NO COMMENT?

Posted on February 20, 2025

Category: No Comment?

Question: WHY DON'T YOU COMMENT?

Why don't you comment to postings (regarding spiritual concerns) on social media platforms? You have attended church regularly for years and you were never allowed to publicly comment on what Pastor Whoever teaches. Your perspective is simply not wanted, not by Pastor Whoever or by other pew-people. However, you have opportunity to publicly respond to various articles you read on Facebook (etcetera), but you don't. Oh yes, you sometimes volunteer an occasional "Amen!", but no comment. Why?

Facebook is my platform. Through FB I reach dozens of countries and, more important, I have reached you. My message to christians is: Repent of dethroning Lord Jesus from the throne of your life and return to "first love". Most christians once loved Jesus more than they love Jesus today. Not only more, but much more. Some have replaced Jesus with love for money, love for family, love for spouse, love for this and love for that. I write, mostly, of another idol, oblivious to most, that has captured the heart of most christians.... religion.

Since most born-again christians are attached to one of evangelicalism's many offshoot religions (I define religion as a set of traditions, "commandments of men"), and since evangelicalism is "first love" to most evangelicals ("first love" can be easily identified; it's that which we obey), I expose accepted evangelical teachings, comparing them with New Testament writings. Why? Hopefully, some (a few?) will consider, repent, and return Lord Jesus to His rightful place ("first love") in their hearts.

You have read several of my postings, but never commented. You have opportunity to respond, to express, to agree or disagree, but you never do. Never. There may be several reasons for this, but, in my opinion, the most predominate reason is fear of man. Let me explain....

You have been bunched together with other christians. More correctly, you have allowed yourself to be bunched into an evangelical bunch (grouped with a group, clustered into a cluster, herded into a herd, flocked into a flock). The bunch, in time, became your focus, your comfort, your guide, your teacher, your ministry.... yes, "first love". Acceptance by your group is critical; rejection is dreadful. You will pay a high price for acceptance; you will never risk rejection.

Religion is the ingredient used to glue your group together and bind you to your group. You must understand that it's not Jesus that binds evangelicals to evangelicals; it is evangelicalism. Are you

beginning to understand why you don't COMMENT? A favourable comment to one of my postings, or any posting challenging evangelicalism, will likely result in suspicion, even disfavour. To be accepted, you must keep in step. Contrary perspectives are simply unwanted.

Within your bunch is a brother you fear more than all others combined. His salary and credentials and the powerful pulpit make him highly esteemed, even venerated. Acceptance within the group necessitates this man's approval. You sense he won't tolerate the slightest hint of challenging his authority, his teachings and the religion he represents. Since there is a chance he will read or hear of your remarks, you choose the obvious solution: No COMMENT.

Oh the price you have paid for man's approval. You have been muzzled, manipulated, managed and fleeced by religion and religionists. Loyalty to Christ (as evidenced by loyalty to His Bible) has long ago been shifted to religionists (as evidenced by loyalty to "commandments of men"). You once followed Christ; you now follow christians. You give very little consideration to the upcoming "judgement seat of Christ" because you sense it won't be a pleasant experience.

So I leave you with this question: WHY DON'T YOU COMMENT? (No comment?)

Today's question: WHY AREN'T YOU PREACHING?

This question is not intended to be confrontational, nor critical. I simply want you to examine your christianity to determine if you are living it in a manner pleasing to our Lord Jesus and in accordance with New Testament teaching and precedent. If you should be preaching and you're not preaching, something is terribly wrong. Remember, "the judgement seat of Christ" is approaching.

When a born-again, blood-washed saint (YOU are a born-again, blood-washed saint!) tries to determine the will of God he (she) looks for New Testament precedents. Right? So let's look....

Lord Jesus preached. The twelve preached, the seventy preached, as did Mark, Luke, Philip (the evangelist), Stephen, Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Apollos, Timothy, Titus, James and many more. Paul: "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1Cor.11:1) How could the Corinthians imitate Paul if they didn't preach? And if the Corinthians were supposed to preach, shouldn't you be preaching? I challenge you to search for one christian in the entire New Testament that was forbidden or discouraged by Lord Jesus or by other christians to preach.

Ephesians 4:11: "He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." These are all preachers. This may surprise you, but you are included in Ephesians 4:11. The word "some" does not mean that some christians are excluded. And the word "some" cannot be interpreted "a few". No, no, no! A careful reading from Ephesians 4:6 to Ephesians 4:16 reveals that "growth of the body" results from "the WHOLE body, joined and knit together by

what EVERY joint supplies, according to the effective working by which EVERY part does its share." So.... can you see yourself in Ephesians 4:11?

(NOTE: Before going further, I invite you to visit MY LIBRARY OF BOOKS, ARTICLES AND VIDEOS at www.larryjones.ca)

Now let's look at 1st Corinthians 14:26 (NLT): "When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach , another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said." This is group participation. Can you see yourself in 1st Corinthians 14:26? (Pastor whoever says, "When we meet together, a worship leader will lead in song for 22 minutes, then tithes and offerings will be collected, then I will preach, giving a special revelation from God. Please be generous, quiet, and attentive.")

Still not convinced that you brother, you sister, are called by God to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified"? I suggest you consider 1st Corinthians 14: 39: "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy ." And Colossians 3:16: "Teaching and admonishing one another." And Hebrews 5:12: "By this time you ought to be teachers ." And Hebrews 3:13: "Exhort one another daily." And Hebrews 10:25: "Exhorting one another."

So back to my question, "Why aren't you preaching?" Please consider my answer to my question. And please comment, telling me (and others) if you agree or disagree. Okay?

You have been taught that you are NOT to preach. I know, I know, you are quick to respond that your Pastor Whoever NEVER said you are not to preach. No, he never has and never will. But consider the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "To not speak is to speak." Don't only consider what the man you call "Pastor" says but what he doesn't say. If he doesn't say you are called by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach Bible truths, he is actually saying you are NOT so called. ("To not speak is to speak.") If Pastor Whoever thought you are called and qualified and responsible to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to the world Jesus died for and to His precious church he would certainly be declaring it repeatedly. Wouldn't he?

His refusal to NOT so declare should arouse suspicion regarding his motive. I conclude his motive is thus: If everybody were a preacher he would lose his special status.... his denominational certificate would no longer impress.... he could be pressured to share the powerful pulpit.... his (non-Biblical) salary could be at risk.

So I say to you, my brother and sister in Christ, the same words Paul said to Timothy: "Preach the word!" What "word" was Paul referring to? Obviously, the same word he preached, the same word Christ preached, the same word the other New Testament writers preached. WARNING: Don't preach "commandments of men". (Jesus: "In vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.") Don't preach the old covenant. (Hebrews 8:6: "He is also Mediator of a better covenant.") Don't preach religion. (A human 'authority' that has created its own set of doctrines.) I say again, "Preach the word!", "Preach the word!", "Preach the word!"

Facebook (and other social media outlets) can be your platform, your 'pulpit'. By redirecting donations from your institutional church (and from what Jesus called, "treasures on earth") to FB advertising, for example, you can reach most countries from your residence! The potential is enormous! You can easily redirect (not hundreds but) thousands of people from ghastly hell to wondrous heaven.

So I ask again.... "WHY AREN'T YOU PREACHING?"

NO COMMENT?

Question: IS JESUS YOUR "FIRST LOVE"?

This is the most important question a christian can ask oneself; one's eternity will be severely diminished or exceedingly enhanced by one's response. A NO will result in embarrassment and colossal loss at the judgement seat of Christ. ("He will suffer loss." 1Cor.3:15) A YES will result in ecstatic rejoicing.

The question is not "Do you love Jesus?" Of course you do. The question is, "Do you love Jesus PRIMARILY (more than any person, more than money, business, hobby, politics)?"

Jesus said to "the church of Ephesus" (read Revelation, chapter 2), "I have this against you, that you have left your first love." Let's look at the Amplified: "I have this against you: that you have left (abandoned) the love that you had at first ." And the CEV: "You don't have as much love as you used to." And the GW: "The love you had at first is gone." And the Phillips: "You do not love as you did at first."

It seems that Jesus was talking to the ENTIRE church of Ephesus. EVERY Ephesian was backslidden! Every christian?.... how can that be? How could the entire church have abandoned the love for Jesus Christ they once had? This betrayal is a result of christians following christians instead of following Christ. The approval of the group meant more to each Ephesian then the approval of the "head of the church".

A more relevant question: How many present-day evangelicals have abandoned Jesus Christ as "first love"? My estimate to that question might shock you, so brace yourself. Fifty years of christianity has brought me to this very, very, very sad conclusion: I estimate that Lord Jesus could say to at least ninety-five percent of evangelicals (etcetera) who have been "born of the Spirit" for more than one year, "I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

I am quick to say that I am NOT suggesting ninety-five percent of evangelicals don't love Jesus. They certainly do. But Lord Jesus is not loved PRIMARILY. Now that is my opinion, and I am asking

that you COMMENT and tell me and other readers your estimate. (Even if you only say two words, like "fifty percent", or "thirty percent", or "seventy percent" or "whatever percent", say something! Okay?)

To get an idea of what percentage of christians love Jesus more than anyone or anything, simply look around. ("He who is spiritual judges all things." 1Cor.2:15) What do you see? What do you hear? What do you discern?

Jesus said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me." (Jn.14:21) Love is obedience. I repeat, love is obedience. I repeat again, love is obedience. One cannot say they love God if they do not obey God. The more we love Jesus, the more determined we are to obey His words. ("Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do the things which I say?") Is it safe to conclude that we obey our first love, whoever or whatever that might be?

Those afflicted with a love for money will respond to their lust for more. Those loving their spouse more than Jesus will comply accordingly. Those loving christians more than Christ will follow after christians. And those loving Lord Jesus more than everyone and everything will adhere to His words.

Every child loves his parents but only those who love their parents PRIMARILY will obey them. Again, we can identify our first (primary) love by identifying the one we obey. It is my opinion that as many as ninety-five percent of christians obey traditions of men over New Testament teachings and precedents. Don't believe me? Consider: Why does almost every evangelical call a man "Pastor"? Calling a man "Pastor" ('pastor' means 'shepherd') is a tradition of men, not a New Testament teaching?

After discovering Christ as a catholic I refused to call the priest "Father". (Jesus: "Do not call anyone on earth your father, for One is your Father.") When I entered evangelicalism – which I mistakenly assumed consisted of Bible-believing christians – I refused to call the man "Pastor". Jesus is my pastor (shepherd); why would I insult Him by calling a brother Pastor? And yet EVERYONE called someone other than "that great shepherd of the sheep" Pastor!

There is much peer pressure within every religion to conform. (Definition of peer pressure: social pressure by members of one's peer group to take a certain action, adopt certain values, or otherwise conform in order to be accepted.) To not conform is to invite rejection. Rejection is painful, very painful. To avoid pain, to gain acceptance, the evangelical has embraced evangelicalism.

Those who could be defined as an evangelical – those embracing evangelical traditions rather than New Testament teachings and precedents – cannot claim Lord Jesus as "first love". If those words offend, let them offend!

Regarding traditions of men, Jesus said to the pharisees, "Many such things you do." Regarding traditions of men, Jesus could say to today's pulpit-people, "many such things you do and teach." Evangelical pulpit-people, generally speaking, do not adhere, primarily, to New Testament

teachings and precedents. They just don't. Being called "Pastor" is one example of many whereby they exchange the Bible for tradition. Another is their salary. Another is their control of the powerful pulpit. Another is collection of tithes. And on and on and on. Again, if those words offend, let them offend!

Pew-people (including you?) have been taught "commandments of men" by salaried pulpit-people. You MUST realize that you are who you are because that is what you were made to be. You have been molded by both the word of God and by the word of man.

The church of Ephesus were industrious christians, just like today's evangelicals. Jesus: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil." Jesus: "You have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary." Jesus could say these same words to most evangelical congregations. But then.... but then.... Jesus said to the Ephesians: "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Evangelical, can you see the church of Ephesus in the churches of your city? Your country? Your family? Yes, there is activity and perseverance, but little Christ. Duty and routine are lord. Much of the accomplishments in your churches are replicated in non-christian churches. Ephesus is proof to the honest evangelical that it is quite possible to do good works while keeping Jesus aloof.

So what's the answer?

I discovered a long time ago that repentance is the answer to most problems. Jesus to the Ephesians: "Repent." And Jesus to the "church in Pergamos": "Repent." And to "the church in Thyatira": "Repent." And to "the church in Sardis": "Repent." And to "the church of the Laodiceans": "Repent." And to "As many as I love": "Repent." Six times.... repent, repent, repent, repent, repent, repent.

Repent of reallocating Lord Jesus from number one to number two or three. Repent of being an evangelical. (Christ never made any person an evangelical.) Repent of following christians instead of Christ. Repent of man-gazing. Repent of adopting "commandments of men". Repent of allowing others to muzzle you. Repent of financing your religion. Repent of fear of man.

Jesus to the Ephesians: "Remember therefore from where you have fallen." In order to "have fallen" they must have been higher elevated, right? Their love for Lord Jesus once surpassed their present love. Then Jesus said "Repent and do the first works." Think back.... what were your "first works". Did you tell others about Christ? Did you pine for the salvation of loved ones? Did you bubble over with passion for Christ? Did you follow after Him? Did you pray more earnestly?

Perhaps you think that because there are many millions of evangelicals worldwide, SO MANY can't be wrong. Oh yes they can. Catholicism proves that. So does the church in Ephesus, the church in Galatia (Paul: "Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth?") and so many church groups over centuries of church history. And consider, if the Armenians (those emphasizing the responsibility of man) are correct, therefore SO MANY Calvinists (those emphasizing the sovereignty

of God) are in error. And if the Calvinists are correct SO MANY Armenians are in error. And consider: If the Baptists are correct SO MANY Pentecostals are mistaken. And if the Pentecostals are correct SO MANY Baptists are mistaken. Yes, SO MANY can be (and often are) wrong!

This is the truth we must all rely on: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2Tm.3:16) Suggestion: Solemnly - in the presence of the Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit – declare allegiance to Scripture (as you progressively understand it) by signing the last page of your Bible.

NOTE: I invite you to visit my website, www.larryjones.ca If you fully commit yourself to Christ you may be abandoned by the majority who will never fully commit themselves to Christ. I think you will find encouragement and strength in my library of books, articles, and videos available at www.larryjones.ca

And now my precious brother, my precious sister in Christ, I leave you with the most relevant question: IS JESUS YOUR FIRST LOVE?

NO COMMENT?

Question: DOES JESUS WANT YOU TO TITHE?

As you probably know, there is strong controversy regarding tithing ten percent of one's income to the local church. Is tithing a Bible decree or is tithing an invention of christians? Does Jesus want you to tithe or does Jesus not want you to tithe?

This is a most serious issue. Why? The tithe has been used for many years to finance evangelicalism, including the building of millions of church buildings, the subsidizing of most pastors' salaries and many etceteras. If the tithe is nothing more than chicanery (deception, fraud), what would that tell you about evangelicalism? To better illustrate that point let's do a bit of supposing....

Suppose you bought a watch from a guy selling watches on a street corner. And then someone told you that all those watches had been stolen; wouldn't you consider your timepiece repulsive? Or suppose you were given an expensive gift that you later discovered was stolen from a destitute widow; wouldn't you consider that gift objectionable?

There are millions of congregations that have been convinced that God demands them to surrender ten percent of their income. Now let's suppose these congregations were suddenly made aware that this evangelical tithe was actually a nasty embezzlement, something Jesus detested. What would they think of the buildings that were built, fully or in part, with their tithes? Would they not be considered equally repugnant? And what about the pastor's salary?

Hopefully I have convinced you that the question "DOES JESUS WANT YOU TO TITHE?" should be thoughtfully examined. I have given the matter much consideration over several decades and feel qualified to give a review of both sides of the tithe issue. Are you ready for this?

Perhaps Pastor Whoever has many times referred you to Malachi 3:8,9: "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." Lately, it seems, the threat of being cursed by God for not surrendering one's tenth is finally being realized as preposterous (not by all pastors, but by most). Galatians 3:13 declares: "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')." Also there is the indisputable reality that these words were directed by God to believers living under the Old Covenant law of Moses, and not to New Covenant believers. Nonetheless, it is shameful that evangelicalism has in the past (and to a lesser degree in the here-and-now) embezzled millions of evangelicals out of billions of dollars with the threat of them being "cursed with a curse". Next....

It is often taught by pulpit-people that Jesus Himself endorsed the tithe when He said to the pharisees, "Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone." "See there!" says Pastor Whoever. "Jesus confirms the tithe IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!" But, but, but....

It is always necessary to determine who Jesus is speaking to - the jew, the christian or the pagan. In this case Jesus was directing His words to jews still bound by Old Covenant law. (And notice Jesus used the past tense "ought to HAVE DONE", not the present tense 'ought to DO'. Why? Jesus was about to bring the law of Moses to an end by the sacrifice of Himself.) Next....

It seems that pastors have adopted another argument to coerce their congregations to surrender their tenth to their supervision. Let's look at it....

The writer of Hebrews (was the writer Paul?) is expressing the greatness of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus. Jesus was not made a priest "through the Levitical priesthood" as was every priest. No, Jesus was not a Levite. Hebrews tells us that Jesus was of "the order of Melchizedek". Who was Melchizedek?

The writer reveals the greatness of this man, so exceptional that Abraham gave to Melchizedek a tenth of the spoils from his victory over an enemy. So what does this have to do with the evangelical tithe? The salaried's contention is this: Since Abraham gave (on one occasion!) a tenth of his spoils to Melchizedek, evangelicals are therefore continuously obligated to give a tenth of their income to Jesus who is of "the order of Melchizedek". And how does the evangelical give a tenth to Jesus? He gives to Jesus, the local church teaches, by giving to the local church! So there it is! That's the chief argument the salaried use to extract a tenth from the non-salaried.

Does Scripture verify this dubious logic? No way! Then why do pew-people accept it? They accept it because they have been conditioned by the salaried to trust evangelicalism and evangelicalism's

executives. They comply to this preposterous rationale (to give a tenth of their income to finance evangelicalism because thousands of years ago Abraham, on one occasion, gave a tenth of his spoils to Melchizedek) for the same reason catholics accept the teaching that (one example of dozens) the mother of Jesus was a perpetual virgin; they have likewise been conditioned to trust catholicism and catholicism's executives.

The letter to the Hebrews is not giving a teaching on tithing; no, Hebrews is teaching us the greatness of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus. Tithing was merely mentioned to emphasize that greatness. The writer tells us that Abraham gave a tenth of his plunder to Melchizedek to accentuate his eminence, thus accentuating the eminence of Jesus!

NOTE: I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca to get a perspective of a fifty-year plus christian who has no attachment to a religion. My most notable qualification is never having attended a seminary or Bible school. Jesus Christ is my "first love". Religion is my enemy. My heart is to help christians recover lost devotion to Lord Jesus. I consider myself a New Testament christian, one who struggles to live by New Testament teachings and precedents.

Now I submit what I consider irrefutable proof that Jesus does NOT want you to tithe....

If Jesus wanted you to tithe He would have said so. Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "To not speak is to speak." Jesus spoke by not speaking. Jesus never spoke of the evangelical tithe because it was not part of the New Covenant. ("He is also Mediator of a better covenant." Heb.8:6) And consider....

Jesus gave strong correction to most of the seven churches (Revelation, chapters 2 and 3), exhorting them to repent for various transgressions, but He never scolded them for not tithing. And He did not commend the few obedient churches for tithing. Does anyone believe that the seven churches tithed?

Paul likewise spoke by not speaking; there is not the slightest hint that he endorsed (what I call) THE AWFUL EVANGELICAL TITHE. Does anyone believe the unruly Corinthians tithed? Yet there was no rebuke from the apostle. And why didn't Paul speak of the tithe in other letters to various churches? You know there is only one answer. And consider....

2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The Bible teaches us the will of God by what it says AND by what it doesn't say. God gave no man the right to add to His Bible. (Jesus: "In vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.") And now, more supposing....

Suppose you lived on a deserted island by yourself and were determined to dutifully study your Bible to learn God's will in every aspect of your christianity. Remember, you have been given the

most Holy Spirit to "guide you into all truth". Do you think that you would ever come to the conclusion, from your intense study, that God requires you to tithe? And consider Hebrews 10:16: "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them." Do you think God would have deposited the tithe into your heart and mind? (I have been a christian for fifty plus years; the Holy Spirit has never placed the tithe in my heart.) If tithing has gained entrance into your heart and mind it is only because the salaried planted it there through constant chiding and coercion. So all this leads to obvious questions....

Why have the salaried dragged the tithe from the Old Testament to the New Testament while leaving all other Old Testament requirements behind? And why are denominational pulpit-people, who clash on most issues, are strongly united on the tithe? After much consideration, my answer to these questions is....

The love of money. 1st Timothy 6:10: "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." Money buys "treasures on earth". Money buys security. Money buys esteem. Money buys power. That's why "the Pharisees.... were lovers of money." (Lk.16:14) If compelling a congregation to deposit a tenth of their income to the supervision of evangelical officers really is an evil practice, the root of that evil practice must be "the love of money". What other explanation is there? If these words offend, let them offend!

Naivete is unbecoming. Jeremiah 17:5: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength." You must realize, my sibling-in-Christ, that pastors have two chief motivations. One, they have an earnest desire to minister to you, mostly through the pulpit. And two, they want your money. All religions desperately need the peoples' money to survive and expand, and this most certainly includes the evangelical religion. To me, this is the only reason the fraudulent, non-Biblical tithe is imposed upon most evangelical congregations. If these words offend, let them offend! Now consider....

Paul berated the Galatians because they submitted to the demand of the jews to be circumcised. ("If you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.") Would he not say the same regarding tithing? ("If you , Christ will profit you nothing.") All this leads to further questions....

Question: Why aren't pastors satisfied to quote 2 Corinthians 9:7 before Sunday's collection? ("Each one must do as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion." NASB) Is it because tithing is a compulsion?

Question: Why don't pastors admonish the congregation to give only when and where the Holy Spirit so directs? Is it because they know the Holy Spirit could direct them to give elsewhere?

Question: Who gave pastors the right to take collections? (There is no such New Testament teaching or precedent.)

Question: Who gave pastors the right to be salaried? (there is no such New Testament teaching or precedent.)

Question: Why won't ONE salaried pastor respond to this article and defend his right to impose the tithe onto his congregation? Is it because Scripture gives no such defence?

Question: Why will many who have been convinced that Jesus does not want them to tithe will nonetheless continue to surrender their tenth to evangelical lords? Does man's approval and acceptance mean that much to them?

Question: Since promoting the tithe is self-serving (the salary consumes much or most of tithes collected), isn't the pastor's motive suspect?

Consider these words of Jesus: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Your heart follows after your treasure, your money. The one who captures your money captures your heart. Giving as christians so direct will cause your heart to follow after christians, instead of Christ. Is that how the evangelical became an evangelical? If so, would redirecting your treasure to Jesus cause you to become, once again, His disciple?

You give to Jesus by giving as the Holy Spirit so directs. True worship onto Jesus is sensitivity to the One He has sent. Giving your treasure as the Holy Spirit directs assures your devotion to Lord Jesus is protected. ("There your heart will be also.") Again, the one who gets your treasure gets your heart (your obedience, your devotion).

Listen to Lord Jesus: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." How much of your total giving is directed toward Christ's Great Commission? I suggest that if most of your donations are directed to and through your local assembly, the Great Commission gets leftover change. But you can reverse that! All you have to do is redirect your givings.

Have a talk with Jesus. "Lord Jesus, how do you want me to direct my donations?" Your obedience to Christ could result in THOUSANDS (yes, I said thousands!) of people being relocated from the roadway to perdition to the roadway leading to eternal life.

On behalf of the mass of humanity on their way to that place we get squeamish thinking about, I implore you to give the matter of where you direct your generosity serious consideration. Okay?

And I also ask that you bring another issue before Lord Jesus: the SHARE button. ONE CLICK could result in many people being rescued from eternal anguish! How? Sending this message to your friends could cause some to redirect their donations to Christ's Great Commission, thus getting His precious gospel to multitudes.

Now one more time: In your opinion, DOES JESUS WANT YOU TO TITHE?

NO COMMENT?

Question: WHO IS YOUR LORD, JESUS OR 'LITTLE MOSES'?

Little Moses!? Who is Little Moses!? First let us consider Big Moses....

Big Moses is the Moses of the Bible; he probably wasn't big in size – people were smaller back then – but gigantic in significance. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament (the Pentateuch). God used this spiritual heavyweight to release the Israelites from bondage to the Egyptian Pharaoh, Ramses II. And I'm sure you remember Moses stretching his staff to part the Red Sea.

The most significant function of Moses was as God's chosen MEDIATOR between God and God's chosen people, the Israelites. Through Moses God gave the Law, known throughout Israel's history as "the law of Moses". Even after his death Big Moses remained, through his written decrees, the MEDIATOR between God and God's people. This was God's order: GOD------- Moses------ Israel. The reign of Moses as mediator was to come to an end and pass to Another....

About two thousand years ago, the angel Gabriel appeared to a virgin in Nazareth: "You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus." And also, "Of His kingdom there will be no end."

Jesus came to establish "a better covenant" than the covenant established by God through Moses. This superior covenant cost Jesus His life. Consider: Through His discharged blood you actually became "the righteousness of God in Him." Consider: You are "justified by His blood." Consider: The instant you were "born of the Spirit" you became an "heir of God, and joint heir with Christ." 1 John 3:1: "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God."

So two thousand years ago when Jesus cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" and "the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom" the divine order (God------ Moses------ Israel) was changed to God (the Father)------ Jesus------ christian. This is so important! Jesus: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" God------ Jesus------ christian..... this is now the way, the only way, God relates to people. Understand?

Now the question is: HOW DOES JESUS relate to christians? Jesus is in heaven and we live on earth; how can Jesus relate to us? Very important: Jesus relates to us through the Holy Spirit!

When Jesus left planet earth after completing the Father's assignment ("I am going to the Father") He promised, "I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth" who "will guide you into all truth." And then Jesus said - and this is MOST important! - "He will not speak on His own authority, but WHATEVER HE HEARS He will speak." The Holy Spirit hears from Jesus, the "head of the church", and passes it on to us. So....

So the divine order is thus: Jesus------ Holy Spirit------ christian. Jesus has chosen to relate to you through the Holy Spirit. Never forget this! It's Jesus------ Holy Spirit------ you. Jesus directs your affairs, to the degree you submit (Jesus doesn't coerce anyone!), through the Holy Spirit. Your christianity will be successful to the degree you embrace this reality, Jesus------Holy Spirit------you. And now we come to Little Moses....

Sadly, very sadly, most born again christians has a Little Moses directing his or her christianity. This Little Moses is a usurper, (usually) a graduate of a denominational seminary or Bible school. He has been placed over you by the denomination that certified him. He is by far the most powerful and influential person in the congregation, having unchallenged control of the powerful pulpit. This brother submits to denominational lords, not to the "Spirit of truth" (and therefore not to Lord Jesus). He competes with the Holy Spirit to be your main influence, and because he coerces and the Holy Spirit never coerces, he is usually the victor.

So now the order that you have been coerced to submit to is thus: denomination------ Little Moses------ you. Little Moses is the MEDIATOR between you and the denomination that validated him. This humanized structure, so prevalent in institutionalized evangelicalism (etcetera), has impaired you considerably.

We learn verbally and non-verbally. It has been said, "More is caught than taught." You have been verbally and non-verbally taught to embrace what Jesus called "tradition of men". (Mark 7:8: "Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men.") "Tradition of men", introduced by a Little Moses stationed in every institutionalized church throughout the world, has seriously impeded the work of God on earth. "Tradition of men" has handicapped you. "Tradition of men" prevents you from bearing "much fruit". (Jesus: "By this the Father is glorified, that you bear MUCH fruit.") Yes, you certainly bear good fruit, but that good fruit is seriously limited by your devotion to Little Moses.

Little Moses has taught you that you belong in the pew, not at a pulpit; God has not ordained you to preach; preaching God's truths is the responsibility of those controlling various pulpits. You have accepted the slogan, "We can do more together", and as such, you are doing your part to preserve unity, even though unity has demanded much compromise. You have been taught by Little Moses that your chief responsibility is to finance and otherwise support the ministry of Little Moses. For this service you help pay his non-Biblical salary!

Little Moses does NOT ALLOW you to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" even outside church walls. Yes, you can give a personal testimony, but not a teaching. Yes, you can hold a Bible study in your home, but only if you use approved material. You are not to be lead individually by the Holy Spirit, but must submit to group consensus, the group having been fashioned by Little Moses. (I am not being exaggerative! And to accentuate this reality, I suggest that you are afraid to click the SHARE and LIKE buttons, and you will not COMMENT, not because Lord Jesus wouldn't approve, but because Little Moses would disapprove.) The fear of man has gripped your soul. You are in

serious spiritual bondage.

Big Moses and Little Moses have nothing in common. Moses of the Bible faithfully communicated the will and words and ways of God; Little Moses effectively communicates what Jesus called "commandments of men". Big Moses was ordained by God; Little Moses has been ordained by men. God's endorsement of Big Moses is validated throughout Scripture; Little Moses cannot be found in the Bible.

The Father, His precious Son and the most Holy Spirit have called you to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to the world Jesus died for and to His church. You must understand that Jesus wants to set you free and direct the remainder of your life on earth through the Holy Spirit.

So back to the question: WHO IS YOUR LORD, JESUS OR 'LITTLE MOSES'?

NOTE: I am a "Jesus------ Holy Spirit------ christian" brother-in-Christ and have been for several decades. I have always been cautious to write only as directed by the Holy Spirit. I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: DO DENOMINATIONAL CREDENTIALS IMPRESS YOU?

Another question: Does Jesus WANT you to be impressed by denominational credentials? Another question: Are denominational certifications Biblical? Another question: Are you receptive to a perspective, regarding denominational endorsements, that you have never heard before? Another question (this a challenging one): ARE YOU TEACHABLE? (Jesus: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.")

Before beginning this article I knew very little about evangelical seminaries. But I did have plenty of suspicion! Why so suspicious? Because over fifty years of christianity I had become (mildly) acquainted with several credentialed evangelical pastors, and missing in almost every conversation with these brothers was the name of JESUS!

Jesus: "Out of abundance of his heart, the mouth speaks." (Lk.6:45) What's in comes out. The spiritual condition of every christian can be determined by the number of times he (she) speaks the name of Jesus. Again, what's in comes out. Did these pastors mention the name of JESUS when preaching? Yes, but only occasionally. Mostly they preached 'church' ('us', not Him). In an analysis I did years ago I learned pastors of Kelowna's largest churches spoke CHURCH three times for every time they spoke JESUS. This is so opposite New Testament writings.

Can you see why I am so suspicious of the spiritual condition of evangelical seminaries? All these pastors were GRADUATES of various institutes; could their lukewarmness to Jesus be attributed to

them? And so my search began...

I simply used Google to connect with seminaries. The first one I came across was Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, founded in 1886. I click through a number of pages on their website used to introduce the reader to their many courses. To determine the quality of this seminary I simply counted the number of time I could find the name JESUS as my mouse piloted me from page to page. As the quality of an individual's relationship with Jesus can be determined by the number of times he speaks JESUS, the wealth (or poverty) of every GROUP (church, seminary, etc.) can likewise be determined. Make sense?

So I RANDOMLY inspected ten pages, scouting for the name JESUS (or Christ), not only on Moody's website, but that of two other sizable seminaries as well. Are you ready for this..... ?

Scrolling page one, no JESUS. Two to five, no JESUS. Six to ten, no JESUS. (GOD is occasionally mentioned – even the world speaks God - but there was no JESUS, no FATHER, no HOLY SPIRIT. None!)

Next stop, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Page one, no JESUS. Two to five, no JESUS. Six to ten, no JESUS. (And no FATHER and no HOLY SPIRIT.) Well, what about a pentecostal seminary? Can I find Jesus in their website?

Next stop, Pentecostal Theological Seminary (a Church of God ministry). Page one, no JESUS. (Remember, I am going to pages randomly.) Two, three and four, no JESUS. Page five, one JESUS. Six, seven eight, no JESUS. Page nine, JESUS four times. Page ten, JESUS twice. (On this website the Holy Spirit was mentioned often.)

If this does not startle you, sadden you, anger you, it should. Your entire christianity, and that of many millions throughout the world, have been dwarfed by graduates of seminaries that withhold due homage to your Lord and Saviour and Creator and Teacher and Shepherd and Healer and High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider: Does a baptist seminary produce disciples of Christ? No, baptist seminaries produce baptists. Does a pentecostal seminary create disciples of Christ? No, pentecostal seminaries create pentecostals. Evangelical seminaries create evangelical pastors the same way catholic seminaries create catholic priests.

If all this seems unbelievable, I strongly encourage you to investigate for yourself. It's easy. Google the mentioned seminaries, and peruse other seminaries. Determine for yourself if Jesus is being exalted in these institutions. And then....

Check out the churches in your city. Visit their websites. Listen to the graduates of their respective seminaries delivering their sunday morning teachings. What are they emphasizing? Is their main focus JESUS or CHURCH? Is Jesus being exalted or is religion being exalted? And then if you have the courage, COMMENT on your discoveries.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT): "I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent." This article (and all my NO COMMENT? articles and most of my writings) is to steer you back to "undivided devotion to Christ". Most evangelicals have had their devotion to Jesus "corrupted". And you? Have you lost what you once had? Ask yourself, my precious brother, my precious sister, "Am I a follower of Christ or have I become a follower of christians?" Ask the Lord Jesus, "Lord, have I exchanged You as 'first love' and allowed evangelical religionists to be seated on the throne of my life?" In my opinion almost every born-again christian would have to respond YES to that question.

Do you understand that salaried pastors are responsible for the condition of their congregations? Who else can it be? And do you understand that since every pastor is a graduate of an evangelical seminary, this verifies that evangelical seminaries are not only incompetent but highly dangerous. The following is my explanation how a naive young christian becomes a salaried pastor....

He was steered toward a reputable seminary by those influencing his christianity and sensing in him an unusual zeal. Understandably, he very much wanted to be accepted, included and welcomed by the school's personnel and his fellow students. He was investing much money and a large chunk of his life; he cannot fail; he must graduate. His potential as a competent pastor will only be fulfilled by securing that powerful credential that will immediately elevate him from common to exceptional.

To this impressionable young arrival it would be easy to assume that God must be the architect of this denominational school. Everything points to its authenticity; the chapel, the dormitory, the classrooms, the array of salaried teachers, the hundreds of fellow students all combine to shout a huge "AMEN!!" to the authenticity of this spiritual learning center. All these people simply can't be wrong! The young man quickly adopts a submissive disposition. He may ask occasional questions, but never challenge. Agree, cooperate, comply. And smile! Lots of smiles!

But something terrible is happening deep within. The young man entered this seminary with a small head and a large heart and will graduate with an enlarged head and a diminished heart. His "undivided devotion to Christ" has been altered to an undivided devotion to his denomination. The lordship of Christ has been replaced by the lordship of denominational executives. He now pleases them, not Him. The denomination that trained him is his identity, his security, his guide.

Examine yourself. How has the seminary graduate at your church, Pastor Whoever, affected your relationship with Lord Jesus? Have you allowed this brother to muzzle you, to hinder you from preaching "Jesus Christ and Him crucified? Has he directed your generosity away from Christ's great commission and into evangelicalism? Do you cherished his approval more than the approval of the "head of the church"?

One more time: DO DENOMINATIONAL CREDENTIALS IMPRESS YOU?

NOTE: Unlike religionists - those who advocate various religions - I believe you have a preaching

ministry! Male or female, rich or poor, the Lord Jesus has called you to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to His church and to the world He died for. I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: DO YOU ABIDE IN CHRIST OR VISIT OCCASIONALLY?

Suggestion: Memorize John chapter 15, verses 4 and 5. These two verses will revolutionize your life if you will take them seriously. I am not exaggerating. If these words spoken by your Teacher, the Lord Jesus, find residence in your heart you will be a very successful christian. Guaranteed. Repeat, guaranteed. You will be "like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever shall prosper." (Psalm 1:3) The upcoming "judgement seat of Christ" will not be an embarrassment; it will be a time of great rejoicing.

John 15:4: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. John 15:5: I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

This is Jesus speaking, your teacher, your shepherd, your Lord. Jesus promises that if you abide in (dwell in) Him you will bear "MUCH fruit". You are now bearing fruit, but are you bearing MUCH fruit? John 15:8: "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear MUCH fruit." The Father, apparently, is not glorified (is not pleased) with LITTLE fruit. Ask yourself, "Am I bearing MUCH fruit or am I bearing LITTLE fruit?"

Notice Jesus didn't say that the one abiding in Him PRODUCES fruit. Branches have no ability to produce anything. Branches can only BEAR fruit.

Question: How does a branch bear fruit? The answer is so simple: A branch bears fruit by being connected to the vine. How does you the branch (Jesus: "you are the branches") bear fruit? You the branch bear fruit by being connected to Jesus the vine. (Jesus: "I am the vine.") The more firmly you are connected to Jesus the greater will be the flow of His grace and therefore the more fruit you will bear.

Is it obvious to you that Jesus is speaking of RELATIONSHIP. ("Abide in Me, and I in you.") To better understand relationship, inspect the next fruit-bearing tree you come across. A tree trunk and the connected branches are a superb example of relationship. The life of one flows into the other. They are vitally connected. Without that connection there are no leaves and no fruit. The branch needs the tree trunk and the trunk needs the branches. That is how the apple-tree branch bears apples and the peach-tree branch bears peaches. Just as no branch of any tree can bear fruit unless it is attached to the trunk of the tree, no christian can bear fruit unless he (she) is attached to Christ. You

need Jesus, and Jesus likewise needs you!

In John 15:1 Jesus calls Himself "the true vine". Doesn't that tell us there are vines that are NOT true? There are many untrue vines but only one true vine. (Jesus: "I am the true vine.") Good fruit comes from "the true vine" and bad fruit comes from untrue vines. (Jesus: "A tree is known by its fruit.") Sadly, most christians are attached to more than one vine, perhaps several. That is why most christians bear LITTLE fruit instead of MUCH fruit. Since Jesus is the true vine, all other vines can be identified as false vines. Make sense?

Love of money is a false vine that has ensnared many. Religion (human authority, "commandments of men") is a false vine. Business, hobbies, friendships, family and many etceteras can be identified as false vines if one is trying to extract satisfaction and fulfillment and honor from them instead of from Jesus.

Jesus: "Without Me you can do nothing." What does nothing mean? Nothing means nothing good - no good work, no worthy accomplishment, no "treasures in heaven". The good fruit you are now bearing results from abiding in Christ; the worthless and bad fruit you are now bearing results from your attachment to false vines, something or someone other than Christ.

There is good fruit ("gold, silver, precious stones") and there is bad fruit ("wood, hay, straw"). What is good fruit? Good fruit is, for example, "the fruit of the Spirit" as listed in Galatians 5:22,23: "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Good fruit is freedom. (2Cor.3:17: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.") Good fruit is souls. (Jesus: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.") Good fruit is boldness. (Heb.10:19: "having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.") Good fruit is every good thing including truth, understanding, wisdom, and "treasures in heaven".

Religionists stir people to PRODUCE fruit. They preach, "We can do more together" and gather people into bunches. Actually they should say, "We can WASTE more together." These congregations require a Little Moses (a licensed and expensive pastor) and comfortable quarters for all those who "can do more together". And how do they "do more together"? Through organization. Organization was used to build the institutionalized church you are now attending. That evangelicalism has proven itself to be a poor investment matters little to those in charge; being in control of a malfunction is better than no control whatsoever.

You have been drawn into one of evangelicalism's many bunches that bears little fruit, not "much fruit". You are being regularly fleeced. Religionists have not only captured your generosity but also your devotion. You pay Little Moses to muzzle you. (If Paul were to suddenly appear he would say to you as he said to Timothy: "Preach the word!")

So.... how do you live out your christianity? Your prime task is to pursue Christ and capture more of Him. More Jesus equals more of every good thing. Paul was arguably more devoted to Jesus Christ than all other apostles, and yet he diligently pursued Him. ("That I might know Him.") And....

And always be available to do whatever Jesus tells you to do. Nothing more and nothing less. Jesus gives little and big assignments. A little assignment could be meeting a neighbour's need. A big assignment could be public ministry. My first public commission didn't come for five years. (Holy Spirit: "Write a book.") I live from assignment to assignment. That's how we are all supposed to live. Your business is what Jesus makes your business; all else is none of your business.

So.... do you want more fruit? Jesus gives you the secret to bearing fruit – intimacy (friendship, fellowship). He PROMISES "much fruit" to those who choose Him over others. You don't need a Little Moses. You don't need church membership. You don't need human oversight. You don't need to tithe. You don't need money. You simply need to abide, more fully, in Christ!!!

So my question to you is: WILL YOU ABIDE IN CHRIST OR VISIT OCCASIONALLY?

NOTE: The theme of my life is "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" and my writings reflect it. I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: DO YOU WANT MORE TRUTH?

You have as much truth as you want to have. If you wanted more you would have more; if you wanted less you would have less.

Before you received Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord you had a strong resistance to truth. The Holy Spirit was trying to reach you with the life-saving gospel. (Jesus: "When He has come He will convict the world of sin"), but the door to your heart was closed. When you (finally) received Christ's wondrous salvation you regretted not doing so sooner. Amen? Surely this confirms the folly of resisting truth.

Now that you belong to Christ Jesus (1Cor.6:19: "You are not your own"), you still have resistance to truth. You must see that. If it were not for this resistance you would have more truth, and with more truth comes more of every good thing. (Jesus: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.")

Christians - not a few, not some, not most, but all – resist truth. Truth brings change and change can be unsettling. The apostles resisted truth. Jesus told them (Mk.10:34): "And they will mock Him , and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." But they were completely surprised and disheartened when Christ's words were fulfilled a short time later; they didn't want to receive that frightening truth, so they didn't. The Galatians resisted truth. ("Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth.") The Corinthians resisted truth. ("You are still carnal.")

Today christians are equally skilled at dodging truth. I first witnessed this when a very young christian. There was a powerful visitation of the Holy Spirit in the seventies and eighties and many catholics, including me, discovered and received Christ. The People of Faith prayer group was formed in my parish, and there were manifestations of the Spirit in our weekly meetings. It was wondrous. Unfortunately every (repeat, EVERY) born-again catholic christian in that group had a strong resistance to the truth regarding catholicism. Many became more fervent catholics than before, and soon People of Faith came to an end.

When attending evangelical churches it became obvious they were likewise afflicted by the same resistance to truth. The loyalty the congregation had toward the pastor equaled the loyalty catholics had to their priest. As untruth keeps catholics catholic, untruth keeps evangelicals evangelical. As (what Jesus called) "commandments of men" define catholicism, "commandments of men" likewise define evangelicalism.

Embracing religion ("commandments of men") is denying the truth religion supplants. Understand that truth is the Bible. ("All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.") And understand that religion is that which subtracts from or adds to Scripture. Denying truth is denying the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of truth". Resisting the Holy Spirit is resisting the One who sent Him. (Jesus: "Whom I shall send to you from the Father.") So.... resisting truth is resisting Jesus. (Jesus: "I am the way, THE TRUTH and the life.")

Within both the unsaved and the saved is a NO Jesus! and a YES Jesus! The unsaved actually want Jesus but they also DON'T want Jesus; their NO is bigger than, and overpowers, their YES! The moment their YES exceeds their NO, they will eagerly embrace Jesus and receive His awesome salvation. Important: Does their NO Jesus! dissolve after their conversion? Answer: No, IT'S STILL THERE! Now there is a resistance to, relationally speaking, MORE of Jesus.

Although I never met you, I know much about you. I know that there is within you a NO! to more of Jesus. And I know that within you is a YES! to more of Jesus. But I don't know what is greater, your NO! or your YES! Probably you don't know yourself. My strong desire is to cause you to desire more and more and more of Jesus Christ, that the cry of your heart will be the same as Paul's (1Cor.2:2, AMPC): "I resolved to know nothing (to be acquainted with nothing, to make a display of the knowledge of nothing, and to be conscious of nothing) among you except Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and Him crucified."

And I also know that you have a resistance to truth and the change truth brings. But I don't know what is more powerful, your love for truth or that resistance to truth. Do you know? When confronted with conflicts between tradition of men and New Testament teachings and precedents (we all have such encounters), which do you obey?

And I know you bear good fruit because "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away.

(Jn.15:2)" But I don't know if you bear MUCH fruit or LITTLE fruit. Also, I know that Christ's Great Commission is directed to you as much as anyone, but I don't know if and to what degree you shoulder that responsibility. Also, I know that you cherish the approval of your brothers and sisters in Christ, but I don't know if that yearning exceeds your desire for Christ's approval. Listen to Paul, your elder brother (Gal.1:10): "If I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." Let's look at that....

A young jehovah-witness came to my residence and we were soon in a debate. He said that the division among christian churches was so extensive none could possibly be God's appointed agency on earth. (Actually, he is right.) Knowing much about his religion, I asked, "Has your religion ever been fully united in matters they now know is false?" Listen to his answer: "Yes, but it is better to be united in error than divided over truth!" Question: Would you rather be united to fellow saints seriously handicapped by "commandments of men" OR be separated from them and walk in truth? (Jesus to the Father: "Your word is truth.")

More truth is available. The Holy Spirit freely dispenses truth to those choosing truth over untruth. So I ask again, "DO YOU WANT MORE TRUTH?"

NOTE: Unlike religionists - those who advocate various religions - I believe you have a preaching ministry! Male or female, rich or poor, the Lord Jesus has called you to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to His church and to the world He died for. That is why I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: ARE YOU A NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN?

Question: What is a New Testament Christian?
Answer: A New Testament Christian is a christian who endeavors to live exclusively by the teachings and precedents outlined in the New Testament.

Question: Don't all christians live by New Testament standards?
Answer: Most christians obey a combination of New Testament decrees, Old Testament decrees, and "commandments of men". (Mat.15:9)

Question: What advantage is the Old Testament to the New Testament christian?
Answer: A great advantage! The Old Testament reveals the awesomeness of our God. The Old Testament has many promises that can be claimed by every christian. The Old Testament has much

to say about the Messiah and the salvation He has provided. The Old Testament has inspirational accounts of faithful believers such as Abraham, Joshua, and David.

Question: Why do many christians live by Old Testament standards?
Answer: Pastors have been coerced by their respective seminaries to stray from New Testament teachings. One example: tithing. Many (most?) are guilty of imposing this Old Testament law - or more correctly, a perversion of this Old Testament law - on their congregations.

Question: But isn't the tithe used to pay the pastor for his service?
Answer: Yes (and also for an elaborate accommodation for the congregation). The pastor's salary is not Biblical. The pastor replaces "one another" ministry, which IS quite Biblical. The salary makes the pastor a hireling (who wouldn't be there if he were not being paid).

Question: Why do pastors dare to impose an Old Testament concept (tithing) on their people?
Answer: It is difficult to conclude any other motive than "the love of money" (1Tim.6:10) and the power that accumulated money provides.

Question: Don't some pastors, perhaps most, do so because of ignorance?
Answer: Undoubtedly. And yet we all have been given "the Spirit of truth" who "will guide into all truth." (Jn.16:13) To remain in untruth extensively, one must refuse the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Question: Are pastors New Testament christians?
Answer: It is difficult to consider pastors New Testament christians because much of what they teach are "commandments of men". The pastor is the most religious person in the congregation.

Question: What is religion?
Answer: A religion is a particular set of "commandments of men"; there are many religions within the scope of evangelicalism. As it is "commandments of men" that make the catholic a catholic and the mormon a mormon, they also make the evangelical an evangelical.

Question: What is a religionist?
Answer: A religionist is one who defends and propagates religion.

Question: Are there many religionists within evangelicalism?
Answer: Multitudes. Every local pastor of every evangelical assembly is a religionist. (Most certainly,

they also teach Bible truths.)

Question: What is the difference between a NEW COVENANT christian and a NEW TESTAMENT christian?
Answer: We received the benefits of the NEW COVENANT when we received Christ. Through this covenant (paid for by "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world") we are justified, sanctified, made righteous. (2Cor.5:21: "That we might become the righteousness of God in Him.") It is "not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Eph.2:9), but a free gift. A NEW TESTAMENT christian is one who is determined to live by the instructions and precedents of the New Testament. Every NEW COVENANT christian should be a NEW TESTAMENT christian, but few are.

Question: Will every NEW TESTAMENT christian be rewarded?
Answer: Every NEW TESTAMENT christian is continually earning, by his (her) obedience, "treasures in heaven". The extent of our eternal rewards will be revealed at the "judgement seat of Christ".

Question: What will the judgement seat of Christ be like?
Answer: "Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's works, of what sort it is. If anyone's work.... endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss." (1Cor.3:13-15)

Question: Why is the judgement seat of Christ rarely mentioned by pastors?
Answer: Religionists (pulpit-people) don't talk about what they don't like to talk about. They must sense that Jesus is not pleased with them imposing so many "commandments of men" (that they learned in seminary) onto their congregations.

Question: Can't pastors plead ignorance?
Answer: If they plead ignorance the Lord Jesus could respond, "You didn't know because you refused to be taught. You refused to be taught because you didn't want to know. You didn't want to know because you loved another more than Me."

Question: Will misled pew-people be held responsible?
Answer: Lord Jesus (Judge Jesus) could say the same thing to everyone who occupied a pew: "You didn't know because you refused to be taught. You refused to be taught because you didn't want to know. You didn't want to know because you loved another more than Me."

Question: What is the answer?

Answer: Repentance is the answer to most problems. To be able to give a satisfactory account to Lord Jesus, every individual must place himself (herself) under the governance of the most Holy Spirit.

Question: What is a healthy relationship between a NEW TESTAMENT believer and the Holy Spirit?
Answer: Since Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to guide us, the one committed to the New Testament must also be committed to Him. Such a christian is not a follower of christians. Such a christian bears much fruit. Such a christian is a 'fisher of men'. Such a christian will not be embarrassed at the judgement seat of Christ.

So..... back to the original question..... "ARE YOU A NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN? (comment?)

NOTE: I am one of very few that believes YOU have a preaching ministry! Male or female, rich or poor, the Lord Jesus has called YOU to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" to His church and to the world He died for. To strengthen any resolve you have to preach, I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: DOES THE DEVIL WANT YOU TO TITHE?

A while ago I wrote a NO COMMENT? article: DOES JESUS WANT YOU TO TITHE? My answer to this question was a definite NO. So one could easily conclude that if Jesus doesn't want you to tithe, the devil DOES want you to tithe. Make sense?

The most important cause of Christ is the spreading of the good news that the price of man's reconciliation to God has been paid in full. That payment was none other than Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb. (John the baptizer: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!") Jesus commissioned His saints, including you and me, to take this truth to the perishing. Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This is Christ's GREAT COMMISSION.

(So what has this to do with tithing? Everything! Stay with me, okay?)

It is so obvious the devil does not want the gospel preached; wherever this message is proclaimed his kingdom is seriously plundered. And the devil knows about Gehenna, the lake of fire, his eternal home. Rev.20:10: "The devil.... was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

The devil wants to take as many with him as possible. Why? Because he hates Jesus! He knows Lord Jesus dearly loves humanity and wants everyone saved from the hell that awaits him. And the devil

knows he can get revenge by bringing multitudes of people with him to Gehenna. How does this evil tactician bring (not thousands, not millions, but) billions of people with him?

"The father of lies" knows that Jesus commissioned His church with the responsibility of taking His precious gospel to the nations. Before departing, Jesus said to His disciples, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." The devil is also quite aware that Jesus has no secondary plan to rescue humanity. So the devil infiltrates and weakens the church of Christ with false teachings.

(Are you following this? Are you still with me?)

Christ's GREAT COMMISSION costs money. This should be no problem because christians, especially those in developed countries, have plenty. I would suppose that in my city of Kelowna (population: 135,000) christians have enough surplus money to finance Christ's GREAT COMMISSION in many gospel-starved countries. What is true of Kelowna is true of every city in North America and beyond. However, most collected donations of evangelicals are spent on themselves.

The congregation is constantly prodded to give ten percent of their income to the local church. I call this tithe THE AWFUL EVANGELICAL TITHE, and the devil loves it. Little Moses (the local pastor) would be quick to say that most people in his church do not tithe. Nonetheless, most of the money he does collect is tithe money (from the people who do tithe). How much of the millions (billions?) of dollars collected every sunday throughout the world goes to financing the GREAT COMMISSION? So little that it undoubtedly causes the devil to rejoice.

Some christians do not believe there is a literal hell. "God is love" the Bible tells us, and a loving God simply would not, could not, send anyone to eternal anguish. But there is a hell; Jesus Himself confirms it in his account of Lazarus and the rich man. Both went to "hades" which was sectioned off between "Paradise" and a place of torment. Separating Paradise from the place of torment was "a great gulf fixed, so that those who wanted to pass from" torment to happiness could not.

Some say this was 'just a parable'. However a parable does not give a name to its characters. Jesus said, "There was a certain beggar named Lazarus" so I conclude there was a beggar named Lazarus. Do you? Jesus spoke of "a certain rich man who was clothed in purple", so I believe there was a certain rich man clothed in purple. Do you? Jesus quoted the rich man, "Send Lazarus that he might dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame", so I believe there is a place of torment. Do you?

Many people have had visions of hell. One such person was my friend Richard, now with Jesus in heaven. Richard was most trustworthy, and Jesus was his "first love". He never seen hell, but he experienced the hopelessness of hell. Years ago, I asked Richard to write about his experience....

"I've got something very important to say and I ask you to hear me. I was suddenly taken into the spiritual realm, into the place of the departed souls, those who had died without having received Christ as their Savior. God let me feel what they felt. I experienced the agony of eternal separation

from God, and it is this sense of eternal hopelessness that I am trying to convey. The feelings, the emotions of hopelessness I cannot fully relate. But I felt them, tasted of them. No, I didn't feel the torment of flames – Jesus spared me that – but the total separation from the One who can save and deliver.... There is no Redeemer in hell. That life, the life in hell, has no Savior, no Redeemer.... In hell there are no choices. The time of decisions is past.... Cry as I might, no one would rescue me.... The souls here had no hope.... Eternal, ceaseless hopelessness. Oh what grief! Oh what sorrow!"

I believe the awful evangelical tithe is one of many evangelical "doctrines of demons". (1Tim.4:1) I call it "awful" because it redirects funds from Christ's GREAT COMMISSION to the local church, to be wasted on non-Biblical expenses. And it is awful because it snatches affection and loyalty from Lord Jesus to be set upon Little Moses.

Yes, the devil LOVES the awful evangelical tithe. And the devil LOVES evangelical edifices. And the devil LOVES the pastor's salary. And the devil DELIGHTS in the indescribable agony and utter hopelessness of billions of people.

Question: DOES THE DEVIL WANT YOU TO TITHE?

NOTE: I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: ARE YOU ETERNALLY MINDED?

John 6:47: Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has EVERLASTING life.

When conceived in your mother's womb you were destined to live forever. You will never die. You will never stop being the person you now are.

James 4:14: What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

James is talking about life on earth. Like a vapor rising from a kettle, life will soon be no more. One second and two seconds and three second and.... gone! Compared to eternity, life is that short, even for those of old age. When your body stops functioning you simply move to another location. Another location.... ?

John 6:47: Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

Lord Jesus assures the christian that "he who believes in" Him will live forever with Him. Where will christians spend there eternity.... ?

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John 14:3: I go to prepare a place for you.

Jesus – awesome Jesus, creator of the universe - said those words almost two thousand years ago. There is no greater architect than Jesus Christ. Can we not safely conclude that heaven is indeed stupendous?

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1 Corinthians 2:9: As it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him."

The most wondrous vista you have ever seen is drab compared to heaven's beauty. The most pleasant music ever produced cannot compare to heaven's majestic sounds. The most imaginative person could never imagine the grandeur and wonder and joy of that place "God has prepared for those who love Him."

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Revelation 22:5: There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord gives them light.

There is no darkness in heaven. Nothing scary. No dark corners. No dingy alleys. No dreariness. Everything is bright. "The lamb is its light."

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Philippians 4:3: whose names are in the Book of Life.

If you have been "born of the Spirit", if you have made a SINCERE decision to embrace Jesus Christ and His wondrous salvation, you can be assured your name has been recorded in "the Book of Life". Lord Jesus awaits your arrival. Friends who have passed before you will greet you heartily.

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John 3:18: He who does not believe is condemned already.

Sadly, more people will refuse Christ than those who will receive Him. Why is this? Why do some come ("Come to Me , all you who labor and are heavy laden") and others refuse Christ's great invitation to be reconciled to God? Jesus gives us the answer....

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John 3:20: everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light.

This is Christ's explanation why most people will not come to Him to be saved, why they reject the salvation Jesus purchased with His life. What is the future of those rejecting "Jesus Christ and Him crucified".... ?

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Luke 16:24: "I am tormented in this flame."

This was the desperate cry of a wealthy man cast down to hades. He is still there. There is no hope, no relief, no escape. The wealth of the wealthy is the ruin of many. Jesus: "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God." Jesus taught us, "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God AS A LITTLE CHILD will by no means enter it." An impoverished man is more childlike than the one prideful of and reliant on his wealth.

This wealthy man was not eternally minded. He lived for today, not for tomorrow. The same is true for every person ignoring Christ's invitation to a much better life.

Matthew 6:19: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth."

Most christians are also not eternally minded. They were but are no longer. Why? Enthusiasm for Jesus has faded. Their speech gives them away; what's in comes out. (Jesus: "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.") Christians, with relish and determination, do exactly what Lord Jesus told them not to do. (Jesus: "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things that I say.")

Matthew 6:20: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

Most believers give scant attention to the upcoming "judgement seat of Christ". (Rm.14:22: "Each of us shall give account of himself to God.") Most "Lay up.... treasures in heaven" scantily, not abundantly.

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2 Corinthians 5:10: We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Most christians assume this will be a happy time. I do not. After considering the matter over several decades, I conclude this will be a time of remorse for many (most?) believers as they watch much of life's works ("wood, hay, straw") burn before them. (1Pet.1:7: "It is tested by fire.")

Matthew 6:20: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

My precious brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask again: ARE YOU ETERNALLY MINDED?

Do you live in a playground or in a battlefield? Will there be "gold, silver, precious stones" remaining after the test of fire? Are you financing Christ's Great Commission ("Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature") or accumulating "treasures on earth"?

Are you following Christ or following christians? (Jesus: "Come, follow ME.") Are you a New Testament christian or have you given yourself over to one of many batches of evangelical "commandments of men" (religions)? Will you be rejoicing or remorseful at that day of

accountability?

NOTE: Very few write like I write.... because.... I am a New Testament christian, one directed by the teachings and precedents of the New Testament..... and because.... I am unattached to a religion.... and because.... unlike most.... I believe YOU have a calling and a responsibility to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified". As such, I invite you to visit my library of books, articles and videos at www.larryjones.ca

Question: HOW AWFUL IS THE AWFUL EVANGELICAL TITHE?

John 8:32: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

(The evangelical tithe is awful because it's not true. It is false. As truth sets free, untruth incarcerates.)

Since it was Jesus Himself who taught us that truth sets free, we ought not fear or ignore truth. Amen? I have often revealed truth regarding the awful evangelical tithe and I trust some have been set free from the tyranny imposed upon them by salaried and certified (and trusted) pastors. Have you?

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2 Corinthians 9:7: Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity.

The Mosaic tithe was both holy and "of necessity". The people were not given a choice. If they held back the tithe (ten percent of the increase of the land) they were "cursed with a curse". (Mal.3:9) Paul's instruction to the Corinthians NOT to give "of necessity" (under compulsion) is a declaration to us that we are not obligated by God to tithe. Do you agree?

One cannot give "as he purposes in his heart" while tithing his income under obligation. It doesn't take "heart" to tithe; it takes a calculator! And it takes disobedience!

Acts 20:27: "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."

Does "the whole counsel of God" include tithing one's income? No!! Paul, who declared "the whole counsel of God", never instructed the churches to tithe - not the Romans!, not the Corinthians!, not the Galatians!, not the Ephesians!, not the Philippians!, not the Colossians!, not the Thessalonians!, not anyone! (Neither did Peter or John or James!) Is this not proof that tithing is a trespass against the "counsel of God" and His Bible?

Acts 20:29: "I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."

What did "savage wolves" want? Salvage wolves, without exception, want money (and the power and prestige money buys.)

Mark 7:12: "You no longer let him do anything for his father or mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition."

Jesus was talking to the Pharisees. The Pharisees taught that one is not obligated to care for their parents if the cost to do so was redirected as "a gift to God". (This "gift of God" was to be entrusted to the Pharisees who were, Luke tells us, "lovers of money".) The Pharisees are prime examples of "savage wolves".

Acts 20:29: "Savage wolves will come in AMONG YOU, not sparing the flock."

Among who? Among "the flock" or among the elders? It can't be the flock. It is obvious Paul is warning that "savage wolves will come in among" the elders!

Acts 20:30: "From among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves."

Does "from among yourselves" further confirm that the "savage wolves" Paul referenced were actual elders (leaders)? And what are "perverse things"? Can we conclude that "perverse things" are false teachings (that make "the word of God of no effect")?

Did "salvage wolves" disappear with the early church? Or are they still around today? If so, who are they? Where are they?

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1 Corinthians 2:15: He who is spiritual judges all things.

(The awful evangelical tithe is theft by embezzlement.)

You are responsible for you. If you don't "judge all things" it is because you are not sufficiently spiritual. Jesus wants you to judge all circumstances that affect His church. You judge by comparing what you see and hear with New Testament teachings and precedents.

Only the extremely naive would think there are no "savage wolves" in our midst today. If they were in the then-and-there they are certainly in the here-and-now. And can you see that the "savage wolves" in our churches cannot be pew-people? Can you see that only church leadership has the leverage to fleece Christ's sheep? Pulpit-people, not pew-people, have the power to impose

"commandments of men" on congregations. So.... how can you distinguish bad elders from good elders?

Matthew 12:33: "A tree is known by its fruit."

Good elders are not hirelings, one who is hired. Paul was not a hireling; though often supported through CONTRIBUTIONS, he was not hired by anyone. There is not a spiritual hireling in the entire New Testament. But..... almost everyone in leadership positions today has been hired. Does Lord Jesus want you to finance the salaries of hirelings?

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2 Corinthians 12:14 (AMPC): I am ready to come to you. And I will not burden you , for it is not your that I want but you.

Paul didn't put a financial burden on the Corinthian christians. Little Moses (Pastor Whoever) has no such scruples. Every sunday's collection is proof Little Moses (man-appointed mediator between Jesus and you) wants your money, as much as he can get.

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2 Thessalonians 3:8: Nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to you.

Paul was not a burden to the Corinthians nor the Thessalonians. Paul worked! Repeat: Paul worked! Pastor Whoever, do you "have ears to hear"?.... Paul, the tentmaker, worked! Does that say anything to you?

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2 Corinthians 11:3 (NLT): I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted.

(The awful evangelical tithe sends multitudes to eternal hell.)

Little Moses once had a "pure and undivided devotion to Christ." And then he went to seminary. After a year or two he graduated with an impressive credential and a "pure and undivided devotion" to religion ("commandments of men"). Over the years he has become proficient at extracting money from (fleecing) his congregation, convincing them that God demands their tenth.

Little Moses has little interest in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. As a result, his trusting congregation likewise has little interest in fulfilling Christ's Great Commission. When is the last time you heard someone speak of Christ's Great Commission? Can't remember can you? Why is this?

Jesus: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." The bulk of their entire giving has been entrusted to Little Moses who directs that money toward an impressive building, his own comfortable living, and many lesser demands of his religion. If Christ's Great Commission doesn't

receive your "treasure" neither will it receive your concern.

Romans 1:14: I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians, both to wise and unwise.

Why was Paul a debtor to the unsaved? Was it because he was an apostle? I don't think so. Paul was a debtor because he was a christian. All christians are debtors. I am a debtor. You are a debtor. And we are all capable of being "fishers of men". Jesus: "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." To be soul-winners (people-winners) we simply have to stop following christians and follow Christ. Amen?

Matthew 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

(The awful evangelical tithe weakens our relationship with Jesus Christ.)

Your heart follows your money and the things your money purchases. Tithe money (and non-tithe money) placed under the supervision of Little Moses will cause a shift of affection and loyalty from Lord Jesus to himself and the religion he bows to. Nothing is as debilitating as a fractured relationship with Jesus. Jesus: "I have this against you, that you have left your first love." Jesus: "He WHO ABIDES IN ME ... bears much fruit." Jesus: "Without Me you can do nothing."

Matthew 6:20: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

(The awful evangelical tithe robs you of eternal rewards.)

You are on your way to heaven and have opportunity to send "treasures" ahead of you. (Isn't Jesus wonderful?) These rewards, whatever they are, are eternal; they are still in perfect condition a million years later. The church building and all its expenditures are not "treasures in heaven" but rather "treasures on earth". (Jesus: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth.") The many non-essentials Little Moses purchases with his (non-Biblical) salary are also "treasures on earth". (Paul to Timothy: "Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.")

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1 Corinthians 3:15: If anyone's work is burned, he will SUFFER LOSS.

We will all "suffer loss" but surely those who entrust Little Moses with ten percent of their income will suffer much more loss of rewards than those directed by "the Spirit of truth". Amen? Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit the judgement seat of Christ will be an embarrassment.

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