

Do Christians Really Follow The Bible?

by Michael H. Exton

How about it? Do Christians *really* follow what is written in the pages of your Bible? Or, do they instead follow pagan beliefs and traditions?

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Mike Exton
P.O. Box 144
San Lorenzo, CA 94580 - 0144

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Future Booklets

The following titles are books in the planning stage—that God willing, will be coming out in the not too distant future.

The USA & Britain in Prophecy!

The Coming Hitler!

The Final Seven Years in Prophecy!

America Will Soon Be Destroyed! Unless...

Will Christ Return Soon?

The Beast is Rising!

The Fall of America & the Rise of the Antichrist!

The Shocking History of Rome—Its Church & Its Empire!

666!

The Rapture—Truth or Fantasy?

God's Biblical Calendar

Christmas & Easter—Biblical or Pagan?

Saturday or Sunday—What Does God Say?

Divorce & Remarriage—What Does God Think?

Christian or Pagan?

Probably the best way to find out if traditional Christians *really* follow the Bible is to first make a list of the fundamental beliefs that traditional Christians teach and then compare those beliefs with the Bible.

During my childhood and teenage years I attended several different “Christian” churches. Generally speaking they all taught the same basic beliefs, with perhaps a few slight differences here and there. Here is my list of what I was taught:

1. Sunday is the day to worship God.
2. Easter is the Christian holiday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.
3. Christmas is the Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ.

4. People should be baptized as infants.
5. When you die you go either to heaven or hell.
6. If you just believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as your personal Savior you will go to heaven, but if you don't you will go to hell where you will be punished for all eternity.

After making my list I wanted to get the FACTS! I didn't want anyone's opinions, ideas, or any supposedly symbolic or hidden meanings to find out just what the Bible said about these fundamental "Christian" teachings. I also wanted to find out exactly what the FACTS were from encyclopedias, history books, and other books that dealt with these basic "Christian" beliefs.

Would the Bible and these books disagree with each other or would they compliment each other? And how would these books compare to modern Christian teachings? Would they agree or contradict one another?

So the very next thing I had to do was to read the whole Bible, from the very first word of Genesis to the very last word of Revelation. So I did, and this is what I found out...

Worship on Sunday?

Which day does the BIBLE say to worship God?

1. “By the *seventh* day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the *seventh* day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the *seventh* day and made it holy” — Gen. 2:2-3.
2. “Six days do your work, but on the *seventh* day do not work” — Ex. 23:12.
3. “You must observe my SABBATHS” — Ex. 31:12.
4. “For six days work is to be done, but the *seventh* day is a SABBATH of rest, holy to the Lord” — Ex. 31:15.
5. “Paul [an apostle of Jesus] went into the synagogue and

- on three SABBATH days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures” — Acts 17:2.
6. “When the SABBATH came, Jesus began to teach in the synagogue” — Mark 6:2.
 7. “Observe the SABBATH because it is holy to you” — Ex. 31:14.
 8. “On the SABBATH day Jesus went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read” — Luke 4:16.
 9. “AFTER the SABBATH, at dawn on the FIRST day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb” — Matthew 28:1.

As you can plainly see the SABBATH day was the day that God made holy, the day of rest, the *seventh* day of the week, and the day that both Jesus and the apostles taught from the Scriptures. You do NOT need personal interpretations, hidden meanings, or anything else to understand this! The only thing you have to do is *read the Bible and see for yourself!*

Then which day is the *seventh* day of the week, the day to rest and worship God?

1. “Saturday — the seventh day of the week” — Encyclopedia Americana.
2. “Saturday — it was the ORIGINAL day of the Sabbath prescribed in the BIBLE and is still observed as such by Jews and some Christians” — Encyclopedia Americana.

3. "Saturday — the seventh day of the week" — Webster's Dictionary.
4. "Sunday — the first day of the week" — Webster's Dictionary.
5. "Sunday — the first day of the week" — Encyclopedia Americana.
6. "Sunday — day of the SUN" — Webster's Dictionary.

Saturday??? Then where did Sunday, the day that most "Christians" worship God come from? "Because it was on the first day of the week that the women had found the empty tomb, this day came to be known as the Lord's Day. GRADUALLY it was on this day and NOT ON THE SABBATH that the Christians [?] met together...commemorating Christ's victory over death and the grave. Thus Sunday is a weekly reminder of Easter." (Anniversaries and Holidays; Hazeltine, American Library Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1944, page 52.)

But, does God say to change the Sabbath to the first day of the week? *No!* Does Jesus? *No!* Do the apostles? *No!* On the contrary, Jesus and His apostles preached on the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, on Saturday!

Does it state anywhere in the Bible to worship God on the first day of the week? *No!* Does it say to worship on the seventh day of the week (Saturday)? *Yes* — many, many times!

The previously quoted book by Hazeltine further goes

on to state, “The Christians were *not the only ones* who observed the first day of the week. It was the PAGAN holiday for worshipping the SUN. It so happens that the first Sunday laws were *not Christian* in origin” (page 52)!

So as you can clearly see, SATURDAY is the day of rest, the day of worship, the Sabbath day, the seventh day of the week.

But who was really responsible for changing the day of worshipping God to Sunday? Were they REALLY Christians or is it just a coincidence that Sunday is the day of worshipping the SUN, a PAGAN holiday?

Surely Easter's Not Pagan?

Does it say anywhere in the Bible to celebrate this holiday, Easter? *No!* I repeat — *No!* But what do encyclopedias and other books say about this holiday?

1. “Easter — the name Easter comes to us from Oстера or Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon GODDESS OF SPRING, for whom a spring festival was held annually, as it is from this PAGAN festival that some of our Easter customs have come” — Hazeltine, page 53.
2. “Easter is NOT a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the QUEEN OF HEAVEN” — The Two Babylons; Hislop, NJ, 1959, page 103.
3. “The PAGAN Mithrists of Rome met together at dawn in honor of the SUN-god. This GODDESS — from whose

name our word ‘Easter’ comes, was associated with the SUN rising in the *east* — even as the very word ‘Easter’ would seem to imply. Thus the dawn of the SUN in the east, the name Easter, and the spring season are all connected” — Babylon Mystery Religion; Woodrow; CA, 1986, page 147.

4. “In northern Europe, in *pagan* times, *eggs* were colored and used as symbols of the GODDESS OF SPRING...the egg was associated with the SUN — the ‘golden egg’” — Woodrow, page 144.
5. “The *rabbit* is a PAGAN symbol and has always been an emblem of fertility” — Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Easter bunny, Easter eggs, etc. all come from this PAGAN festival! But don’t believe me — pick up an encyclopedia or any other book that deals with FACTS and PROVE IT to yourself!

And ham is the traditional meat that is eaten on Easter. But what does the Bible say about eating meat from pigs? “And the PIG...IS UNCLEAN for you. You MUST NOT eat their meat”! (Leviticus 11:7-8).

But who decided that Easter should be a Christian holiday anyhow? Were they REALLY Christians? Or did they just call themselves Christians? Is it just a coincidence (like Sunday) that the origins of Easter come from *pagan* celebrations?

You Mean Christmas Too?

Does the Bible anywhere tell you to celebrate Christmas or the birth of Jesus Christ? No! Does the Bible tell you when Jesus was born? No! Did the apostles of Christ celebrate His birth? No! Then who started this holiday? When did it start? Where did it come from?

1. “Christmas — its observance as the birthday of the Savior is attended with secular customs often drawn from PAGAN sources; indeed both Christmas and Epiphany... are transformed PAGAN celebrations of the winter solace” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
2. “December 25th in Rome — this was the date of a PAGAN festival in Rome, chosen in A.D. 274 by the emperor Aurelian as the birthday of the unconquered SUN, which at the Winter Solstice begins again to show an increase in light. At some point before A.D. 336 the church at Rome established the commemoration of the birthday

- of Christ, the SUN of righteousness, on this same date” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
3. “In the Roman world the Saturnalia (December 17-24) was a time of merrymaking and exchange of presents” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
 4. “Many of our Christmas customs have their roots in PAGAN ceremonies” — Christmas & Its Customs; Hole, Barrows & Co., NY, NY, 1958, page 10.
 5. “Our remote forefathers decorated their houses with evergreens at the Winter Solstice. At this festival... customary rules of conduct were loosened” — Hole; page 10.
 6. “St. Nicholas — by some he is associated with Odin (heathen god) — to whom the saint’s name has been lent to make him slightly more respectable in Christians eyes” — Hole; page 48.

Just about everything associated with Christmas is *pagan* in origin! Look it up! Prove it to yourself! But what did the early or first TRUE Christians think about this holiday?

“It is true that the early Church *forbade* the custom, as savoring of PAGANISM” — Hole; page 36. Christmas was not even celebrated in the USA or England until pretty recently. “In the USA traditional Christmas customs were at first suppressed (as in England), because of the Puritan objection to them as PAGAN in origin, but since the middle of the 19th century the celebrations have become increasingly popular” — Encyclopedia Britannica. Also, “December 25th was proclaimed an ordinary working day (by the Puritans), and those

who persisted in treating it as a holy day were fined or imprisoned” — Hole; page 13.

As you can plainly see Christmas has its origins from *pagan* celebrations. You don't need the interpretations, opinions, or rationalizations of man to figure this out! You don't need symbolism's or hidden meanings either. The only thing you have to do is look it up yourself — the *plain truth* in both the Bible and books that deal with these celebrations.

Do you think that it is just a coincidence that Christmas, Easter, and Sunday are ALL original PAGAN holidays? That Easter is always celebrated on a SUNDAY? That Christmas originated with the worship of the SUN? That Sunday was the day for worshipping the SUN?

Furthermore, more people commit suicide during Christmas time than during any other time of the year! Would a truly Christian holiday entice people to kill themselves?

But, does the Bible condemn man's religious holidays, celebrations that were made up by MAN, and not God? What exactly does God say?

1. “I hate, I despise *your* religious feasts” — Amos 5:21.
2. “This is what the Lord says: ‘Do NOT learn the ways of the nations...For the CUSTOMS of the people are *worthless*; they CUT A TREE out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter’” — Jeremiah 10:2-4.
3. “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow

and deceptive philosophy, which depends on HUMAN TRADITIONS and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ” — Colossians 2:8.

Some people might still insist that they are still worshipping God no matter what kind of holidays they really are. But what does the BIBLE say?

1. “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in *vain*; their teachings are but rules taught by men. You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the TRADITIONS OF MEN” — Mark 7:6-8.
2. “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe YOUR OWN TRADITION!” — Mark 7:9.

Then if we are not to observe or celebrate these holidays, are there any special days that we are supposed to observe and celebrate according to the Bible? *Yes!* They are clearly listed throughout the Bible, such as in Exodus 12, 23, 34, 35, and Leviticus 16, and they are summed up in Leviticus 23. And these days are to be kept FOREVER — Leviticus 23:14, 41, as well as several other Scriptures.

Jesus, the apostles, and the first century Christians kept *these particular days!* You can find this out in such places as: Matthew 26, 28; Mark 6, 14, 16; Luke 2, 4; John 7; and Acts 2. So why doesn't the “Christian” community keep these holy days — days ordained by God and commanded to be kept FOREVER?

Is Baptism for Infants or Adults?

Should infants or adults get baptized? This is what the Bible says concerning water baptism:

1. “CONFESSING THEIR SINS, they were baptized by him [John the Baptist] in the Jordan River” — Matthew 3:6.
2. “I baptize you in water *for repentance*” — Matthew 3:11.
3. “He [John the Baptist] went into the Jordan, preaching a baptism of REPENTANCE for the forgiveness of sins” — Luke 3:3.
4. “Peter replied, ‘REPENT and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus so that your sins may be forgiven’” — Acts 2:38.
5. “They were baptized, both *men and women*” — Acts 8:12.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say to baptize babies! Was Jesus baptized as a baby? *No!* Were any of His disciples? *No!* EVERYONE that is mentioned in the Bible is an ADULT! Besides you had to REPENT of your sins when becoming baptized, and repent means “to turn from sin and resolve to REFORM one’s life; to feel sorry for something DONE; regret” — Webster’s Dictionary.

How can infants repent of their sins when they can’t even talk yet? When they haven’t committed any sins yet? Infants don’t have the slightest idea what the word sin means, let alone the understanding and the desire to repent of their sins, sins they haven’t committed yet! But what do other books tell us?

1. “John the Baptist made baptism an integral PART of his call for REPENTANCE and for a break with the sinful PAST” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
2. “Through baptism men were to obtain the forgiveness of their sins. Like the baptism of John, Christian baptism *required repentance*” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
3. “The earliest Christian literature makes no explicit reference to the CUSTOM of baptizing infants” — Encyclopedia Britannica.
4. “Jesus was baptized at the age of about 30” — the Hammond Almanac of a Million Facts and Records.

I ask, who was it that made it a CUSTOM to baptize infants? Were they REALLY Christians? Or did they just call themselves Christians?

Hell for the Wicked?

What about hell? What do books that deal with **FACTS** teach about hell? Is it a place of torment for the wicked?

1. “In the Bible, the place where the spirits of the *dead* are; identified with **SHEOL**” — Webster’s New 20th Century Dictionary.
2. “It stands for the Hebrew **SHEOL**” — Collier’s Encyclopedia.
3. “**SHEOL** in old testament times referred **SIMPLY** to the abode of the **DEAD**” — Collier’s Encyclopedia.

Hell simply means sheol, the home of the *dead!* It is not where the bad people go! The Bible no where says that hell is a place of everlasting torment for the wicked, but is a place where **EVERYONE** goes upon dying — the *grave!*

This is what the BIBLE says:

1. “Do not ALL go to the SAME place?” — Ecclesiastics 6:16.
2. “For dust you are and to dust you will return” — Genesis 3:19.
3. “For the wages of sin is *death* [NOT eternal life in a fiery inferno!]...” — Romans 6:23.
4. “The dead know NOTHING...” — Ecclesiastes 9:5.
5. “In the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom” — Ecclesiastes 9:10.
6. “For dead men CANNOT praise you. They CANNOT be filled with hope and joy. The living, *only the living*, can praise you...” — Isaiah 38:18-19 (Living Bible).

The BIBLE does NOT say that people go to everlasting torment upon dying. But, pay close attention to this next quote: “In CHRISTIANITY [?], the place where fallen angels, devils, etc. live and to which sinners and unbelievers go for torment and eternal punishment” — Webster’s New 20th Century Dictionary. Notice how in this quote it says, “In CHRISTIANITY,” it does NOT say, “In the BIBLE,” like the previous quotes did!

If you did some further research on hell you would find out that hell, as a place of everlasting torment and punishment, is an old *pagan* belief that has crept its way into *mainstream Christianity*!

Heaven for the Saved?

How about heaven — surely the good people or the saved go to heaven. Don't they? From the Bible:

1. “NO ONE has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of man” — Jesus speaking in John 3:13.
2. “David did NOT ascend to heaven” — Acts 2:34.
3. “Do not ALL go to the same place” — Ecclesiastics 6:16.
4. “For dust you are and to dust you will return” — Genesis 3:19.

The *Bible* NEVER says that when you die you will go to heaven! But, what do other books say about heaven?

1. “Heaven is referred to as a throne, a palace, or a temple to which the *prayers* of the saints ascend” — Collier’s Encyclopedia.
2. “In the New Testament heaven is also the abode or home of the *angels*” — Collier’s Encyclopedia.

They say nothing about PEOPLE ascending to heaven after death. And NO WHERE in the *Bible* will you find it! When you die you simply return to dust, until the 2nd coming of Jesus. Upon the return of Jesus, the *true* believers and faithful FOLLOWERS of Christ are resurrected and rule with Christ on *earth* for 1,000 years (Revelation 20).

After the 1,000 years are over, everyone who wasn’t resurrected in the 1st resurrection will then be resurrected — this is the 2nd resurrection (Rev. 20). These people will live on earth for apparently 100 years (Isaiah 65:20). *If they follow* Christ they will be given eternal life (just like those in the 1st resurrection), but if they don’t they will be put to DEATH in the lake of fire — this is the 2nd DEATH (Rev. 20:11-15). Those granted eternal life will then live on EARTH with Jesus and God the Father! (Rev. 21).

Now, if there is going to be a resurrection in the *future*, after the return of Christ, how could anyone be resurrected from either heaven or hell? That would make no sense at all! There is only one place where you can be resurrected from — the grave, as it is clearly and plainly stated in many places in the Bible! Here is one such Scripture: “For a time is COMING when ALL who are in their *graves* will hear His voice and come out” — John 5:28-29.

Who was really responsible for starting this popular belief of heaven and hell anyway? Were they *really* Christians? Are they *really* Christians who carry this belief today?

Just Believe in Jesus?

Many people today teach that if you **ONLY** believe in Jesus and accept Him as your personal Savior you are “saved,” and you will inherit eternal life. But, does the Bible teach this? Is belief enough to be granted eternal life? What exactly does the *Bible* say?

1. “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is **DEAD**”!
— James 2:17.
2. “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **DEMONS** believe that”! — James 2:19.
3. “You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is **USELESS**”! — James 2:20.
4. “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?” — James 2:14.

5. “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself. DO what it says”! — James 1:22.
6. “They *claim* to know God but by their actions they deny Him”! — Titus 1:16.
7. “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into *practice*” — Luke 8:21.
8. “Has not Moses given you the LAW? Yet NOT ONE of you keeps the LAW” — Jesus speaking in John 7:19.
9. “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But since YOU DO NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE WROTE, *how are you going to believe what I say?*” — John 5:46-47.
10. “You see that a person is justified by WHAT HE DOES [“WORKS” - KJ, NKJ, RSV, & NRSV] and ***not by faith alone***”! — James 2:24.
11. “For *not the hearers* of the law are just in the sight of God, but the DOERS OF THE LAW will be justified”! — Romans 2:13 (NKJ).
12. “*Keeping the commandments* of God is what matters”! — 1 Corinthians 7:19 (NKJ), or as the NRSV renders this verse: “Obeying the commandments of God *is everything*”!
13. “Here is the CONCLUSION of the matter: fear God and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS” — Ecclesiastics 12:13.

14. “Now by this we know that we know Him, *if* we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, is a *liar*, and the *truth* is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the LOVE of God is perfected in him. By THIS we know that we are in Him” — 1 John 2:3-5 (NKJ).

15. “Whoever *claims* to live in him must WALK as Jesus did” [and Jesus KEPT His Father’s *commandments*! — John 15:10] — 1 John 2:6.

As you can plainly see, FAITH ALONE IS USELESS! The teaching that we are saved by faith ALONE is an absolute abomination in the sight of God and a stench in His nostrils. Those *false ministers* who teach such a lawless and permissive doctrine will someday have to answer to God for turning the grace of God into license to break His commandments (see Jude 1:4 and Matthew 18:6 & 7:21). You not only have to believe, but you ALSO MUST DO what the Bible commands!

The Conclusion!

Over one billion people CLAIM to be Christians today. If most of these people were REALLY Christians, do you honestly believe that the “Christian” nations of this world would be in the shape that their in? Do you sincerely think that they would have all of the murders, abortions, suicides, rapes, child molestations, drugs, drunkenness, hatred, greed, selfishness, immorality, adultery, pornography, homosexuality, etc.? *Of course not!*

So, are they REALLY Christians? Or do they just *claim* to be Christians? Are their beliefs based on the BIBLE? Do they follow the commands of the BIBLE?

I picked out some of the major beliefs that most “Christian” churches preach, and I found out that what they teach is DEFINITELY NOT FROM THE BIBLE, but is mostly based on *pagan beliefs and traditions!*

So, why don’t you READ THE BIBLE for yourself and find out just what the **truth** is!

Revelation Comes Alive!

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Tithing

Fact or Fiction?

How about it? Though many *churches* today teach tithing, what does the *Bible* teach? Does God indeed command us to give 10% of our income to the church? What do you think—is tithing fact or fiction?

When Was Jesus Crucified?

Most people in the Christian world believe that Jesus Christ was crucified on a Friday—“Good Friday.” But this is absolutely, positively, NOT what your Bible teaches! On the contrary, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus was killed on a different day. And it wasn’t Wednesday either (as many others believe)! But which day was it? Read this startling booklet for yourself and discover *exactly* which day it was—as this booklet proves beyond a shadow of a doubt the REAL day of Christ’s crucifixion.

Now some of you may be thinking, “Who really cares when Jesus was crucified? I mean, what does it REALLY matter if it was Friday or some other day?”

Well, it does matter. For if you think that Jesus Christ was crucified on a day different than what the Bible states—then believe it or not—you *may be denying that Jesus is truly the Messiah!* Not only that, but if you think that Jesus was killed on a Friday, then almost surely *you will be deceived* when the Antichrist appears on the world scene. For this false teaching will in all likelihood play a huge part in Satan deceiving the world about the true identity of the Antichrist.

But don’t you be fooled! READ THIS BOOKLET!

The Astonishing History of God's True Church!

Whatever became of the apostolic church that Jesus Christ founded in the first century? Did it eventually evolve into the Roman Catholic Church and then split into the Protestant denominations of today? Or did it instead remain a “small flock” as prophesied in the pages of your Bible? And if so—*where* is that church today?

Read this stunning booklet and find out the answers to these questions and more as the actual history of God's true church will simply *astonish* you!

Other booklets which may interest you include:

The Astonishing History of God's True Church
When Was Jesus Crucified?
Tithing—Fact or Fiction?
Revelation Comes ALIVE!

Cost? As long as funds are available each booklet will be sent to you absolutely **FREE**—though donations are gladly welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Send your requests to:

Mike Exton
P.O. Box 144
San Lorenzo, CA 94580 - 0144

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