world [**rationalism and empiricism**], rather than according to Christ.

*1 Corinthians 2:9* - Things [**knowledge**] which eye has not seen and ear has not heard [**empiricism**], and which have not entered the heart [**stream of consciousness**] of man [**rationalism**], are the doctrines that God has prepared for those who love Him.

- 17- Paul then goes on to explain the process by which divine knowledge is really acquired beginning in:

*1 Corinthians 2:10* - But to us [**believers filled with the Holy Spirit**], God has revealed them through the Holy Spirit. The human spirit investigates all things [**all knowledge**], even the deep things of God [**advanced knowledge**].

v 11 - For what man understands the things of man except man's spirit within him **[futile attempts by the unbeliever to understand spiritual phenomena]**, even so, the things of God **[divine truth]** no one has known except the Holy Spirit.

v 12 - We have not received the world's spirit **[cosmic systems of perception such as rationalism or empiricism]** but the human spirit from the source of God **[the Holy Spirit]** in order that we might have a permanent knowledge **[οἶδα | oida | : a synonym for epignosis or full knowledge]** of things that have been graciously given to us by God,

v 13 - which things **[systematic theology]** we **[the Flag Apostles]** also speak, not by teaching **[διδάκτος | didaktos | : by means of the Satanic Academy's system of rationalism and empiricism]** from the source of man's wisdom, but by teaching **[διδάκτος | didaktos | : by means of the Divine Academy's system of grace]** from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual truth **[Bible doctrine]** to a spiritual system **[πνευματικός | pneumatikos | : in the neuter referring to a system, i.e., GAP]**.

v 14 - The soulless man **[the unbeliever]** does not accept things **[cannot learn truth]** from the Holy Spirit **[His teachings are not accessible]** for to him they **[Biblical truth]** are foolishness, furthermore, he is not able to even acquire academic understanding **[γινώσκω | ginosko | ]** because they are spiritually discerned.

18- *1 Corinthians 2:9-14* is a dissertation by Paul on how the unbeliever cannot even acquire academic understanding of spiritual truth since he does not have access to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

"REVIEW: GNOSTICISM"

19- The verb ginosko makes it clear that academic understanding is only by means of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

20- Ginosko is the verb form of the noun gnosis.

21- Paul is making it very clear to the members of the Corinthian church who may be influenced by Gnosticism: the gnosis claimed by the Gnostics is not even on the level of an academic understanding of divine truth.

"LIFESTYLE OF WISDOM"

22- He writes in *Ephesians 3:19* that with the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, the believer can acquire a knowledge which goes beyond gnosis.

***Ephesians 3:19*** - and to come to know the love for Christ which goes beyond knowledge.

23- "Beyond knowledge" consists of two words--the verb:

ὑπερβαλλω - \hyperballō\ to surpass; to excel; to go above or beyond.  
It's followed by the noun:

γνωσις - \gnōsis\ knowledge academically understood.

24- By comparing *2 Corinthians 2:12-14* with *Ephesians 3:19* we can see that the believer in Jesus Christ can acquire a knowledge which goes beyond the gnosis claimed by the Gnostics.

E-11/10  
B-11/13A  
(19)

E-11/13A  
B-11/13B  
(20)

- 25- Both the believer and unbeliever can perceive the knowledge available from the scientific method of empiricism or the psychological method of rationalism.
- 26- The Gnostic can claim such knowledge is esoteric and available only to the initiated few, but when learned it is only knowledge academically understood, not divinely discerned.
- 27- (The person who is) a believer possesses the power of the Holy Spirit which empowers him to understand a category of knowledge which goes beyond gnosis.
- 28- Paul even uses another Greek word which amplifies this concept in:

***Ephesians 1:17*** - In order that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, may give you a lifestyle of wisdom and revelation about Him [Father] through full knowledge of doctrine [*ἑπιγνώσις* \ ***epignōsis*** \].

- 29- “Lifestyle” is *pneuma*: “spirit,” and is used idiomatically for lifestyle.
- 30- We have this concept in our language when we speak of such things as “the spirit of cooperation,” or the “spirit of patriotism.” There is a French term which comes into English: *esprit de corps*. *Esprit* is taken by the French from the Latin *spiritus* which means “spirit.” *Esprit de corps* is defined as the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group. The lifestyle of wisdom in verse 17 is developed in the stream of consciousness through the agency of *ἑπιγνώσις* \ ***epignōsis*** \: full knowledge of doctrine.

(End CWL-007. See CWL-008 for continuation of study at p. 71.)



- 31- Spiritual growth varies with the individual therefore, every believer has his own lifestyle.
- 32- This means that it is impossible to determine what the Christian way of life is by observing Christians.
- 33- The Christian way of life can only be determined by a study of the Word of God.
- 34- From this study the individual believer learns the things God requires of him.
- 35- The mature believer is the one who, over a long period of time, has undergone **adjustments in his thinking**, made **improvements in his decision making**, and accomplished **alterations in his lifestyle**.
- 36- It is in this manner that the believer reflects the indwelling Shekinah Glory--he executes the lifestyle outlined by God for the Christian in the Bible.
- 37- Please note that discovery of the the Christian walk demands that positive changes be made in one's thinking, decision making, and lifestyle.
- 38- We are expected to tolerate other believers in their growth process as they do us.
- 39- However, as the advancing believer begins to put the puzzle of the Christian walk together in his own soul, he is able to discern the level of growth of others.
- 40- Although he is not permitted to be judgmental, he is able to discern the current spiritual status of his fellow believer.
- 41- This enables him to silently defend his own soul from their erroneous thoughts and, if necessary, to avoid their company if their lifestyle is a threat to his spiritual growth.

E- 11/13 B  
B- 11/15  
(21)

"SYNOPSIS OF GNOSIS"

42- Those with whom there is esprit de corps are the ones with whom he learns to have fellowship.

43- It is only by growing in grace and in knowledge that such discernment is possible.

**CTL 2 Peter 3:18** - But keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of knowledge ...”

1- The word γνωσις \gnosis\ emphasizes the volitional act of giving doctrine an objective hearing for the purpose of determining its validity.

2- What Peter is emphasizing is really two things: (1) epistemology--the search for and the validation of truth; and (2) the part volition plays in that process.

3- In order to keep from drifting off course from the grace support system, Peter issues a command to grow, the present active imperative from the verb:

**α'υξανω** - \auxano\ “keep on growing”

pres - Durative; an action which began in the past and continues into the present. The past action is positive volition to truth and that status has continued to the present. This is the key to progress in learning the plan of God. You cannot learn how to execute the Christian way of life overnight. It is a day-by-day process. The command is therefore for the believer to be persistent in his attendance at Bible class and in the utilization of the first two spiritual skills: the Filling of the Holy Spirit and GAP.

act - The positive believer produces the action by his use of rebound, attendance at Bible class, and positive response to the message communicated.

imp - Command; all imperative moods serve as a challenge to the individual believer's volition. He is either free to accept or reject the divine mandate.

- 4- So how do you fulfill the mandate to "keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of knowledge"?
- 5- It is through epistemological habilitation: "to be endowed with ability and capacity."
- 6- The imperative mood of  $\alpha\upsilon\xi\alpha\nu\omega$   $\backslash auxano \backslash$  issues a challenge to the volition in the epistemological process.
- 7- The Holy Spirit has processed all the doctrinal information and made it academically understandable to the believer.
- 8- Thus in the believer's quest for truth, the Holy Spirit has taken out all of the guesswork.
- 9- Under the filling of the Holy Spirit, academic understanding has been attained within an environment of objectivity.
- 10- Growth occurs when the believer responds to this information in a positive manner.
- 11- Thus, the imperative mood of  $auxano$ , plus  $gnosis$ , is a mandate for epistemological habilitation which results in spiritual growth.
- 12- Therefore, positive volition to  $gnosis$  results in the Holy Spirit converting academic understanding into  $epignosis$ .

- 13- *Epignosis* means, "beyond gnosis," and refers to the supernatural understanding by the believer of divine truth as revealed by God through His special grace system.
- 14- This is the only legitimate process for epistemology.
- 15- The successful search for absolute truth can only be accomplished through this method.
- 16- When accomplished it habitates the believer. "To habitate" means "to make capable," "to qualify oneself," "to be endowed with ability and capacity."
- 17- God's truth circulating in the seven compartments of the believer's stream of consciousness endows him with the ability to execute the Christian way of life and the capacity to deal with outside adversity through the deployment of the 10 problem-solving devices on the FLOT Line of his soul.

#### **Synopsis of Peter's use of Γνωσις:**

- 1- God the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to use gnosis rather than epignosis.
- 2- Growth occurs when the believer is positive to his academic understanding of revealed truth.
- 3- Positive volition to gnosis is the act of verifying in one's mentality the validity of truth.
- 4- Gnosis thus makes an issue out of faith perception within a grace process.
- 5- Growth is based on the identification of truth as it is brought to the believer's academic understanding by the Holy Spirit.
- 6- Once truth is verified by the Holy Spirit, the volition is then challenged to accept or reject it.

- 7- Growth thus requires the constant accumulation of facts from which the believer is epistemologically habilitated.
- 8- This volitional acceptance of truth is done by means of faith, in the sphere of grace, directed toward what is academically understood.
- 9- Faith perception of gnosis permits the Holy Spirit to convert revealed truth into epignosis and transfer it into the heart's stream of consciousness.
- 10- It is only by means of epignosis that the believer is able to execute the Christian way of life.
- 11- Gnosis is without any value to the believer as long as it remains in the left lobe of the soul.
- 12- Consequently, gnosis is like food on the shelf-it has no benefit for sustaining life until it is prepared and consumed.
- 13- We may refer to this process by using a dietary metaphor. Food which is not metabolized into the body is useless for physical growth.
- 14- Gnosis which is not metabolized into the heart is useless for spiritual growth.
- 15- Metabolization occurs when the believer responds positively to revealed truth, referred to by Jeremiah with the term, "I ate them":

**Jeremiah 15:16** - Your doctrines were found [gnosis or academic understanding] and I ate them [gnosis metabolized into epignosis], therefore they became happiness for me [9th PSD] and the delight of my heart [epignosis doctrine stored in the stream of consciousness].

16- Consequently, Peter's use of gnosis plus the command to grow in the sphere of grace is a challenge to the believer to respond positively to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

17- 2 Peter 3:18 is a mandate for the believer's free will to search for truth and once identified to metabolize it into his heart resulting in epistemological habilitation.

**2 Peter 3:18** - But keep on growing [an imperative mood thus a challenge to the volition] in the sphere of grace [Grace Apparatus for Perception] and in the sphere of knowledge [gnosis: volitional response to revealed truth] ...

E- 11/15  
B- 11/17

"BEYOND GNOSIS"

**Conclusions:**

(22)

- 1- Peter by stopping at gnosis emphasizes the interaction between the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit and the volition of the believer.
- 2- Under God's grace system, the Holy Spirit is able to take divine truth all the way to the point of academic understanding before volition becomes an issue.
- 3- The only way the believer can advance beyond gnosis is for him to believe what the Holy Spirit has made clear.
- 4- This is why Peter uses gnosis; he seeks to emphasize the importance of human volition within the system.
- 5- To say yes to revealed truth is to obey the command to grow ... the imperative mood of *auxano*.
- 6- It is only when this occurs that spiritual growth may occur.

- 7- Thus spiritual growth is dependent upon several factors:
  - 1- The Grace Apparatus for Perception
  - 2- The teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit to the level of academic understanding, or gnosis.
  - 3- The believer's positive volition to gnosis in response to the imperative mood of auxano.
- 8- It is only at this point that doctrine, academically understood as gnosis, can be transferred by the Holy Spirit to the stream of consciousness as epignosis.
- 9- This growth however is accomplished in the sphere of grace--GAP--and in the sphere of gnosis--academic understanding.
- 10- It is here that the imperative mood of auxano becomes important for it is at this point that the ministry of the Holy Spirit must take a hiatus awaiting the volitional response of the believer.
- 11- The Holy Spirit can enable you to understand truth but He cannot make you believe it.
- 12- Gnosis plus positive volition takes truth beyond academic understanding and makes it a part of your spiritual life.
- 13- This is life beyond gnosis and is mentioned by Paul in:

**Ephesians 3:19** - And to come to know the love of Christ which goes beyond knowledge ...
- 14- The phrase "goes beyond knowledge" is made up of the present active participle of:

**ὑπερβαλλω** - \hyperballō\ "to go beyond"

The word is a combination of *hyper* "beyond" and *ballo* "to throw." Hence, to cast above or beyond, thus to excel, exceed, transcend, surpass.

That which it goes beyond is *gnosis*, the academic understanding acquired by means of the Holy Spirit.

- 15- Positive volition takes the believer beyond gnosis to a clear understanding of divine thought: epignosis in the heart's stream of consciousness.
- 16- Do not assume that Peter did not understand this portion of the grace system of didactics. That he did so is obvious by his statement in the first chapter of this epistle.

**2 Peter 1:2** - Grace to you and may prosperity be multiplied in the sphere of the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

χαρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθεῖ ἐν  
ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ Ἰησοῦ τοῦ  
κυρίου ἡμῶν. [10 subpoints]

- 1- The word which is translated "knowledge" is ἐπιγνώσις \epignosis\.
- 2- The word for "prosperity" is εἰρήνη and refers to tranquility of soul.
- 3- The message is that through grace, tranquility may be multiplied within your stream of consciousness when it functions in the sphere of epignosis.
- 4- This is important. What is being said is that tranquility of soul is possible for the believer but only when it functions within the boundaries and under the influence of epignosis knowledge.



- 5- Peter starts his epistle by reminding his audience that grace has been appropriated to them. He then asserts that because of this grace they have a potential: tranquility may be multiplied.
- 6- But that multiplication is only possible if it functions within the boundaries and influence of epignosis doctrine.
- 7- And as we have established, epignosis doctrine can only exist in the stream of consciousness of the believer's heart.
- 8- This means that the individual must grow in the sphere of the influence of grace and in the sphere of the influence of gnosis by means of his own positive volition.
- 9- Thus Peter begins the book with a challenge to acquire prosperity and tranquility within the sphere of influence of metabolized truth. He then goes on to amplify this concept.  
  
**2 Peter 1:3** - His divine power has granted to us [**imputation of divine operating assets at salvation**] everything pertaining to life [**logistics for physical sustenance**] and godliness [**logistics for spiritual growth**] by means of the epignosis knowledge of Him [**faith alone in Christ alone**] who called us [**common grace**] to His own glory and virtue.
- 10- Peter then goes on to amplify the benefits which accrue to the believer who continues to metabolize gnosis into his stream of consciousness as epignosis.
- 17- Peter concluded his epistle with a final challenge to the believer's volition to grow in the sphere of influence which is found first in GAP and then in resultant gnosis.

## BARRIER PROBLEMS

## GRACE SOLUTIONS

REMOVED  
AT THE  
CROSS

- 1- **Penalty of Sin**
- 2- **Personal Sins**
- 3- **Curse of the Law**
- 4- **Integrity of God**

- Expiation**
- Unlimited Atonement**
- Redemption**
- Propitiation**

RESOLVED  
AT  
SALVATION

- 5- **Physical Birth**
- 6- **Relative Righteousness**
- 7- **Position in Adam**

- Regeneration**
- Imputation of +R and Justification**
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

### Scripture Documentation:

- 1- **Personal Sin:** Rom 1:18-32; 3:9-23; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Tim 1:14-16; Jere 17:9
- 2- **Penalty of Sin:** Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12; 6:23; Eph 2:1
- 3- **Curse of the Law:** Rom 3:9-23; 4:15; 5:20; 7:14; Eph 3:15; Gal 3:10-11; 1 Tim 1:8-11; Jms 2:10
- 4- **Integrity of God:** Rom 3:23; 8:8; Isa 45:7

- Unlimited Atonement:** 2 Cor 5:14-15, 19; 1 Tim 2:6; 4:10; Titus 2:11; Heb 2:9; 1 Jn 2:2
- Expiation:** Eph 2:15-16; Col 2:14; 1 Pet 2:24; 3:18; 2 Cor 5:21
- Redemption:** Gal 3:13; Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Psm 34:22
- Propitiation:** Rom 3:22-26; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10

- 5- **Physical Birth:** John 3:6; Rom 7:18-23; Gen 5:3
- 6- **Relative Righteousness:** Rom 3:10; Elic 7:20; Jere 64:6
- 7- **Position in Adam:** 1 Cor 15:22; Rom 5:14

- Regeneration:** John 3:3, 16, 36; 1 Thes 5:23; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet 1:23
- Imputation of +R and Justification:** Rom 3:21-22, 24; Gal 3:1-3, 6, 8; Titus 3:5, 7
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit:** 1 Cor 12:13; 15:22; 2 Cor 5:17

18- In other words, growth occurs under the influence of gnosis. Once truth is academically understood it serves as an influence on the volition of the believer to accept it or reject it.

19- This entire process is dependent upon the self-motivation of the believer to utilize the assets supplied to him in grace:

"SELF-MOTIVATION & GOD-CONSCIOUSNESS"

- 1- The imputation of logistical grace for the sustenance of physical life. (2 Peter 1:3)
- 2- The imputation of logistical grace for the sustenance of spiritual life. (2 Peter 1:3)
- 3- Utilization of the Grace Apparatus for Perception within the boundaries of the filling of the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 3:18)
- 4- Volitional response to gnosis within the boundaries of academic understanding supplied by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 3:18)
- 5- Availability of epignosis knowledge in the stream of consciousness resulting in multiplied tranquility of the soul. (2 Peter 1:2)

20- Consequently, there can be no spiritual advance without self-motivation and you cannot execute your self-motivation if you do not understand the mechanics of spiritual growth.

21- If a person manages to acquire divine truth in his stream of consciousness, it is the result of self-motivation beginning at the point of God-consciousness.

- 1- God-consciousness is the recognition of the existence of a Supreme Being. This realization is arrived at in a number of ways. And by the way, each method is accomplished by means of rationalism, empiricism, or a combination of the two.

(End CWL-008. See CWL-009 for continuation of study at p. 81.)

E- 11/117  
B- 11/20 A  
(23)

- a.) Religious. God must exist because man universally believes in His existence.

**Acts 17:26** - He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,

**v 27** - that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

- b.) Moral. Every person has a volition and a conscience and the ability to distinguish right from wrong. A material, ungoverned universe can know nothing of moral values apart from the absolute righteousness of a Supreme Being.

**Romans 2:14** - When the Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

**v 15** - in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them [**establishment morality**].

- c.) Ontological. Since the human mind possesses the idea of a perfect and absolute Being, such a Being must exist. Beyond the relative there is the Absolute which gives value to the relative.

**Psalms 19:7** - The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

THE USE OF  
DESIGN OR  
PURPOSE AS AN  
EXPLANATION OF  
NATURAL  
PHENOMENA.

- Webster's

- d.) Teleological. The structure and order found in the universe, both microscopic and telescopic, demands a Designer. Both phenomena display order, design, arrangement, and purpose behind which there must be a Master Planner. This is the case whether you observe the structure of an atom or the configuration of the galaxies; the encoding of the DNA molecule or the intricate traffic patterns of the heavenly bodies.

**Romans 1:20** - Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power, and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they [**unbelievers**] are without excuse.

- e.) Cosmological. The intuitive law of cause and effect demands the existence of God. This process ultimately must work its way back to a First Cause. The universe--made up of non-intelligent matter--cannot be its own cause.

**Psalm 148:3** - Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all stars of light!

**v 4** - Praise Him, highest heavens, and the waters that are above the heavens!

**v 5** - Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded [**First Cause**] and they were created [**ex nihilo effect**].

I'd like to illustrate the Teleological and the Cosmological approaches by reading an excerpt from a book by:

Davis, Percival and Kenyon, Dean H. "The Origin of Life." In *Of Pandas and People*. Dallas: Haughton Publishing Company, 1989; pp. 5-7 passim:

The Language of Life

Though life is made of simple chemicals, we should not conclude that living things are themselves simple. Shakespeare's sonnets are artistically complex, though they are composed of simple letters made to form words and phrases. Mozart's pieces are musically complex, though they consist of simple notes placed in patterns. The decisive factor in living things is not the simple components but the patterns.

What patterns are essential to life? Most scientists define life in terms of the coded information in the DNA. It is this information that governs the development and functioning of all the cells in our bodies.

The origin of life, then, is the origin of coded information. The large molecules crucial to life, such as protein and DNA, are constructed much like a message in a known language, with chemicals acting as letters and combining to form words, phrases, and sentences. The "message" is decoded by the cell much the same way the dots and dashes of Morse Code can be decoded by anyone who knows it.

In the world around us, we see two kinds of things: natural objects, like stars and mountains, and man-made structures, like houses and computers. To put it in the context of origins, we see things resulting from two kinds of causes: natural and intelligent.

Uniform Experience

How do we decide whether something is the result of natural or intelligent causes? Most of us do it without even thinking. We see clouds and we know, based on our experience, they are the result of natural causes. No matter how intricate the shapes may be, we know that a cloud is simply water vapor shaped by the wind and the temperature. On the other hand, we may see something very much like a cloud that spell out the words "Vote for Smedley." We know that even though they are white and fluffy like clouds, the words cannot be the result of natural causes. Why not? Because our experience tells us that natural causes do not give rise to complex structures such as a linguistic message.

When we find "John loves Mary" written in the sand, we assume it resulted from an intelligent cause. Experience is the basis for science as well. When we find a complex message coded into the nucleus of a cell, it is reasonable to draw the same conclusion. Science uses controlled experiments to determine what sort of results occur under given conditions. The results we observe to occur consistently and regularly are the basis of the laws we formulate.

In other words, when scientists first probed the nucleus of the cell, they stumbled upon a phenomenon akin to finding "John loves Mary" written in the sand, or "Vote for Smedley" written in the sky. The greatest difference is that the DNA text is much more complex. If the amount of information contained in one cell of your body were written out on a typewriter, it would fill as many books as are contained in a large library.

Are natural causes capable of producing these kinds of patterns? To say that DNA and protein arose by natural causes, as evolution does, is to say complex, coded messages arose by natural causes. It is akin to saying "John loves Mary" arose from the action of the waves, or from the interaction of the grains of sand. It is like saying the painting of a sunset arose from the atoms in the paint and canvas. When in our experience have we ever witnessed such an event?

Whenever we see meaningful symbols we assume it is the handiwork of some intelligent cause. We make that assumption even if we cannot decipher the symbols, as when an archaeologist discovers some ancient inscription on stone. If science is based upon experience, then science tells us the message encoded in DNA must have originated from an intelligent cause.



ENTROPY - IN A  
CLOSED SYSTEM,  
A MEASURE OF  
THE RANDOMNESS,  
DISORDER, OR  
CHAOS.

Ἐκ. ἐντροπῆ  
τὸ ἀλλαγῆ; τὸ  
στρέφειν ἄνω



MORRIS, HARRY M.

THE GENESIS RECORD

GRAND RAPIDS: BAKER BOOK

HOUSE, 1976, pp. 124-

128 PASSIM.

What kind of intelligent agent was it? On its own, science cannot answer this question; it must leave it to religion and philosophy. But that should not prevent science from acknowledging evidences for an intelligent cause origin wherever they may exist. /★

E- 11/20 A  
B- 11/20 B

(24)

"SELF-MOTIVATION & GOSPEL HEARING"

- 2- Self-motivation must continue after God-consciousness. When God provides more information, the person must express positive volition at Gospel hearing or remain in unbeliever status. If he responds positively then he experiences spiritual birth.
- 3- If the believer remains positive following salvation, then God provides him with a teacher and the availability of doctrinal truth.
- 4- If self-motivation causes the believer to attend a Bible class then God provides a message through a pastor and the Holy Spirit functions as Teacher.
- 5- Self-motivation results in positive volition to gnosis doctrine learned academically which is metabolized into the stream of consciousness as epignosis.
- 6- Self-motivation to use doctrine under pressure allows the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the believer into making good decisions from a position of strength.
- 7- Self-motivation at recall means that the believer will execute the Christian way of life through accurate decision making and honorable problem solving.

☼ **CTL 2 Peter 3:18** - But keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of gnosis ... ☼

☼ The central Figure upon whom we are to focus our attention as we move through this growth process is identified next by the possessive genitive plural from the pronoun: ☼

‘εγω - \ego\ “about our” ☼

Then come four objective genitives which describe the primary subject of our studies:

κυριος - \kurios\ Greek form of the Hebrew *Adonai*, translated, “Lord.” It is a title referring to the deity of Jesus Christ and identifies Him as our supreme authority to whom we must submit. Jesus Christ *is* Lord whether believers recognize the fact or not. We develop a commitment to Him by learning His desires from the Scriptures. If we fail to keep His commandments we will learn of His Lordship through the administration of divine discipline. Next ☼ comes the noun:

σωτηρ - \soter\ “Savior.” This is the title of our Lord’s true humanity through His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. ☼

**Romans 5:8** - God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The prepositional phrase “for us” is the ablative of separation from the preposition:

‘υπερ - \hyper\ plus the pronoun: ‘εγω

\ego\ - “as a substitute for us.” Our Lord’s substitutionary work for us on the cross makes Him our Savior.

The third objective genitive is the proper noun:

Ἰησοῦς - \Iesous\ Jesus. This is our Lord's given name. It is a transliteration from the Hebrew Joshua which means "Jehovah is the Savior." This name was selected by God and communicated to Joseph by an angel in:

**Matthew 1:21** - "And she [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

The fourth objective genitive is the proper noun:

Χριστός - \Christos\ Christ. This is not a given name nor is it a surname. It is instead a title. Christos is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *Messiah* and means "the Anointed."

Attention needs to be paid to how our Lord's name and titles are presented in Scripture.

### Analysis of the Names and Titles of Jesus:

- 1- First, the word "Lord" is κυριος \kurios\, the Greek form of the Hebrew, *Adonai*.
- 2- Since the Jews were fearful of speaking the divine name, Jehovah, they called Him instead, Adonai. Kurios is the Greek equivalent when applied to Jesus.
- 3- Jesus refers to Himself as Lord in:

**John 13:13** - "You call Me Teacher [διδασκαλος \didaskalos\] and Lord [κυριος \kurios\]; and you are right, for so I am."

L-25  
"The name and titles of Jesus"

- 4- The writers of the New Testament, with the exception of Luke, were Jews. All refer to Jesus as "Lord." Some examples:

Paul:

1 Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Peter: Our central passage, 2 Peter 3:18.

James:

**James 2:1** - My brethren, do not hold your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ of glory [**δοξα** \doxa\] with an attitude of personal favoritism.

James here also identifies the Lord with the Shekinah Glory.

John:

**John 21:12** - Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are you?" knowing that it was the Lord.

- 5- The full significance of these men identifying Jesus as an equal to Jehovah through the use of the title, "Lord," is seen when it is remembered that these men belonged to the only monotheistic race in the world. To associate with the Creator one known to be a creature was impossible to a Jew. But not to those who had come to recognize Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- 6- Second, the word "Savior" is σωτηρ \soter\, the Greek form of the Hebrew, *Yasha*.

A E- 11/20 B  
 B- 11/27 A

"NAMES & TITLES OF JESUS"

(25)

- 7- In both the Old and New Testament times the word was linked with the expectation of one who would liberate the people from national bondage.
- 8- Its original meaning in the Hebrew meant "to make wide," as opposed to *sarar*, which meant "narrow," "to be restricted," or, "to cause distress."
- 9- The one who makes wide is the one who provides freedom from distress, making it possible for the liberated to pursue his own objectives.
- 10- Such deliverance must come from somewhere outside the party oppressed.
- 11- The one who brings deliverance is known as the "savior."
- 12- The Jews of our Lord's day understood salvation in this manner, therefore they expected Him to deliver them from the oppression of Roman government.
- 13- But our Lord's idea of salvation had to do with forgiveness of sins and liberation from the bondage of the slave market of sin.
- 14- Liberation from sin and establishment of a relationship with the God of the universe makes existence under human oppression tolerable.
- 15- Thus those who are free spiritually have the capacity to seek political freedom.
- 16- At various times Israel was oppressed by other nations and thus had to go to war to maintain its freedom.
- 17- In these battles the nation often turned to God for help believing deliverance belonged to Yahweh Sabaoth, Lord of the Armies.

(End CWL-009. See CWL-010 for continuation of study at p. 91.)

\* No BIBLE CLASSES TUES., 22 NOV OR THURS., 24 NOV 1994 DUE TO FATHER'S WEDDING IN ALABAMA.

- 18- As a result they became known to the surrounding nations as the people saved by Yahwah.
- 19- Such deliverance not only included victory on the battlefield but the resultant safety and security necessary to maintain life unafraid of danger.
- 20- Such deliverance from human bondage is what motivated our Founding Fathers to declare independence from the oppressive regime of King George III of England.

"THE AUTHENTIC FOUNDATION"

### The Declaration of Independence

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,

E- 11/27A  
B- 11/27B  
(26)

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

- 21- In Jewish usage, the word "save" developed a theological meaning. God saves by forgiving sin and by changing the character of an individual.
- 22- God in His grace has provided mankind a means of deliverance from the inherited sinful nature.
- 23- This deliverance is accomplished when God Himself takes on the attributes of true humanity and becomes the way of salvation for the entire human race.
- 24- To follow the Savior means to be set free from the despotism imposed within the slave market of sin.



- 25- The Savior not only sets free, He provides safety, security, and protection for those whom He has emancipated.
- 26- Salvation carries with it the expressed guarantee from Christ Himself that those who believe in Him shall not perish--condemnation into the Lake of Fire--but shall have eternal life--deliverance into the heavenly community.
- 27- The Scriptures are also clear that no other pretenders to the throne have any credibility within the salvation plan of God. Note first of all:

*1 Corinthians 3:11* - No man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In verse 9, the church is described by Paul as "God's building." He goes on to say in verse 10 that he laid the foundation of that building by means of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Upon that foundation one may produce the works of the Christian life, giving a warning to the believer that he must be careful to accurately understand the mechanics of true Christian service. Before entering into a comparison of authentic versus spurious Christian service in verses 12-15, Paul amplifies in verse 11 the identity of the true foundation. Note what he says: "**No man [no pretender to the throne of Messianic authority] can lay a foundation [provide salvation] other than the one which is laid [the foundation of salvation provided through the work of Christ on the cross], which is Jesus Christ.**"

There is a very critical adjective which emphasizes the unique quality of Jesus Christ as Savior. It is the accusative masculine singular of:

ἄλλος - \allos\ "other."

There are two adjectives in the Greek which are translated "other." This one which refers to a distinction made between another of the same category.

The second is the adjective:

ἕτερος - \heteros\ "other."

*Heteros* refers to another of a different character. Thus verse 11 states that there is no other available candidate for the title of Savior who possesses the same characteristics as Jesus Christ. He alone is uniquely qualified to hold that title.

There are many others of a different character who claim Messianic qualities. But they must be weighed in the balance of God's requirements for the title which are: (1) undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person who remained impeccable under temptation, (2) was efficacious as a substitutionary sacrifice, and (3) arose triumphant over physical death in resurrection. No other person possesses these same characteristics. Jesus Christ accomplished all three and is thus the only authentic foundation upon which one may build the Christian way of life.

Buddha Gautama (563-483 B.C.), Abu Muhammad (A.D. 570-632), Joseph Smith (1805-1844), Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) are four Messianic want-a-be's but of a different character.

Buddha and Buddhism: Buddha was born Siddhartha Gautama, the son of a royal family in ancient India. At age 29, depressed by the sufferings of mankind, he became an ascetic who spent the rest of his life in search of truth.

His discovery, called his enlightenment, views everything as relative and interdependent and teaches that there is no eternal, everlasting, unchanging, permanent, or absolute substance, such as the soul, the self, or the ego within or without man. Salvation is achieved by learning the teachings of Buddha over a long period of time which may include several lifetimes. Those who are successful in learning the truth enter into Nirvana. Buddha died at age 80 in Kasia, India where he was cremated which was indeed an apropos harbinger of things to come.

Abu Muhammad and Islam: In the year 610, Muhammad claimed he experienced a vision of an angel who said to him, "You are the Messenger of God." From that time he received revelations in the form of verbal messages which he believed came from God. About 650 they were collected and written down in the Qur'an. It is strictly monotheistic believing that God is one and unique with no partner and no equal. In many of its doctrines it is in agreement with Christianity. However, this attempt to imitate Christianity is exposed as fraudulent by its rejection of Jesus Christ as deity and Savior. Salvation is acquired by repenting to God of one's sins. If one sincerely submits to God he will return to a state of sinlessness and when he dies will go to Paradise. Muhammad died in Mecca in June 632 at age 62.

Joseph Smith and Mormonism: At age 14, Smith claimed to have received a vision of God and Christ. Eight years later he tells the story of how in the woods near his home in Palmyra, New York, an angel led him to buried golden plates on which were written ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics that he translated into English.

The alleged translation, which was published in 1830 as *The Book of Mormon*, tells of two ancient civilizations located on the American continent. The first was founded by the refugees from the Tower of Babel who were subsequently destroyed because of their corruption. The second was the so-called "lost tribes of Israel" who migrated across the Pacific and became known to the West as the American Indians. Smith continued to have visions and messages from God and therefore was constantly updating his doctrines because of this. These ongoing revelations were also published under the titles, *Doctrine and Covenants*, and *The Pearl of Great Price*.

Mormonism teaches that God has a body and that man's destiny is to evolve to Godhood. This is summed up in the Mormon saying, "As man is, God once was: as God is, man may become." This led to a doctrine of salvation based on works instead of faith. They explain that the purpose of Jesus' death on the cross was to guarantee that they will be raised from the dead. Therefore, Christ, whom Mormons do not believe is co-equal with God the Father, has no part in salvation. As one who they believe achieved perfection, Jesus simply insures that they will be resurrected once they achieve Godhood through works.

Smith was an admittedly uneducated man who became involved in demonic activities as a youth. He was involved in fortune telling through what is known formally as scrying but which is more commonly called crystal-gazing.

He was known to use drugs and he was probably under the influence of hallucinogenic delusions when he allegedly had conversations with Jesus and when he interpreted the *Book of Mormon*.

In fact, his description of that interpretation is described in terms of scrying. He claimed ability to translate the "Egyptian" language on the golden plates by peering through two crystals, one called Urim and the other Thummim.

In his campaign for the presidency in 1844, Smith caused violent reactions among the voters of Illinois over his involvement in polygamy. He was alleged to have had over 50 wives. Smith was captured by an angry mob in Carthage and shot. He was 38 at his death.

Mahatma Gandhi and Hinduism: Gandhi was a follower of the Vishnu sect of Hinduism. From its doctrines he developed the tenet of nonviolence and the belief that everything in the universe is eternal. This led to a policy of noninjury to all living beings and adherence to vegetarianism. He was more of a political obstructionist than a religious leader. He developed the principle of nonviolent noncooperation with the British government in India. This is of course an oxymoron. The very fact that a duly imposed law is violated is an act of volitional violence which inevitably leads to physical violence among one's followers. The communists have used this technique to cause tremendous social and political upheaval throughout the world including the United States.

Hindus believe that salvation is acquired by *karma*, the "path of duties" which involves worship and ritual; *yoga*, the "path of knowledge" which includes meditation leading to divine insight; and *bhakti* \buck-tee\, the "path of devotion" to God manifest by fasting, self-purification, and self-surrender.

Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic in Delhi, India, on January 30, 1948.

The point of all this is to demonstrate that all the (so-called) great religions have humanistically flawed systems of salvation by works, all designed to impress God enough so that He might permit the most efficient some heavenly afterlife. All their founders, or respected leaders, are currently dead with no reports documenting their resurrections. If God were impressed with their systems of salvation then they, like Christ, would have been resurrected.

They instead remain dead and with their extended repose denounce the belief systems they promoted and the ways of salvation they advocated. This is why I have asserted that Christianity is not a religion. The religions of the world are inventions of Satan designed to distort the true doctrine of salvation and thus prevent the execution of the Christian way of life.

Religion is a system whereby man by his own efforts and merits attempts to gain salvation or the approbation of God. Effort and merit requires human works and means that salvation must be accomplished over a long period of time with no absolute certainty of success thus no resultant confidence in one's eternal future. This means that the follower's lifestyle is based on false motivation. He seeks to earn his salvation thus all his works have ulterior motives.

On the other hand, Christianity is a relationship with Jesus Christ, the one true Savior, who served as our substitute on the cross and whose work was approved of by God, proof of which is found in the resurrection. Salvation is appropriated by grace through faith alone in Christ alone. It is instantaneous and eternally permanent, carrying with it the imputation of eternal life, citizenship in the heavenly community, and the guarantee of a resurrection body.

All the religious leaders we have just noted and others like them are dead and you can visit their graves or memorials. To date they have not been resurrected. They are failures and their belief systems are exposed as the Satanic lie.

Quite the contrary, Jesus Christ is the one true Lord and Savior who in *John 14:6* said this of Himself:

**John 14:6** - "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes unto the Father but by Me."

The accuracy of His claim was authenticated when the angel said outside our Lord's tomb in:

**Matthew 28:6** - He is not here. He is risen!

"JESUS"

28- Third, the word "Jesus" is Ἰησοῦς \Iesous\, the Greek form of the Hebrew, *Joshua*.

29- This is the only proper noun among the four mentioned here.

30- The Old Testament name, *Joshua* \Yeho-shu-ah\, means, "Jehovah is salvation." The same is true for the New Testament equivalent, *Jesus*, or *Iesous*.

31- Notice that the proper name is a compound noun made up of the first two titles we have studied: *Adonai* is substituted by the Jews for *Jehovah*, or *Yahweh*, while *Yasha* is the Hebrew word for *Savior*. Combine the two together and you get *Joshua*, or "Jehovah is salvation."

32- As we have just noted, *Jesus* is the name which God commanded *Joseph* give to the Son about to be born to *Mary*. (*Matthew 1:21*)

Ε- 11/27 B  
B- 11/29  
29