JESUS CHRIST VS THE EVANGELICAL TITHE

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Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 1: The evangelical tithe – the evangelical tithe declares Lord Jesus wants His saints to surrender 10% of their income to their local church – has *no Bible precedent* whatsoever, not in the New Testament or in the Old. Therefore....

Evangelicals who regularly surrender 10% of their income to the local church *cannot consider themselves to be New Testament christians.* Understand that....

A New Testament christian is one who *attempts* to pattern his/her christianity after the New Testament. (New Testament writings is his/her standard, guideline.) When a New Testament christian is forced to choose between one of many "commandments of men" within evangelicalism and holy Scripture, he/she chooses obedience to Scripture. The contrast to a New Testament christian is a *contemporary* (modernized, culturalized) christian. A contemporary christian is one who models today's accepted version of christianity.

Jesus taught us (Mat. chapter 7), *"Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man."* Most important question: Is the New Testament the "sayings" of Christ Jesus? Or are decrees of evangelicalism His sayings? Suggestion....

Ask Jesus.

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 # 2: Regularly surrendering 10% of one's income to
the local church is regularly denying the lordship of the Holy Spirit. Listen to Jesus....

"He will guide you into all truth." ALL truth. All truth certainly includes where to direct your money, how to promote and maintain God's kingdom. Refusing to submit your christianity to the Holy Spirit is most certainly refusing to submit your christianity to Jesus. Amen? Jesus also said....

"He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak." The Holy Spirit is the mediator between Jesus and you. He hears from Jesus and conveys what He hears to you. Obeying the Holy Spirit is obeying Jesus.

Evangelical religionists – religionists being those protecting and engendering their religion – do not prompt you to be led individually by the Spirit. Have you ever heard them admonish, when taking a collection, "Only give as the Holy Spirit so directs!"?

You must fully realize religionists want your money. They *need* your money. Evangelicalism, like every religion, is very expensive. Overhead is high. Salaries must be paid.

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 # 3: The evangelical tithe is, to a large degree, responsible for evangelicals abandoning Jesus Christ as "first love". Please follow my reasoning....

Jesus to the church of Ephesus: *"I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* It is obvious to anyone having eyes to see and ears to hear that what was true of the Ephesians is true of most christians today.

When first "born of the Spirit" Jesus was our first (primary) love. We loved Him more than anyone and everything. And then religionists captured the hearts of most by capturing their money. Listen to Jesus....

Jesus: *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* The one who captures your treasure (the income you worked so hard to attain) captures your heart – be it Lord Jesus or evangelical agents. You must understand that *religionists are desperate for your money* – evangelicalism is very expensive – and will do what it takes to redirect your devotion, and consequently your money, to them.

Fully understand – Pastor Whoever needs your money to finance his salary and his religious domain. In the battle waged against Jesus for the lordship of your donations the pastor usually wins. Religionists, you see, are coercive, but Jesus never coerces.

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 # 4: John gave a fiery rebuttal to **# 2.** (# 2 strongly suggests that Jesus hates the evangelical tithe.) Unlike most pastors who refuse to publicly respond to Facebook critics daring to challenge the evangelical way and its awful tithe, John had the grit to confront my posting.

The defense John presented is very similar (identical?) to that presented by pulpit-people throughout evangelicalism. Therefore if John is mistaken, all these pulpit-people are mistaken. (And it must be said, if John is correct, they are correct, and I am the deluded one.) Evangelical, it is your responsible to the One you call "Lord" to seriously determine His will regarding the evangelical tithe – a tithe that determines the fate of *millions* of christians and non-christians.

I condense John's lengthy composition to three major particulars. One: Jesus Himself *today* receives the evangelical's tenth.
Two: Quote: "Jesus did not deactivate the Law but expanded it."
Three. Faithfulness to Malachi 3:10-18 will "activate the Lord of the Armies of God.... on our own personal behalf."

Is the evangelical tithe rooted in the Bible or in man's greed? A command of Lord Jesus or one of many "doctrines of demons"? God's word or religious trickery? Ask Jesus, your infallible Teacher, to guide you via the Holy Spirit as you dare to compare two opposing perspectives. (Jesus: *"One is your Teacher, the Christ."*)

In the next article, # 5, I will respond to John's three contentions.

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 # 5: This is a continuation of **# 4**. In # 4, I highlighted John's robust rebuttal to my suggestion that Jesus really does hate the evangelical tithe. My last words of # 4: *In the next article, # 5, I will respond to John's three contentions.* So here it goes....

One: *Jesus Himself* today *receives the evangelical's tenth.*

Jesus does no such thing. John quotes from the NKJV, Heb. 7:8: *"Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them."* Then John writes, "This verse is written in the present time frame. Who is he who lives?" The suggestion is "he who lives" must be Jesus. In other words, Jesus today is still receiving tithes. John apparently didn't notice that the "h" in "he" is not capitalized, and therefore, according to the NKJV, does not reference Jesus. ("he" references Melchizedek.) This same 'mistake' has been made by many salaried proponents of the evangelical tithe over past decades.

Two: Quote: *"Jesus did not deactivate the law but expanded it."*

Question: WHEN did Jesus expand the law!? And why!? Romans 6:14: *"**You are not under law** but under grace."*

Three: Faithfulness to Malachi 3:10-18will *"activate the Lord of the Armies of God.... on our own personal behalf."*

John, like *every* tithe-teacher, is not a New Testament christian (one who endeavours to live by New Testament writings). Jesus never taught tithing. Nor did Paul or any other apostle. That should make the evangelical thoroughly suspicious. If there was *one* verse verifying that awful tithe it would be highlighted in neon lights in every church throughout evangelicalism. (Pardon the hyperbole.)

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 # 6: Let's talk salary. Why? Because most of the money redirected from Christ's Great Commission is used to finance salaries.

Because so much money is spent on salaries (salaries consume most of the congregation's donations), one might assume the New Testament would have many references (citations, quotations) that validate the salary.

Evangelical, do your own investigation! Simply search your Bible for the word "salary". The word simply cannot be found, not in the entire Bible, not in any translation. It's not there because God didn't put there.... because He doesn't want it there.... because the salary is contrary to His will and His ways.

It's easy to conclude that Jesus must hate the pastor's salary. Do you remember His reprimand to the money-hungry pharisees who were *"making the word of God of no effect through tradition"?* (Matthew 15) Doesn't the salary equally make "the word of God" – regarding His Great Commission – "of no effect"?

Jesus lived by contributions. The twelve and the seventy lived by contributions. Paul lived by contributions. Jesus taught that contributions were to cover "eating and drinking", not vacations, a hefty mortgage, and other non-essentials.

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 # 7: Financing the evangelist is evangelizing. Financing the evangelist is responding to Christ's (mostly ignored) Great Commission. Let's consider that commission....

The Great Commission is *your* commission. Yes, it is his and hers and theirs, but it is also yours. If this mandate has not been directed by Lord Jesus to you, to whom did He direct it? Jesus (NLT): "You are all equal as brothers and sisters." Equal sonship, equal privileges, equal responsibility.

Not all can go but all can finance, be it much or little. Simply redirect donations that are aimed at your local church toward evangelists. Again, financing the evangelist is evangelizing.

Hopefully you will ask Lord Jesus, "Lord, what evangelist(s) should I support?" Perhaps Jesus would respond, "You support the evangelist the Holy Spirit so directs." Wait upon the Lord for His direction. Wait until you hear. Prov. 3:6: *"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

The secret to soul-winning is found in the words of Jesus, "the Lord of the harvest": *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."* One cannot follow two. Stop following evangelicals and begin

following Jesus Christ. You can bring Christ's salvation to many. You can, you can, you really, really can.

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 # 8: Evil should be called evil. That word, "evil", is rarely spoken or written.

Yet the New Testament records the word "evil" about 100 times, and the Old Testament more than 300 times. Lord Jesus spoke that word often. All this to say.... something is wrong! *Evil should be called evil*.

Love-of-money always gives birth to evil. The New Testament records the devouring of widows' houses by religionists. And those religionists encouraged their people to redirect resources from needy parents to themselves. (See Matthew 15)

Within evangelicalism, love-of-money has likewise given birth to evil, and that evil should be called.... evil.

Redirecting funds Lord Jesus intended for His Great Commission is evil. All religions – religion being an assortment of various "commandments of men" – are evil. The non-biblical pastor's salary – which elevates him above his spiritual siblings – is evil. Twisting Scripture to enrich the collection plate is evil. Evil, evil, evil.

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 # 9: Jesus said, *"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."* "You" were His apostles, those He had spent years training. Primarily, Lord Jesus sent them to take the vital information of His salvation – paid for by His precious and innocent blood – to the perishing. But those sent-ones are now in heaven. Who are today's sent-ones?

You are Christ's sent-one. Those words – "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" – were recorded for your sake. Jesus is speaking to you just as clearly and emphatically as He spoke to the eleven. You are Christ's sent-one. And....

And the one sitting next to you in church is Christ's sent- one. Your friends are sent-ones. *Every* born-again evangelical is Christ's sent-one. But the evangelical sent-ones have little in common with New Testament sent-ones.

New Testament sent-ones – the eleven, the seventy, Paul, Timothy, etcetera – *went* (left, departed)! Almost every evangelical sent-one *stays*. They are sent-ones who don't go! They don't take the gospel – personally or by financing evangelists or missionaries or via social media – to the perishing. When the evangelical dropped his tenth (or his whatever) into the basket, he thinks he freed himself from that responsibility. Sad. Very sad.

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 # 10: The greasy stain emitted from love-of-money – a reproach spread throughout worldwide evangelical leadership – is adequately exposed to anyone having eyes to see and ears to hear every sunday when the practiced professionals flaunt their skills. The most adroit extractors reap a tenth; the less skillful must settle for less.

The Holy Spirit never included *one* example in the New Testament of a collection during the gathering of the saints. That reality should mean something to those claiming reverence for the Bible. (Some might recall the collection for the troubled saints in Jerusalem, but this was not a public collection.) However this absence of a New Testament precedent doesn't discourage the money people; they simply revert to the Old Testament to authenticate their notion that saints must pay for services rendered.

Some point to Malachi to teach *their* people what Paul never taught *his* people – their tenth must be surrendered to the oversight of the salaried – the salaried being the (supposed) Levite priests of the New Covenant.

Were the (non-salaried) New Testament, Spirit-filled writers – Luke, Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude – derelict for not warning their readers of Christ's displeasure (wrath?) for those withholding their tenth from them?

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 # 11: The guest speaker, invited to preach tithing to a mega-church congregation, built his defence of the evangelical tithe on Hebrews, chapter 7, explaining that this chapter is a New Testament confirmation that christians are required to tithe their income to their local church.

This preacher's assignment – for which, undoubtedly, he was highly recompensed – was to convince the mega-church audience that the account of Abraham donating 10% of his *plunder* (not income!) to Melchizedek (on *one* occasion, thousands of years ago!) – is sufficient evidence that christians are to relinquish 10% of their income (not once, but regularly!) – to the local church.

One might think this a challenging, even impossible task considering that Lord Jesus never taught such a notion, nor did Paul, the twelve, or any New Testament writer. But this brother was skilled at manipulating both Scripture and his audience. Now I take you to....

Hebrews 7:4: *"Consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils."* Chapter 7 is **not** a teaching on tithing, but a teaching of the greatness of Melchizedek!.... which establishes the *greatness* of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus!.... who was *"in the order of*

Melchizedek". Get it?

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 # 12: I ask you to *momentarily* agree that the evangelical tithe is not, and never has been, Christ's will for His saints – even if you are not convinced, even if you find such a supposition unsavory, even painful. Okay? Will you do that?

Now.... I want you to imagine a man who received a huge inheritance from a deceased uncle, and was suddenly shifted from poverty to wealth. He bought a mansion, a few cars, gifts for friends, an extensive wardrobe and many etceteras. Everything was bliss until he learned that his uncle earned his fortune from the sex trade. Understandably, the man now considered all his purchases contaminated, ugly, repulsive. Now consider....

If the evangelical tithe is actually as illicit as the uncle's fortune, wouldn't that make everything financed by this illicit tithe equally contaminated, equally dirty, equally repulsive? That would include the pastor's salary, church buildings and church expenses. And more.... it would include every salary of every officer of every denomination. And more.... it is evidence that pastors and teachers throughout evangelicalism, including seminaries, have been teaching heresy.

All this is to challenge you to check it out for yourself. You have a Bible and you have a brain and you have the very "Spirit of truth". What more do you need?

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 # 13: The church signboard read, "We can do more together". *Together, together, together* – that's evangelicalism's mantra. No individualism.... only church-sanctioned activity encouraged (allowed?).... no One-to-one guidance of the Holy Spirit. The problem with "We can do more together" is that it.... simply.... is not.... true!

All teams need a captain.... and that captain must be salaried.... and that salary must be sufficient to house, clothe and transport him and his family.... and to cover all family expenditures. The team's main burden is financing the captain's sizable salary. To maintain the team's loyalty, the captain is obliged to furnish the team with a (mostly vacant) building.

That sign should have read, "We can *waste* more together"!

One Spirit-led, Christ-centered, faithful disciple of our Lord Jesus can do more than an entire assembly. The lives of Paul, Peter, Steven, Philip, John and others verify this. God's divine order is **not** Jesus.... Holy Spirit.... us (the team). God's order is Jesus.... Holy Spirit.... christian. (Jesus.... Holy Spirit.... you.)

The very Son of God will guide you, via the Holy Spirit, throughout the remainder of your christianity if, and only if, you surrender to His lordship.

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 # 14: To those who esteem the words of Jesus, the reality that Jesus never endorsed, or even mentioned, anything comparable to the evangelical tithe should pulverize all contentions of its proponents. What Jesus did *not* say is as trustworthy as what He *did* say. Amen?

Does anyone believe that if Jesus wanted his saints to submit 10% of their income to a "home" church (or to anyone) He would have declared it.... not once, but several times?

Jesus had a message to each of the churches listed in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3. Jesus *commended* certain churches for their perseverance.... for exposing false apostles.... for hating evil works.... for obedience.... for unashamedly proclaiming His name. And....

Jesus *criticized* certain churches for abandoning Him as "first love".... for sexual immorality.... for eating "things sacrificed to idols".... for abandoning the faith.... for lukewarmness. But, but, but....

Do you notice *something missing* in both Christ's criticisms and commendations? Winnie the Pooh: "Think, think, think!" In *all* the red words in your Bible, do you find *something missing*? "Think, think, think!"

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 # 15: Foolish is the man who trusts the scientist (or non-scientist) who promotes the theory of evolution. How can anyone have confidence in those who believe that something evolved out of nothing? Such scientists have fully displayed their inability to be reasonable and impartial. Common sense has no residence in such (supposed) scholars and they disqualify themselves as worthy of our trust.... this despite their impressive credentials and appellations. Likewise....

Foolish is the evangelical who trusts in ministers who believe the Bible teaches him/her to relinquish 10% of his income to a local church. How can anyone have confidence in pastors, teachers, etcetera who shamelessly manipulate Scripture to make it say something that Jesus never said (and something no New or Old Testament writer has said)? Such 'ministers' have fully displayed their inability to be reasonable and impartial. Like the evolutionists, common sense has no residence in such (supposed) scholars and they disqualify themselves as worthy of our trust.... this despite their impressive credentials and appellations.

Common sense should tell the evangelical that if God wanted His instructions to the the Israelite farmers (to direct 10% of their increase to the Levite priests) to be somehow revised to accommodate the evangelical religion and evangelical religionists He would have said so. Wouldn't He?

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 # 16: Every evangelical is living out his christianity far below his/her potential. Paul said to the Corinthians, "Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ." If evangelicals simply took this admonition seriously they would be as successful as Paul. Impossible? Let's look at it....

First of all, let's define an evangelical. Attending an evangelical assembly does not make one an evangelical. An evangelical is one who has embraced evangelical Bible-plus and Bible-minus tradition. (Jesus: *"In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.")*

Next, let's define *success*. Paul's success was accomplishing the assignments Jesus assigned to him. If you complete the particular assignments Jesus assigns to you, you will be equally successful. Imitating Paul isn't fulfilling *his* tasks but accomplishing *yours*. Amen?

Paul hated religion; to imitate Paul you must reject religion and never again finance evangelicalism. Paul's "first love" was Jesus Christ (Paul: *"To live is Christ");* evangelicals, to become an evangelical, dethroned Jesus as "first love", and enthroned evangelicalism. To imitate Paul you must enthrone Jesus, once again, on the throne of your christianity.

Is that an unreasonable suggestion, to place Jesus, "the Lord of lords and King of kings", on the throne of your christianity? Like really?

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 # 17: Regarding donations (contributions) one should turn to our Teacher for direction. Jesus: *"One is your teacher, the Christ."* The Father said of Jesus, *"This is My Son in whom I am well-pleased. HEAR HIM."* So let's hear our Jesus....

Jesus: *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."* Now let's unpack those precious words....

"Give." Our generous Jesus wants His ambassadors to be generous. Give, give, give. And then give more. The stingy soul is a sick soul. The Father was generous X 1000. *("He gave His only begotten Son.")* Jesus was likewise generous. *("Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree.")*

"and it will be given to you." We give and Jesus replenishes. It costs nothing to give. It costs nothing to give little and it costs nothing to give much.

"with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Jesus' generosity to us is determined by our generosity to others.

Notice Jesus did not say to give 10%. No calculator required, just a generous heart, a touch of faith, and submission to the Holy Spirit. Amen?

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 # 18: When Jesus declared Himself and His upcoming assassination as man's only salvation, *"many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, 'This is a hard saying'"* and *"went back and walked with Him no more".* This leads to a pertinent question: SHOULD HARD SAYINGS BE SAID? An example of a hard saying....

The awful evangelical tithe is a sinister heresy, a "doctrine of demons" that has devalued the relationship between Christ and evangelicals and is the cause of eternal damnation to millions.

Question: Should this very "hard saying" to evangelicals be said? My answer: Declarations should be declared if true (and *if and when* directed by the Holy Spirit). Now consider....

Catholics have been taught that Mary was a perpetual virgin. A hard saying to catholics would be: *Every translation of the Bible declares that Joseph did not have sexual relations with Mary UNTIL Jesus was born. That simple truth should convince catholics that catholicism, like every religion, cannot be trusted.*

Question: Should this very "hard saying" to catholics be said? Answer: Declarations should be declared if true (and *if and when* directed by the Holy Spirit).

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 # 19: Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ who seemed to have a more intimate connection with Jesus than the original twelve. Christ personally taught Paul, and those revelations were recorded for our benefit. *("All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.")* Paul is much more qualified to speak into your christianity than the salaried minister you call "Pastor Whoever". So regarding your givings (donations, contributions), let's hear from this faithful martyr for Christ....

Paul: *"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."*

The Corinthians were not to give "of necessity". The Amp says it this way: "not.... under compulsion". And the CEV: "Don't feel you are forced to give." And the GNT: "Not with.... a sense of duty." The NLT: "Don't give.... in response to pressure."

The proponents of the awful tithe doctrine – the surrendering of 10% of one's income to finance evangelicalism – pressure their congregations by claiming that withholding a tenth is displeasing to God and will bring dire consequences. This compulsion (coercion, pressure, demand) is contrary to Paul's words and contrary to the Christ he served.

Jesus: *"He who has MY commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me."*

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 # 20: The argument that God wants His children to surrender 10% of their income to an institutionalized church (or to anyone) is weak. From a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the strongest), the biblical evidence supporting the religionists' claim is less than 1!! Jesus: *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear"* ....

Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus *"took the cup.... and said to 'This is My blood of the NEW covenant, which is shed for many.' "* Heb. 8:6: *"He is also Mediator of a **better** covenant, which was established on **better** promises."* The **new** replaced the old. Let's consider the word *new*....

New (dictionary.com): *of a kind not existing or appearing for the first time.* The new covenant established between God and Christ never before existed. We became **new** covenant christians when receiving Christ at rebirth. (Paul: *"Your life is hidden in Christ with God.")*

You are a **new** covenant christian. New, new, new. Not old, but new. Consider yourself to be what you are – "an heir of God", "sons of light", "the righteousness of God", "justified by His grace", "complete in Him", "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people". Strongly resist those who point you to old covenant rules and methods that were directed to old covenant saints.

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 # 21: There is no recorded backlash from the people against the religionists who "devour widows' houses" (Mat. 23:14) and robbed aging parents of their children's sustenance. Their silence was sinful. That same sinful silence abounds today.

Why don't public sermonizers castigate the awful evangelical tithe that is responsible for the eternal damnation of multitudes? Surely a high percentage of these teachers must realize how contrary the evangelical tithe is to God's ways, God's will, God's words. Nicodemus gives us the answer....

"*Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.... came to Jesus by night."* Why by night? Nicodemus, a believer who called Jesus "Rabbi", did not want to be seen by fellow pharisees conversing with an 'outsider'. As in everyone, there was a contest in Nic's heart between right and wrong, between God and God's competitors. Nicodemus was pressured to choose sinful silence over righteous retaliation.

That same peer pressure is felt by the guest speaker who dares not threaten the financial stability of the host church.... and the evangelist who depends on the city's pastors to endorse him.... and the television/podcast communicator who is quite aware that his audience includes powerful pastors.... and every local pastor sensitive to the denominational officers that assigned him.

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 # 22: When is the last time the man you call *pastor* spoke of the upcoming judgement seat of Christ?

Can't remember? The judgement seat of Christ is a certainty, more so then your next birthday. There you must give an account to Christ the judge, and there the status of your eternal future will be revealed. Life on earth should be a daily preparation for that day. And yet evangelicals are almost totally oblivious to this reality because the pulpit is silent on this matter. Shouldn't Pastor Whoever teach/highlight that which the New Testament teaches/highlights? Shouldn't he emphasize what the New Testament emphasizes? Listen to the New Testament....

2 Cor 5:10: *"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."* Rom. 14:10: *"We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* 1 Cor. 3:13: *"each one's work.... will be revealed by fire."* 1 Cor. 3:15: *"If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss."* Rom. 2:6: *" will render to each one according to his deeds."* Acts 10:42: *" was ordained by God to judge the living and the dead."* Rom. 14:12: *"each of us shall give account of himself to God."* Gal. 6:7: *"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."* Eph.6:8: *"whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord."* James 3:1: *"teachers.... shall receive a stricter judgment."* Mat.16:27: *"the Son of Man.... will reward each according to his works."*

Evangelical, you have every right to be enraged. The fellow you pay to shepherd you isn't earning his wages. His negligence is costing you a depreciated eternity.

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 # 23: Why, why, why is the judgement seat of Christ seldom mentioned, not only by Pastor Whoever but by christian authors, magazine and podcast people, etcetera? Why, why, why do these same people freely speak of "tithes and offerings" – which has no New Testament endorsement – and avoid the upcoming judgment seat of Christ that is referenced many times. (See # 22) Perhaps...

Perhaps professional sermonizers have a sense of *foreboding* about the account they must give to Judge Jesus. *("Each of us shall give account of himself to God.")* How do they justify diverting tons of money intended for His Great Commission to cover their living expenses, build unsanctioned buildings and finance many other non-essentials?

Foreboding: *a strong inner feeling or notion of a future misfortune, evil, etc.* Because christians have the very "Spirit of truth" residing within, a foreboding of dire future consequences would be more expected than in non-christians. (Jesus: *" will tell you things to come.")*

Evangelical, do not expect pulpit-people to make you cognizant of the upcoming encounter with Judge Jesus. Search Scripture for yourself. (Jesus: *"Seek, and you will find.")*

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 # 24: A good question to ask yourself when making critical decisions: "What.... would.... Paul.... do?" What would Paul do in any situation you face if he lived in our day? A sure way to attain Paul's

"crown of righteousness" is to imitate him. (Paul: "Imitate me.") So regarding finances....

Question: If Paul lived today, would he market his christian services and writings?
Hint: *"We are not, as so many, peddling the word of God."*

Question: If Paul lived today, would he accept a salary?
Hint: *"I will not be burdensome to you."*

Question: Would Paul work to supply his needs?
Hint: *"Nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day."*

Question: Would Paul surrender a tenth of his income to a local church?
Hint: *"You are not under the law but under grace."*

Question:Would Paul take Christ's Great Commission seriously?
Hint: *"I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named."*

Question: Would Paul accumulate "treasures on earth"?
Hint: *"Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."*

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 # 25: Why not open your own JESUS BANK ACCOUNT? Such an account could greatly enrich your earthly christianity and your heavenly eternity.

A JESUS BANK ACCOUNT is an account that belongs to Jesus. Yes, you decide what goes in – how much and how often – and Jesus determines when and where His money is released.

Hopefully you will submit to the governance of the Holy Spirit when deciding the details of your deposits. Will you deposit daily, weekly, monthly? Will you give little often (a *little* times *often* equals *much*) or will you be unusually generous occasionally?

Once deposits are made the money is no longer yours. Those funds belong to Jesus. Your role is to be His steward. (Paul: *"It is required in stewards that one be found faithful.")* Jesus will direct you via the Holy Spirit. Don't know how to be guided by the Holy Spirit? You.... must.... learn!

No longer will you be governed by man; you will be governed by Jesus Himself. No longer will you be wasteful; Jesus is efficient. Listen to Jesus: *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Depositing your "treasure" into Jesus is depositing your heart into Jesus. What could be more enriching?

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 # 26: A very (very!) harsh reality: Evangelicals are unknowingly, unintentionally, unwittingly paying their leaders to immerse them into their contemporary (culturalized, modernized, convoluted)

christianity that has no similarity to New Testament christianity. Result: a devalued christianity, a devalued relationship with Jesus Christ, a devalued eternity. Consider....

A high percentage of salaried pastors convince their congregations that the power of God revealed in the book of Acts is not available today. AND perhaps an equal percentage of salaried pastors convince their congregations the very opposite. There is no other conclusion except, painful as it might be, many salaried pastors are in serious fallacy, teaching their congregations a dangerous and harmful doctrine. And that's just one example of many....

Some pastors teach Calvinism, others teach Arminianism. Some teach *once-saved-always-saved* and others teach otherwise. Some encourage praying in tongues and others say that is speaking gibberish. Etcetera, etcetera.

But pastors have much in common: *All* are salaried. *All* collect tithes. *All* control the pulpit. *All* are titled. *All* are credentialed religionists. *None* can be defined as New Testament christians. *None* will be able to give a good account to Judge Jesus at His judgement seat.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 27: One sunday morning in a large assembly of evangelicals several kindergarten-aged children were about to receive rewards for their sunday-school accomplishments. And next on the agenda, several young dads were to have their babies dedicated to the Lord.

The assistant pastor aligned the little children, neatly, on the lengthy stage and related to them like.... little children. Next the dads. The young fathers, babies in their arms, were aligned, neatly, on the stage, and the pastor related to them like.... little children. One might think the dads would lead the congregation in prayer for their own infants, but no, that's not the evangelical way; that's the pastor's duty.

This presentation was a non-verbal teaching, intentional or otherwise, for the entire congregation: *Pastors have spiritual preeminence over these young dads and their children.... and, therefore, over* all *fathers.... and, therefore, over the entire assembly.* Being treated like children, the entire congregation becomes spiritually stunted. That's how institutionalized evangelicals become institutionalized evangelicals.

One way to escape this spiritual tyranny is to take control of your financial contributions. Removing your contributions from the lordship of man could lead to control of your entire christianity. Simply open a JESUS BANK ACCOUNT. (See # 25) Jesus: *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Giving your "treasure" to Jesus is giving your heart to Jesus! A heart surrendered to Jesus is free from man-obedience (man-worship?). A JESUS BANK ACCOUNT could be the first step toward freedom.

Talk it over with Lord

Jesus?

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 28: Paul: "We are not, as so many, peddling the word of God." The "peddling" of God's word has become a gigantic industry within evangelicalism. What do the words of Jesus – *"Freely you have received, freely give"* – mean to salaried pastors, to book writers, to songwriters, to many travelling preachers and teachers, to salaried denominational officers? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

Love-of-money is a polluted river flowing unhindered throughout every religion. It is the driving catalyst that created and promotes the illicit evangelical tithe. Love-of-money (and love of power that money purchases) raises funds for millions of unsanctioned (mostly vacant) buildings throughout evangelicalism.

Paul: *"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."* This invasive love that found residence within many hearts replaced, to varying degrees, love for Jesus.... which eventuates piercing *"themselves with many sorrows"*. (Jesus: *"You have left your first love.")*

Paul: *"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart."* Don't give as others purpose in *their* heart. Be individually guided by the Holy Spirit. (Jesus: *"He will guide you into all truth.")*

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 29: In # 27, I spoke of young, complying dads who were not allowed to lead the congregation in prayer for their little infants during the dedication ceremony. The evangelical way dictates that it is the responsibility of a salaried pastor to lead in public prayer. That account was reality, and now we enter into the imaginary. Okay? Imagine, if you will....

One of the young dads, when his turn, says to the pastor, *"No, no, no! It's my child, I am the head of my family under Christ, it's my place to lead the people in prayer for my baby!"* And that's what he does before the visibly flustered pastor – a heartfelt prayer of dedication of his infant child unto the Lord Jesus Christ. This imaginary scenario gets crazier....

You (yes, you!) are seated in that congregation. Jolted by the young man's grit and remarkable passion for Christ, you are reminded of that time you were equally fervent – before religion usurped the lordship of Christ. *No more!* you silently shout. *No more passivity! No more compromise! I refuse to be programmed, overwhelmed, coerced, directed, treated like a ten-year-old! And... no more tithing! No more financing the pastor's salary! He can get a job, just like me! From this day forward Jesus gets my donations, every penny!*

Oh, if only the imaginary became reality!!

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 30: Evangelicals (and non-evangelicals) have residing within a compilation of both truths and untruths. Both truths and untruths were passed down from evangelicals (etcetera) having similar compilations. And those victims pass their mixture to others, especially to those they most influence.

It's important to be fully aware that in YOU are both truths and untruths. Refusing to acknowledge that untruths (misconceptions, errors, false doctrines) have taken root ensures those untruths remain. Untruths are nasty critters that devalue your christianity in your here-and-now and your entire eternity.

To become an evangelical you had to accept, begrudgingly perhaps, a number of untruths. In time, wavering acceptance morphed into a warm embrace. Evangelicalism's many "commandments of men" overwhelmed and replaced your loyalty to New Testament writings.

Evangelicals, to become evangelicals, rejected the Spirit's guidance. One example of many: It was religionists, not the Holy Spirit, who taught evangelicals to finance their religion via the awful evangelical tithe (or otherwise).

A consoling reality: The Holy Spirit, the very "Spirit of truth", lives within. Jesus: *"He will guide you into all truth."* The Holy Spirit will bring correction to those bowing to His guidance.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 31: We owe it to the perishing to consider (and reconsider again and again) hell. Why? Considering will lead to realization.... realization will lead to compassion.... compassion will lead to desperation.... desperation will lead to action.... action will result in many (multitudes?) being redirected from eternal anguish to eternal ecstasy.

We owe it to the perishing to consider (and reconsider again and again) Christ's Great Commission. Why? Considering will lead to obedience.... obedience will result in many (multitudes?) being redirected from eternal anguish to eternal ecstasy.

We owe it to the perishing to consider (and reconsider again and again) the evangelical tithe. Why? Considering will lead to Bible scrutiny.... which will result in a disdain for that awful tithe.... which will redirect contributions from religion-ists to evangelists.... which will result in many (multitudes?) being redirected from eternal anguish to eternal ecstasy.

We owe it to the perishing to consider (and reconsider again and again) the upcoming judgment

seat of Christ. Why? Considering will lead to realization.... realization will lead to preparation.... preparation will lead to obedience to Christ's Great Commission.... resulting in many (multitudes?) being redirected from eternal anguish to eternal
ecstasy.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 32: Most pastors, teachers and authors that have penetrated your christianity are not New Testament christians. The Bible they claim to revere is not their standard (guide).

The cleric you happen upon on television or a podcast wearing an embellished robe and bright cap may be a kind, well-intentioned christian, but you can instantly conclude that he is not a New Testament christian. Why? Simply because the New Testament gives no such precedent regarding his costume. Likewise....

Culturalized evangelical pastors are easily identifiable; their speech and lifestyle, incomparable to New Testament writings, give them away. Of most importance to you: *It was culturalized leadership that shaped you into a culturalized evangelical.* Please note: Culturalized christians will not do well at the upcoming judgment seat of Christ!

New Testament christians are also easily identifiable. They speak Christ, abide in Christ, emulate Christ, serve Christ, worship Christ, preach Christ. Such christians are rare. Never would they call a brother *Pastor* or *Reverend* or *Whatever.* Never would they submit to religious "commandments of men". Never would they allow themselves to be institutionalized. And *never, never, never* would they surrender a tenth of their income to the custody of salaried, culturalized religionists!

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 33: We are all good at what we do, and this truism includes the practiced preacher intent on convincing his audience that God demands ten percent of their income. A (imprecise) quotation: "Some say christians are not bound by the Mosaic law, but tithing came *before* the law; the New Testament declares that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek *before* Moses." This is trickery.

Most of his trusting listeners would assume by the statement – "Abraham tithed to Melchizedek" – that Abraham tithed *regularly* to Melchizedek, not just one occasion. Consider....

An (imaginary) old evangelical who had been chintzy all his life was now on his deathbed. A few weeks previous, knowing his end was imminent, he – on *one* occasion! – surrendered his tenth to his church. Wanting his offspring to dutifully tithe, he tells them, "I tithed and you should also." The children assumed the old man tithed *not once but regularly*. The sly, old man, like the sly preacher, did not lie, not technically, but was nonetheless misleading.

Such trickery (treachery?) is not uncommon within evangelicalism. The end (the financing of his religion and his salary) justifies the means. Evangelicals are easily duped because acceptance and approval of Pastor Whoever are more cherished than approval of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 34: Tithers will not do well at the judgement seat of Christ. While obedience to Jesus Christ will make that encounter a gratifying experience, submission to evangelical "commandments of men" will result in loss. (Paul: *"If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss.")* Those losses are *eternal* losses. Jesus: *"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

Life on earth should be a preparation for that day of accountability. Will evangelicals be ecstatic or deeply disappointed? The answer is obvious to anyone daring to be observant (observant, not critical or judgemental). Are evangelicals taking Christ's Great Commission seriously? Are they submitting to the Holy Spirit? Do they follow Christ or follow each other? (Jesus: *"Follow Me.")*

Most important to you is *your* encounter with Judge Jesus. Are *you* preparing? Will *you* be *"the wise man who built his house on the rock"* of Christ's sayings, or the *"foolish man"* who didn't? (See Matthew, chapter 7) Are you tithing to mortal men or giving as the Holy Spirit so directs? Jesus said, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* In other words, the one who gets your money gets your heart.

Repeat: Tithers won't do well at the judgement seat of Christ.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 35: To compare God's perspective of evangelicalism with the perspective of salaried evangelicals one simply has to examine the New Testament. Amen? (Paul: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.")* So let's examine....

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to Jesus' words, *"Freely you have received, freely give"*? Answer: None.

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to Jesus' definition of wages:*"Eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages"*? Answer: None.

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to Paul's words to Timothy, *"Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content"?* Answer: None.

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to Paul's words to the Corinthians, *"I did not burden you"?* Answer: None.

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to Paul's words to the Ephesian elders, *"These hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me."* Answer: None.

Question: What relevance do the salaried give to: 1) there is *not one* New Testament example of a public collection and 2) the word *salary* is not in the Bible? Answer: None.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 36: Paul: *"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."* Evangelicals who choose Christ's words over evangelicalism's various assortment of "commandments of men" "*will* suffer persecution". Guaranteed. Those who choose direct guidance of the Holy Spirit rather than direction from religionists "*will* suffer persecution". Guaranteed. Those daring to follow Christ rather than christians "*will* suffer persecution". Guaranteed.

Those refusing to finance evangelicalism and/or speak against the awful evangelical tithe "*will* suffer persecution". Guaranteed.

Persecution isn't something to be disdained, but rather something to be celebrated. Listen to Jesus: *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* Paul willingly suffered much persecution. On one occasion he *hurried* to Jerusalem, knowing "chains and tribulations awaited" him.

When you appear before Judge Jesus (you *will* appear before Judge Jesus) you will be "exceedingly glad" if you suffered for righteousness sake and exceedingly sad if you didn't. Amen?

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 37: Many reading this series of articles – *Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe* – like what they read but hesitate to LIKE. Many itch to respond but are hesitant to COMMENT. They want Facebook friends to read the articles but hesitate to SHARE. This hesitancy is evidence of powerful peer pressure from the bunch they bunch with.

A Jehovah Witness: "It is better to be united in error than divided over truth." This bizarre conviction is actually predominate within evangelicalism (and every other religion), although few evangelicals would admit it even to themselves. Could this tendency to place unity over truth explain why evangelicals hesitate to LIKE, COMMENT and SHARE any and all Facebook postings challenging evangelical traditions?

Peer pressure is the teen-ager's scourge, and most find no escape when evolving into adults. To fit in, to be accepted and approved – these are (supposed) treasures that keep the catholic catholic, the mormon mormon and the evangelical evangelical.

Suggestion: Place your Facebook activity under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Repeat: Place your Facebook activity under the lordship of Jesus. And.... LIKE, COMMENT and SHARE if (and only if) the Spirit so directs. Repeat: LIKE, COMMENT and SHARE if (and only if) the Spirit so directs.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 38: Does Jesus hate the evangelical tithe? One might conclude that a loving Saviour simply does not, could not, hate. Not true. Definitely not true. A wise man wrote, "To love is to hate." Makes sense. The more we love righteousness, the more we hate unrighteousness.... the more we love honesty, the more we hate dishonesty.... the more we love truth, the more we hate distortion.

Evangelicals cannot see the unrighteousness, the corruption, the stark rebellion against God's words that are on full display every sunday morning. Evangelicals have been convinced that what is contrary to Christ's will, Christ's ways and Christ's words – the non-biblical collection of money to finance non-biblical evangelicalism – is somehow upright, even holy. The evangelical way seems to suggest, "It's okay to disobey God's Bible if we disobey together!"

Let it be understood that nobody loves more than Jesus and nobody hates more than Jesus, and His deep love for the evangelical cannot be misconstrued for acceptance of Bible-plus or Bible-minus conduct.

New Testament christians reading these words will diligently search the Bible to determine if this message is, or is not, true. Contemporary-christianity christians will not.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 39: I call the evangelical tithe – the surrender of 10% of one's income to the local church – the AWFUL evangelical tithe. Why? Because it is responsible for millions (billions?) of people anguishing in hell AT THIS VERY MOMENT. This is not immature or sinister hyperbole. Please consider....

Do you think when Lord Jesus commissioned His church to *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* He would not supply His saints with the necessary resources to obey His command? Does that sound like Jesus to you?

There has always been a flow of money from Jesus to His church to accomplish His decree. But that flow got redirected. Redirected? Yes, religionists, especially evangelical religionists, diverted money – money intended to reach billions of perishing people with His gospel of salvation – to finance cumbersome, wasteful, non-biblical evangelicalism.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, please hear me: The secular world, throughout its sordid history, *has never had an atrocity that matches this atrocity.*

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 40: John wrote, *"Many of His disciples.... said, 'This is a hard saying.' "* Jesus spoke many "sayings" that were hard to hear, accept and digest. John continues, *"Many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more."* Being a disciple of Christ isn't for wimps. A "saying" (statement) should not be judged by its severity but its validity. Evangelical, brace yourself for a "hard saying".....

Not ONE pastor throughout evangelicalism can be considered a New Testament christian (one who endeavours to live by New Testament instructions and precedents). Said another way, *EVERY pastor throughout evangelicalism can be considered a contemporary christian.* (A contemporary – culturalized, modernized – christian is one who lives by what is considered normal and acceptable today.)

A New Testament pastor is appointed by Jesus (Ephesians 4:11: *"He Himself gave some to be.... pastors")*, gifted by the Holy Spirit with the ability and heart to nurture young and troubled christians. He is *not* the leader of an organized, institutionalized congregation.... *not* credentialed.... *not* compensated.... *not* titled. And *he bonds with the those he oversees*. This Ephesians 4:11 pastor abides in Christ and points others to Christ. Never would he demand or even accept a salary. (Jesus: *"Freely you have received, freely give.")*

Adversely, a contemporary pastor is titled, salaried, appointed by man. He controls a non-biblical board-of-elders.... rejects "one another" ministry.... has almost zero interest in Christ's Great Commission.... is relationally distant from his congregants.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 41: Paul to the elders of the church of Ephesus (Amp): *"I know that after I am gone, ferocious wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."* Are there "ferocious wolves" ("false teachers") among us today? And if so, how can they be identified?

Every age has been contaminated with "false teachers", this evidenced by history's many religions ("commandments of men"). The pharisees were a prime example. These "ferocious wolves" busied themselves by devouring Christ's sheep. Today within evangelicalism there are innumerable equally hungry wolves.

We can identify the false by identifying the true. Paul is an example of true and those contrary to Paul's teachings and example are false. False teachers propagate "commandments of men". They talk different, live different, preach different than Paul.

"Ferocious wolves" are church leaders who *"will arise, speaking perverse and distorted things, to draw away the disciples after themselves ."* (Amp) They capture the believer's heart by first capturing a sizable chunk of his/her income. Most reading these words follow "false teachers", having been drawn away from Christ Jesus. Sad. Very, very sad.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 42: Jesus: *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."* Do you agree that although Jesus was addressing Israelites He was also talking to

all christians, including you? And do you agree that if Jesus wanted *them* to "beware of false prophets" He also wants *you* to beware? And to *not* "beware of false prophets" is disobedience to the One you call Lord?

False prophets are false teachers. False teachers do not frequent pews but pulpits. They control the mic. They are hard to recognize because they are practiced, impressive orators. Jesus taught us, *"You will know them by their fruit.... a bad tree bears bad fruit."* So.... what is "bad fruit"?

Bad fruit is bad words. Bad words are words Jesus never taught. Bad words are the plus words of Bible-plus and the minus words of Bible-minus. Bad words are what the New Testament calls *"commandments of men", "tradition of men", "destructive heresies", "the wiles of the devil", "fables", "doctrines of demons", "wisdom of men", "deceit and all fraud", "the trickery of men", "deceitful plotting", "corrupt words", "flattering speech", "a different gospel"*. Bad words made the evangelical an evangelical.

The pharisees were "ravenous wolves" who "devour widows' houses". Today equally hungry wolves have devoured a chunk of the evangelical's income.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 43: Question: How did God's command to eleven of the twelve tribes of Israel – to relinquish 10% of their agricultural produce to the Levites – get convoluted to evangelicals relinquishing 10% of their income to the local church?

Question: If God did make such a drastic change why didn't He say so?

Question: Why didn't Jesus inform His twelve apostles of these (supposed) drastic changes to the Mosaic tithe?

Question: Why didn't the apostle Paul teach the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, etcetera to relinquish 10% of their income to apostles, elders or whoever?

Question: Why didn't Lord Jesus mention the word "tithe" when correcting or commending the seven churches in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3?

Question: Is Jesus, *"that great shepherd of the sheep"*, offended by evangelicals who call those who implement the awful evangelical tithe "Pastor Whoever"?

Question: Does Lord Jesus want evangelicals to redirect their donations from religionists to His Great Commission?

Question: Will evangelical tithers do well at the judgement seat of Christ?

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 44: Reality: Before every evangelical there is both a superior and an inferior christianity. Reality: Before every evangelical there is both a superior and inferior *eternity*.

Everyone determines the worth of his/her present and future lifetime. People-pleasers – those more intent on pleasing people rather than Jesus, those choosing obedience to "commandments of men" over obedience to the very "head of the church" – are not living a superior christianity. They are walking into an eternity quite inferior to that which is attainable. To the contrary, those abiding *primarily* in Christ will bear "much fruit", not a scarcity of fruit. (Jesus: *"He who abides in Me.... bears much fruit.")*

Followers of christians will "suffer loss", as revealed at the upcoming judgment seat of Christ. That loss will be extensive, painful, eternal. To the contrary, followers of Christ will receive bountiful rewards that will never fade away.

Tithers and non-tithers who finance evangelicalism are people-pleasers, having chosen submission to the influential. Their reward – acceptance, approval – is temporary. The cost of that acceptance is eternal rewards and a devalued relationship with the very "King of kings and Lord of lords".

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 45: A good question to ask Lord Jesus: "What place (status, standing) does the Holy Spirit have in my christianity?" Jesus knows everything about everything and everything about everybody, including you. You may assume the Holy Spirit has a high status in your life, but does your christianity reflect it? Again, ask Jesus. Perhaps He would respond, through His Holy Spirit....

You are being controlled, mostly, by your religion, not the Holy Spirit who I have sent to you.... He does not control – He is not a controller – but guides those seeking His help.... to be Spirit-guided you must repent of being a religionist and place yourself, once again, under My lordship.

To stop being an evangelical is simple. The moment you reverently (repeat, reverently!) sign the last page of the Bible – as a declaration to the Father, His Son and His Holy Spirit that you will always choose obedience to New Testament writings over submission to all "commandments of men" – you (at that very moment!) cease to be an evangelical. What do you, an ex-evangelical, become.... ?

You *immediately* become a disciple of Jesus Christ. You *immediately* become a sanctified, Spirit-guided New Testament christian. You will no longer finance religion and its religionists, and instead invest in Christ's Great Commission (as the Holy Spirit so directs and enables).

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 46: Jesus said, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth."* We should give special attention to the words of Jesus. Amen? So let's start over: JESUS, *"King of kings and Lord of lords"*.... JESUS, *"the*

way, the truth and the life".... JESUS, *"pearl of great price"*.... JESUS, *"Son of the Highest"*, **says to you**, *"Do not lay up.... treasures on earth."*

We are not finished: JESUS, *"head of the church"*.... JESUS, the One you call "Lord".... JESUS, *"the Lamb of God"*.... JESUS, *"the Alpha and Omega"*.... JESUS, *"the light of the world"*.... JESUS, *"our passover"*, JESUS, *"Son of Man standing at the right hand of God"*, **says to you,** *"Do not lay up.... treasures on earth."*

Evangelicals are equally keen to accumulate earthly treasures as non-christians. They accumulate non-essentials because everybody accumulates non-essentials. They imitate them, not Him. They follow them, not Him. Their self-worth is measured by their possessions. The more they own the more they are envied and esteemed.

"Treasures on earth" come at a cruel price....eternal "treasures in heaven". (Jesus: *"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.")* Financing evangelicalism is costing you eternal rewards. Wisdom is heeding Christ's admonition, *"Do not lay up.... treasures on earth."* The judgment seat is coming!

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 47: Imagination time....

You're in heaven, clothed in white, safe, secure and cheerful. No stress, no fatigue, no disturbances. Angels, angels everywhere. As you stroll through remarkable vistas, you pass many brothers and sisters in Christ. One, a complete stranger, catches your attention at the same time he catches yours. There is an immediate bonding between you. This stranger, you see, is in heaven (instead of that place we get squeamish thinking about) because of your response to Christ's Great Commission. He somehow knows it was your obedience that brought him Christ's salvation and this eternal paradise. You rejoice together, giving enthusiastic praise onto "the King of kings and Lord of lords".

This (imaginary) encounter was not a chance happening, but arranged by Jesus Himself, and many similar encounters take place, one after another. All these redeemed saints are your "treasures in heaven", a consequence of your response to Christ's Great Commission. You had let others finance the pastor's illicit salary. You let others build and expand and maintain very expensive and wasteful evangelicalism.

And now let your imagination jump to the judgment seat of Christ. You hear those words every evangelical wants to hear but few will: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 48: The "apostles and elders" in Jerusalem met with christian pharisees and their rivals, Paul and

Barnabas, to discuss the circumcision question. Their conclusion: Paul (and others) were sent back to the gentile converts with instructions to deliver the following message....

"It seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well."

The gentile converts (most reading this are gentile converts) were not admonished to surrender 10% of their income to any person or for any cause! "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit" to *not* impose the awful evangelical tithe upon Christ's beloved saints. *Surely* that which "seemed good to the Holy Spirit" ought to 'seem good' to evangelicals. Amen?

Note: The mentioned pharisees were born-again believers. They taught (Amp), *"It is necessary to circumcise , and to command them to keep the law of Moses."* This thoroughly validates that christians can and do teach heresy to christians. Pastors (etcetera) who teach God initiated the evangelical tithe are also examples of christians teaching heresy to christians.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe

 # 49: There are 613 commandments given by God to the Israelites through Moses including several ordinances regarding tithing. The agriculturists within (and only within) the promised land – land promised to Abraham's descendants – were required to give 10% of the increase of their crops and livestock to the Levite priests.

Evangelical leadership often quote Malachi: *"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."*

Pastors created the evangelical tithe by seriously distorting the Mosaic ordinances (directed to the Israelites, not Christ's church) that dealt with God's tithe. This took serious mutilation. The evangelical tithe doesn't look like, taste like or smell like God's Mosaic tithe. This awful tithe is sinister, corrupt, thievery.

What gives pastors the power to convince the congregants the evangelical tithe is really God's decree? The pulpit gives them this power. He who controls the pulpit controls the people. A shared pulpit lessens the pastor's leverage and invalidates his salary. Can't have that.

Jesus Christ vs the Evangelical Tithe
 # 50: # 50 is a synopsis of the previous 49.
*** Jesus taught, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* The pastor who secures a portion of your income secures a portion of your heart.

*** Evangelicals – those having embraced evangelicalism's "commandments of men" – are not New Testament christians.

*** Only New Testament christians will be rejoicing at the upcoming judgment seat of Christ.

*** Evangelicals have dethroned Jesus as "first love".

*** Evangelicals are rarely admonished to return to "first love".

*** Evangelicalism is a poor investment. The evangelical notion, "We can do more together", is false, dreadful and devastating.

*** Evangelicals are following evangelicals, not Jesus.

*** Evangelicals are reaping a small percentage of their potential.

*** Evangelicals are not lead, primarily, by the Holy Spirit.

*** Evangelicals are Christ's sent-ones who do not go.

******* Evangelical seminaries and Bible colleges produce disciples of evangelicalism, not disciples of Jesus Christ.

*** Salaried pastors are not appointed by Jesus Christ.

*** Pastors (and everyone) should be heard, not followed..

*** Pastors want your money; that's why they promote a false tithe.

*** Supporting the evangelist is evangelizing.