



## Is this series right for you?

The Holy Scriptures are God's written WORD and dependable as such. Your **Faith Equity**™ is safely invested in that. Among a variety of primary reasons why those scriptures are credible is that God makes no attempt to cover up the dirty laundry.




In that respect, at least, the Bible is not what the typical churchgoer might call "Religiously Correct." By stark contrast, the visible church for the most part is "Religiously Correct."

If you comprehend the irreparable damage that all the neo-Liberal "PC" nonsense has done to the U.S. social and political landscapes, you should easily comprehend the damage that "Religious Correctness" has done to Christianity.

Multiple scriptures compel us to be very aggressive in our search for knowledge and understanding. Hosea 4:6 says that God's people are destroyed for a lack of them. 2 Timothy 2:15 asserts that the only way a Believer can gain God's approval is to be ever-active in his search for knowledge and understanding.

The problem is this—

Believers who continue to study through those  filters will never be able to connect the scriptural "dots."

If we are fully aligned on that point, then this series may very well be for you.



Do you think your preacher is a really "special" Christian – more special, in fact, than most any other believer you know?

If your preacher is truly "called and chosen" by our Heavenly Father to a preaching assignment, that assignment is likely just different from yours and mine. No assignment makes a person "special" or "not special."

Although some clergymen are fond of pompous attire, high-minded rhetoric and ego-boosting ceremony, they're NOT special in God's eyes. Neither should you regard them as special.

Some preachers do a really good job of fulfilling their assignments. Like the rest of us, though, many more of them do not. Those who do not typically masquerade as ones who do.

Their masquerading is enormously effective...with folk who think they are "special."

God will reward each of us in direct proportion to how effectively we will have fulfilled our respective assignments. Your assignment is unique. Jesus referred to it as a cross:

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]? Lest haply,



When we first began pursuing our assignment to share what we are discovering about the 1st-Century Gospel, we were quite certain that our primary audience would be among the goodhearted people who love their preachers and are convinced that they're "special."

We've come to call Jesus' words at Matthew 28:19-20 "**The Great Commission**." The essence of it is that we Believers should preach repentance (See Luke 24:47).

It's true: Jesus never said or even implied that our mission is to go out and "get people 'Saved'." What he clearly said was that we are to **make disciples** of those who believe the original 1st-Century Gospel Message.



### Coaches Facilitate Skill Practice!

At Ephesians 6, we're instructed to put on the whole armor of God. Verse 15 in the KJV reads like this: "And your feet shod with the preparation <sup>G-2091</sup> of the gospel of peace."

Strong's G-2091 is the N.T. Greek word, *hetoimasia*, meaning to prepare or to practice.

after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish...Salt [is] good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; [but] men cast it out." —Luke 14:27-30,34,35

The streetwise version of that is "Nobody is 'special.' Each of us must play the hand we were dealt—to the best of our God-given ability."

We soon learned that those folk are so overwhelmingly enamored with the professional clergy that they will quickly reject anything that fails to align perfectly with what they're hearing from their pulpits—even when that is clearly refuted by what's written in God's word. Although sincere, those good people don't have ears to hear. The Thessalonians of Acts 17:11 are their role models, albeit subconsciously:

"These (*Bereans*) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." —Acts 17:11

The notion that "preaching" and "the ministry" are special callings for paid professional Christians has driven most believers into the bleachers. The prevailing mindset is that "We pay our preachers to do all that; don't we?" The apostle, Paul, believed that the establishment of a professional clergy would inevitably corrupt "the ministry."

—[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_3d37ec63397d4899a85d068f49b39593.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_3d37ec63397d4899a85d068f49b39593.pdf)

This may come as a surprise to some: That cannot be done from a pulpit...or even in a classroom.

Don't buy that? Try "teaching" a roomful of young children how to ride their first bikes!

Bottom Line: The making of DISCIPLES is clearly a COACHING assignment.

It is not a preaching or teaching assignment. But who and where are the Coaches? Who's helping them learn how to be effective Coaches?

You likely recall learning about the time when King Saul summoned the O.T. shepherd boy, David, to face the Philistine giant, Goliath.

"My people are destroyed for lack of [sincerity?] [prayer?] [worship?] [holiness?] [righteousness?] [hyperspirituality?] [faith?] [good deeds?] [regular church attendance?] [getting "truly 'saved'?" ] [believing "what 'we' believe?"] KNOWLEDGE..." —Hosea 4:6





Saul wanted to prepare David for that epic fight, so he loaned him his own battle armor. David quickly rejected it.

His primary reason for that good decision? He hadn't undergone the regimen of practice while wearing it in a fight, as had Saul and his adult soldiers. He opted, instead, for a weapon he had lots and lots of practice using—a sling.

You know the rest of that story. David won.

So! If those who sing with tears running down their faces, "I'm a soldier in the army of the Lord!" are to practice regularly in order to be ready to do what God's soldiers must DO, what form(s) might that practice take?

You're aware, aren't you, that the real pros in any sport practice a lot more than any of the amateurs against whom they may occasionally compete? If God deserves your best performances, shouldn't you practice to get really good at doing what He wants you to do?

Okay, so what is it that He wants you to do?

Here's one of the things that ALL of us are expected to do:

"Let your speech [be] alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may **know how ye ought to ANSWER every man.**" —Colossians 4:6

"...[be] **ready always to give an answer to every man that ASKETH you a reason of the hope that is in you...**" —1 Peter 3:15

So why do most Believers defer to their paid professional clergymen when unbelievers or skeptics ask? Bet you've heard them. It goes something like this: "Well, I'm not an expert on the scriptures, but my preacher is. You gotta come and hear him preach on Sunday!" THAT is the primary reason why those who're determined to follow Christ must engage in regular skill practice.

Yes, there'll be a lesson in this series on what you must do to start preparing to effectively fulfill the assignment(s) God has given you.

We'll even help you learn how to find out what your personal assignment is.

Among my favorite quotes is this one from the late Vince Lombardi: "Gentlemen, this is a football." So, for that **Discovery Experience**™, we'll start with the Basics.

That'll include how to respond effectively and intelligently when others feel compelled to ask you about what you believe and why you believe it—*without* having to defer to your preacher.

You'll get your new practice shoes really, really dirty, though...



## There'll also be a lesson on what it means to be "saved."

Search as long and as hard as you will and you won't find any evidence that people in the 1st-Century who heard the Gospel message "got 'saved'" when they believed...not even so much as an implication of that. Instead, they REPENTED.

That "Getting 'Saved'" notion was first introduced by 19th-Century evangelists who also invented the revivalist "altar calls" rage. Salesmen at heart, they apparently felt the need for a definitive tool with which to "close the sale." That has yielded millions of naive Believers who think they're Heaven-bound

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because, once-upon-a-time, they believed and "got 'saved'."

The two salvation theories that have become wildly popular within today's visible church are both extreme departures from what Jesus and the 1st-Century apostles taught.

Their message was REPENT. That KJV word is from the New Testament Greek word, *metanoeō*. Strong's reference G-3340, it means to change one's mind for better, heartily, to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins. Sounds to us like a 180° change of lifestyle direction and focus. You?

The overwhelming odds are that people you love have taught you one of those extreme theories. If you are inclined to hold fast to what those good people have taught you, this series may not be for you. If, on the other hand, your curiosity is *killing you* right now, this series may be for you!

Jesus called such curiosity "ears to hear." It means that, although you're likely to be initially skeptical upon receiving new information, you'll respond like the Acts 17:11 Bereans and not like the Thessalonians in that verse.

Per 1 Peter 1:9, the end of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

Please be skeptical. Both the Bereans and the Thessalonians of **Acts 17:11** were initially skeptical. Read that in several Bible versions. You should invest your **Faith Equity**™ in God's written Word; never in us or in any other human: "Thus saith the LORD; 'Cursed be the man that trusteth in man...'"

—Jeremiah 17:5



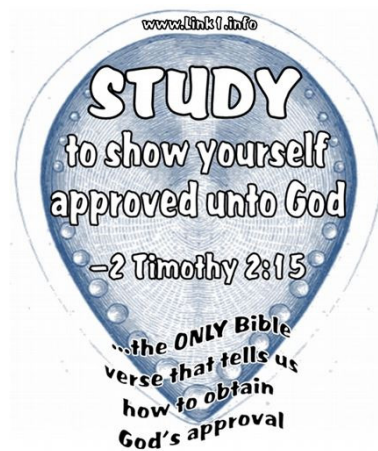
**ATTENTION!**  
Should you be SKEPTICAL?

## REVIEW—

1. This series is for believers who understand clearly that nobody is "special," including our professional clergymen. God has dealt each of us a different set of natural interests and abilities. He expects us to develop those abilities into useful skills. Job one, then, is to play the hand He dealt YOU to the very best of your ability.
2. Jesus never said or even implied that our mission is to "get people 'Saved'." He told us to make disciples of those who've heard and believed the Gospel message.
3. The making of disciples is not a preaching or teaching assignment. It is a coaching assignment. Coaches facilitate practice. Practice helps those who are determined to FOLLOW Christ to develop their God-given abilities into useful skills.  
"The ministry" was never intended to be a professional career choice. Each of us is expected to actively pursue our unique personal assignment within "the ministry." Here, we hope to also help you to discover what that unique assignment is.
4. Each believer is expected to learn how to sensibly answer people who ASK about what he believes about the Bible and Christianity...and why.
5. First-Century believers didn't "get saved;" they repented. The end of their faith was the salvation of their souls.
6. You should be a noble skeptic—like the Bereans of Acts 17:11.
7. You will find just ONE scripture in the entire Bible that instructs those who will determine to *follow* Christ on **how to gain His approval**: 2 Timothy 2:15. We intend for this series to be the very finest study guide available...for those who are destined to comprehend the original 1st-Century Gospel message.

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"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer." —Psalm 19:14



After you've completed each Lesson – in person or online – please go to [www.link1.info/contact-us](http://www.link1.info/contact-us). You can submit your questions, comments and concerns there and share the essence of what you've learned. Promptly after that, we will direct you to the access info for the next lesson in the series.

The **ACCESS CODE** for Lesson One is **1234**.

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