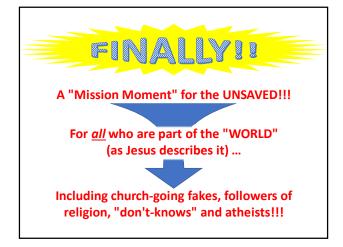


The WORLD (and its values)

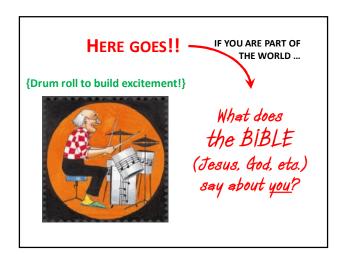
The unsaved WORLD: your horrible condition

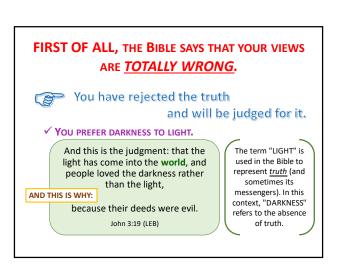
#7











√ THIS IS BECAUSE ULTIMATE TRUTH IS EMBODIED IN JESUS.

IESUS SAID:

I have come as a light into the world, in order that everyone who believes in me will not remain in the darkness.

John 12:46 (LEB)

In the Bible, "FAITH" and "BELIEVING" is <u>NOT</u> the opposite of "FACT" and "REASON."

The "faith" of the Bible is fact-based, and refers to accepting what is true, and living according to it.

TO "BELIEVE" JESUS:

> It would require you to accept who he is, and all that he says. (This would include accepting as true these descriptions of you.)

YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR REJECTING THE TRUTH.



You have been exposed to the truth. You have known the truth ... and have still rejected it.

TRUTH revealed in the world around you.

- ✓ CREATION ITSELF REVEALS GOD'S GLORY As seen in Psalm 19:1.
 - You may have even reached the point that you deliberately ignore the historic facts of the creation and flood – 2 Peter

CONTINUED 1

TRUTH revealed in the world (continued).

- ✓ ALL CREATION TELLS YOU ABOUT GOD It leaves you without excuse, Romans 1:19-20. (You suppress the truth.)
- ✓ God's acts of kindness testify in his behalf Acts 14:17. (Evildoers don't deserve kindness... but God is kind anyway - Romans 2:4.)

TRUTH revealed in your very being.

√ GOD MADE YOU AS A REFLECTION OF HIS "IMAGE" – Genesis 1:27. (Though sin has corrupted and distorted it.)

TRUTH revealed in your mind and conscience.

- ✓ YOU KNOW YOU DESERVE TO DIE Yet you continue to do what is evil, and often encourage others to do it, Romans 1:32.
- ✓ EVEN WHEN YOU CONDEMN OTHERS WHO DO EVIL You vourself continue to do it. Romans 2:1.
- ✓ EVEN WITHOUT THE BIBLE, YOU HAVE NO ESCUSE You instinctively have an awareness of right vs. wrong, Romans 2:14-15.

BECAUSE YOU HAVE REJECTED THE TRUTH:



You have put a barrier between you and salvation.

√ YOUR "WISDOM" IS ACTUALLY FOOLISHNESS.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.

1 Corinthians 3:19a (NIV)

The more you trust in your "wisdom," the less likely you are to become saved... because you will view God's way of salvation as "foolishness" (though in reality, it is wise), 1 Corinthians 1:20, 25, 27.

√ To BE SAVED: You would have to reject your false "wisdom" and accept God's wisdom (which you presently call "foolish")!

... the world through its wisdom did not know him, ...

1 Corinthians 1:21b (NIV)

➤ You will <u>never</u> be able to brag that you saved yourself – 1 Corinthians 1:29.

✓ WITHOUT A CHANGE IN YOUR VIEWS:

Your "sorrow for sin" won't be life-changing.

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (NIV)

Any changes will be temporary – as illustrated in 2 Peter 2:20,22.



You prefer the world over God.

✓ YOU PURSUE THINGS THAT WILL NOT LAST... SO NEITHER WILL YOU.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does-comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17 (NIV)

➤ God warns his people to NOT be like you! (He also promises to take care of them.)

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear.

For all the nations of the world pursue these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Instead, pursue his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12:22b, 30-31 (NET)

WOW! THAT'S EVERYTHING I LIVE FOR!

I'M TOO BUSY LIVING MY **ETERNAL LIFE, TO WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS!**



You are controlled by the powers of darkness.

- ✓ ULTIMATELY, YOU ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF SATAN, THE "EVIL ONE."
- ... the whole world is under the control of the evil one. 1 John 5:19b (GW)
- God warns his people to watch out for the evil spirit that controls you - 1 John 4:1a.

√ YOUR HUMAN LEADERS ARE LIKE FALSE PROPHETS, CONTROLLED BY THE "SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST."

> ➤ In every generation since sin entered the world, there have been such people.

EXAMPLES FROM THE DAYS OF THE APOSTLES:

Many deceivers have gone out into the world. ... Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist.

2 John 1:7 (NIT)

... many false prophets have gone out into the world. ... This is the spirit of the antichrist,

They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.

1 John 4:1b, 3b, 5 (NIV)

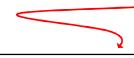
√ YOU HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD (regardless of your personal views):

YOU DO NOT ACCEPT THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

That helper [who Jesus sends to his people] is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You [= Jesus' followers] know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:17 (GW)

AND BECAUSE YOUR VIEWS ARE DISTORTED ...





You don't even recognize ("know") who God really is. (But God's people do.)

√ You don't know the <u>Father</u>.

[JESUS PRAYED...] O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me.

John 17:25 (NLT)

✓ YOU DON'T KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT.

... the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You [= Jesus' followers] know him, ...

John 14:17b (GW)

✓ YOU DON'T KNOW JESUS FOR WHO HE REALLY IS.

[Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

John 1:10 (NASB)

✓ YOU DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE <u>GOD'S PEOPLE</u> FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE.

But the people who belong to this world don't know God, so they don't understand that we are his children.

1 John 3:1b (NLT)



You love people who are like you, and hate people who aren't.

√ YOU LOVE PROPLE WHO ARE LIKE YOU.

[JESUS, TO HIS FOLLOWERS...] If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own.

John 15:19a (NIV)

> You encourage people to be sinful, like you!

Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

Matthew 18:7 (NIV)

I DON'T HATE CHRISTIANS! I AM VERY TOLERANT AND THINK THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BELIEVE WHAT THEY WANT!

RATHER, YOU ARE **VERY INTOLERANT TO** THE TRUTH, AND HATE IT WHEN CHRISTIANS TELL IT TO YOU!

- > You may have the <u>ability</u> to believe what you want; but you don't have a right to believe what you want.
- > GOD commands you to REPENT, not to "believe what you want"!

... he commands all people everywhere to repent.

Acts 17:30b (NIV)

"All people everywhere" includes YOU.

√ Under the pretext of "Tolerance," you hate ANYONE WHO TESTIFIES TRUTHFULLY AGAINST YOU.

YOU HATE JESUS.

The world ... hates me because I testify that what it does is evil.

John 7:7 (NIV)

JESUS WARNED HIS FOLLOWERS THAT YOU WOULD HATE THEM.

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ... you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

John 15:18-19 (NIV)

➤ He also said that you would mistreat them – John 15:20.

YOU MAY BE GLAD WHEN JESUS' FOLLOWERS SUFFER.

[JESUS, TO HIS FOLLOWERS...] I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices.

John 16:20a (NIV)

YET <u>THEY</u> ARE SO MUCH BETTER THAN YOU, THAT YOU DON'T EVEN DESERVE TO BE IN THEIR PRESENCE.

Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them.

Hebrews 11:36-38a (NIV)

ONE more thing:

✓ IN ALL YOUR HOSTILITY TOWARD JESUS' FOLLOWERS. JESUS OFFERS THEM A PEACE THAT YOU WILL NEVER **COMPREHEND: ***

> I'm leaving you peace. I'm giving you my peace. I don't give you the kind of peace that the world gives. So don't be troubled or cowardly.

I've told you this so that my peace will be with you. In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world."

John 14:27: 16:33 (GW)

* (Unless you repent and turn to Jesus for salvation.)





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