



# Hunger For Truth

Edited By: Craig Glickman    Hunger For Truth Ministries    svdtday@yahoo.com    **September 15, 2012**

**Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:2**

***"Let us Hunger For Truth"***

## *Greetings*

Hello dear reader and welcome to another issue of Hunger For Truth. This issue includes a new "Emotions in the Bible" study, a great new devotional entitled "Christians" by brother Andrew Lacroix and Part 10 on the study of the word 'alone' in the Bible. Also, fall, my favorite season is coming. I've already seen the leaves here in New England glowing in vibrant red, yellow and orange on parts of many trees.

Also, my friend and I were blessed with a wonderful and safe trip to PA from August 31 to September 3 to visit family and friends and visit my dear brothers and sisters in Christ at Community Baptist Church of Quakertown, PA where Dr. David Smith is the pastor. The H.F.T. editor was a member of CBC before moving to MA in October of 2011. During this trip my friend and I had a great time of food, fellowship and witnessing opportunities with family and friends. We also enjoyed powerful preaching from Pastor Smith. I praise God for these wonderful blessings.

On a MA update, please continue to pray for the HFT editor's job situation. I am concerned about several issues that have arisen and have been praying for the switch to days in his timing for He is able, more than able. I also have been searching for other jobs elsewhere and seeking the Lord's will for each and every moment of my life. For now, I trust I will be able to stay where I am at but I am opened to go wherever He leads. I covet your prayers regarding this need.

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at [www.studytoanswer.net](http://www.studytoanswer.net).

It is my desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for me. I greatly appreciate your comments and I praise God for each and every one of you.

## *Christians (By: Andrew Lacroix)*

*"And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26)*

*"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28)*

*"If any man suffer as a Christian..." (I Peter 4:16)*

What was once a revered term two thousand years ago is now nothing more than a repulsive term to the Bible-believing individual. Now, before you criticize me, please allow me to explain. In the NT, the word "Christian" meant "a follower of Christ". The term has not changed; the public's view of Christ has changed. What many will tell you of Christ upon your asking back in the NT would be a lot more descriptive, accurate, and appropriate. Today people will give you any Jesus but the One in the Holy Scriptures. They'll give you the effeminate, long-haired Jesus portrayed by Mel Gibson and those in 'Hollywood'. They'll give you the peace first, no Hell Jesus of the Lutheran teaching. They'll give you his half-brother Lucifer if you're asking a Mormon to describe Jesus Christ. Last I checked, the Jesus of the Bible is not approving of men with long hair, Jesus preached more on Hell than He did on Heaven, and Lucifer fell after wanting to be like Him but wasn't satisfied with whatever God wanted to appoint him for.

The word Christian means exactly as it was in the Bible: a follower of Jesus Christ. However, most who call themselves "Christians" don't follow Christ; they follow a "cherry picked" Jesus; pick what they like out of the Bible and discard the rest like it's yesterday's garbage. Yet a Biblical Christian is one who will follow what the Bible says as best as they can, knowing they still fall short. It's been quoted: "You're only as good a Christian as you want to be". Those that were at the local church at Antioch were called Christians because they resembled Christ! Christ had first place in their lives!

How were they called Christians? Let's take a look at our first text, in a larger body for context (Acts 11:19-27). The persecution Luke refers to is the persecution of Acts 8:1-4 following the martyrdom of Stephen. They spread to the island of Cyprus and also up to Antioch, but yet at this time the preaching was only to Jews (other than Cornelius, they started going to the Gentiles more so starting in Acts 13). Note verse 21. As they preached, the "hand of the Lord" was with them. Is the hand of the Lord upon churches today? I believe so... if they are preaching the Word as the only authority for faith and practice. The hand of the Lord certainly isn't upon the social clubs, cults, and idolatrous houses that call themselves a church. With the preaching at Antioch, a great number "believed, and turned unto the Lord". That is important. So many today don't believe God could do what He's done before, and they turn from Him instead of turning to Him to do it again! This series of events drew Barnabas from Jerusalem, who then sought Saul of Tarsus and brought him to Antioch to help him teach and disciple all these new converts. It was their selfless actions that led to this new name for them, "Christians". Since we know what a Christian ought to be, why not just do it? Be Christ-like! Separate from the world and unto the Word! Proclaim His holy name! Take time to be holy! Amen!

Let's explore the I Peter passage. For context purposes, the passage is in chapter 4, verses 12-19. If you're a Biblical Christian, in its true meaning and form, you will naturally be opposed. Satan will seek to destroy you like he sought to tempt Job (Job 1 & 2) and like he does so today (I Pet. 5:8). Satan will use those who knowingly and unknowingly serve him to distract, desensitize, damage, and ultimately destroy Christians. We will endure fiery trials. We can rejoice in suffering shame for His name. In fact, we ought to. Paul argued: "... if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:17-18). In light of what our future will be, by the

grace of God only, anything we shall go through is miniscule at best. Not only compare our sufferings with the eternal future, but also with whom holds Eternity. He suffered more for ONE PERSON than you will suffer your entire lifetime, plus many, many others! How trivial our sufferings become when we see it this way! Praise God! Paul gives additional comfort in II Corinthians 4:17 and II Timothy 1:12. Paul challenged the church at Philippi with this: "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him; but also to suffer for His sake" (1:29).

In verse 14 Peter continued to deliberate on suffering. To the non-Christian, they speak evil of Him as if He was nothing. He was nothing to them 2,000 years ago and He is mocked more so in these last days (cf. II Tim. 3:1). However, on our part He is glorified. We looked at verse 16 to open our study and it should be duly noted that we are to glorify God on behalf of our petty sufferings (when compared to what He endured). In the end, Peter remarks, that at the end of the allotted time, we will be enduring no suffering and the lost of this world will be tormented for all eternity, just as the rich man was (Luke 16:19-31).

A Christian is equal to a non-Christian in the workforce and in no way should it differ there. However, the Christian is obligated to and will account (Rom. 14:12) to God for his/her actions while being a Christian. Things like testimony, witnessing, works, will all be judged. However, despite how bad our judgment seat COULD be by failing, we are still saved by God's grace. It is so sad, though, to see people get so close they could practically touch it, and then choose to wait or reject altogether. This is the classic case of "Felixitis" (Acts 24:24-25). He sent for Paul, who reasoned with him about eternity and the like, and Felix trembled at the very words of God, speaking through Paul. Evidently, he still wasn't ready. The Bible has much to say on laziness and slothfulness, but also much is found on putting off eternity. Solomon warned: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). Ezekiel said: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (33:11) Paul told those gathered at Corinth: "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of your salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). Christ spoke these words to the city of Jerusalem: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her children under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37) Be warned if you desire to live on without making the decision to repent of your sins and receive Christ.

Felix never found his convenient season, as history believes, and the Bible says no more about him. Now let's switch gears to Agrippa, and his encounter with the apostle Paul. Festus also happened to be in this meeting, and Paul shares what happened to him on the Damascus Road, then brings it to Christ. Festus, who was not interested in this encounter at all, tried to change the conversation. Paul took it in stride, knowing that Festus was not his intended target of this particular conversation. He asked the noble king Agrippa: "believest thou the prophets?" (v. 27) Agrippa replied with the infamous, yet chilling response: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (v. 28). Almost, but lost! Agrippa too never found that full persuasion he needed. This is a true warning sign for both believer and non-believer alike. To the believer, we must understand what it takes for one to be saved. Without repentance and true faith and trust there is no remission of sins, and to the non-believer: almost

means NOT! There is an old saying that close only counts in two things: horseshoes and hand grenades. That stays true. Close doesn't count when eternity is at stake.

I hope this study of the Bible definition of Christian and its usage has been a blessing. We have learned three valuable lessons, and I'll recap them: 1) Christians at Antioch resembled Christ. We ought to do the same. Just then, perhaps, we can change the way people think about the colloquial usage of this sacred term. 2) Christians should be encouraged by and through persecution. In light of eternity but also in the light of the One who holds Eternity, what we go through is far, far less than those without Christ will suffer or the One who died for all. 3) Christians had to be FULLY persuaded in order to be saved. Almost is still not in terms of Agrippa, and we must remember that when witnessing.

## *“Alone” (Part 10) (By: Craig Glickman)*

This is the continuation of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “alone” in the Bible. This word appears 106 times in the King James Version. For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

**Matthew 15:14** -In this passage Christ is teaching that what goes into the mouth is not what defiles a man but what comes out of the mouth (vs. 10-11). According to the disciples this saying offended the Pharisees (vs. 12) who were outwardly religiously proud and “holy” but showed no trust, faith or dependence on Christ. So Christ begins to speak to His disciples about the Pharisees in Verses 13-14. I believe Christ is saying to His disciples regarding the Pharisees and following their oft rejection of Him “let them alone”! He calls them blind, leaders of the blind, and gives the result of the blind leading the blind (Is. 9:16, Mal. 2:8, Matt. 23:16, Luke 6:39). How sad a situation. If you have not yet trusted Christ by coming to Him in repentance and faith, and are like the Pharisees, be careful you don't hear those words “let them alone!”

**Matthew 18:15** – This passage relates to church discipline. This is a deep study for another day, so for this study, I will just cover the aspect of the use of the word 'alone'. Simply put, Christ is saying that when someone is in need of church discipline for sinning against another member of the church, that person should first be approached, dealt with and reprovved in a private matter (alone) so as to bring them to repentance and restoration and not sow discord within the church.

**Mark 1:24** – This is the passage of the unclean spirit being cast out of the man from Capernaum who was in the synagogue on the sabbath day as Jesus was teaching (vs. 21). The people of the synagogue were astonished at His doctrine (vs 22). The unclean spirit in the man cries out to Jesus in fear “let us alone” and recognizes Jesus as The Holy One of God (vs. 24)! Jesus rebukes the unclean spirit and it leaves the man in obedience to Him (vs. 25-26)! The people had great awe and amazement of Jesus' power and began to question what was going on and began to publicize His fame throughout Galilee(vs. 27-28)! This event proves Jesus as God for the unclean (demon) spirit obeyed Him and left the man he was possessing.

**Mark 4:10, 34** – This passage is the parable of the sower that Jesus taught. Jesus taught in many parables. Parables are a simple story from everyday life that reveals truth to those whose hearts are

prepared to hear, and conceals truth from those whose hearts are unprepared. In verse 10, when Christ was alone I believe based on the passage that several people, the twelve disciples being with them were interested in the parable and came up to Him asking Him for more! These people had tender hearts and a hunger for truth. Do you and I have this tender heart and hunger for truth? Do you and I hunger to study and hear God's word preached and do it? This pleased the Lord (vs. 11) and He went on to teach and expound further on this very important and informative parable of the sower (vs. 12-20) and continued by teaching three more parables until verse 34, our next use of the word 'alone'. This is the parable of the mustard seed. In verse 34, He was done teaching and I believe the people left having heard and most likely understood the parables for His word does not return void. The Bible does not say whether they already were saved or they got saved but I believe they were convicted. Once they left, Jesus was alone with His disciples and began to expound (explain) even further (“all things”) to them! The Bible does not say what the “all things” were. I believe whatever the “all things” were, they were Bible passages for Christ most likely would not have taught them extra-biblical things (Luke 24:27, 45).

## *Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)*

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

**Passage:** John 16:6,7

**Emotion(s):** disappointment, sorrow

**Cause:** the departure of Jesus Christ

**Effect:** The disciples fullest and deepest blessing

**What does the passage say?:** The disciples were disappointed and sorrowful knowing Jesus must go away. What they did not realize was that without going away our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ could not have accomplished the redemptive work on the cross of Calvary. Also, the gift of the Holy Spirit could not have been given had Christ not gone away. As you can see, though they did not understand why Christ had to go away; which made them sorrowful, this “trial” indeed allowed for the disciples fullest and deepest blessing.

**What does the passage say to you and I?:** Our trials, troubles, sorrows and disappointments all happen for a purpose and a reason that God knows about, allows and is working it for our good if we only let him. They provide unparalleled opportunities for our faith to be strengthened, to trust and depend on God more thus keeping us from pride. They help us to loosen our grip on “the things which are seen” and increase our grip of “the things which are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18).

**What should you and I do about it?:** Seek the Lord in prayer and be faithful to His word and to your local church at all times, especially in times of sorrow and disappointments. So many turn their backs on God and their church and seek the world for comfort! That is the absolute worst decision a believer

can make and only makes things worst. Remember, He is with us even when we don't know or see it. **How do you and I stay accountable?:** Allow the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) to work in your heart and mind by submitting yourself to God and His perfect will and plan for your life and loving Him with your whole spirit, soul and body. Remember He is the Potter and you are the clay.

## Quotes

- “A truly surrendered life transfers control from self to the Savior day by day, moment by moment.”
- “Before all else, we seek upon our common labor as a nation the blessing of almighty God.”  
--Dwight D. Eisenhower

:) Children For Christ :)

## OBEDIENCE OF CHILDREN

**Memory Verse:** “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” ---Exodus 20:12

Take your Bible and read the following passages:

- Exodus 20:12
- 1 Samuel 15:23
- Ephesians 4:32
- Proverbs 6:20
- Proverbs 23:22
- Proverbs 30:17
- Ephesians 6:1-3
- Colossians 3:20
- Ephesians 4:29

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BASED ON THE ABOVE VERSES:

1. Based on Exodus 20:12 what happens when we honour/obey our father and mother?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Finish the sentence: Rebellion is as the sin of \_\_\_\_\_ and stubbornness is as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Children should be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. \_\_\_ TRUE  
\_\_\_ FALSE
4. We should keep our father's commandment, and forsake not the law of our mother. \_\_\_ TRUE  
\_\_\_ FALSE
5. Finish the sentence: Hearken unto thy \_\_\_\_\_ that begat thee, and \_\_\_\_\_ not thy \_\_\_\_\_ when when she is old.
6. What happens to the eye that mocketh at his father and despiseth to obey his mother?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Take a piece of paper and write down Ephesians 6:1-3 and read it until you have it memorized (in your heart and mind that you do not forget it at all). Then, say this verse to your parents and pastor.
8. Finish the sentence: Children, obey your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ things: for this is \_\_\_\_\_ pleasing unto the Lord.
9. According to Ephesians 4:29, what kind of communication/words should be coming out of our mouth? \_\_\_\_\_
10. If we have corrupt and non edifying communication coming out of our mouth, what does that do to you and those around you? \_\_\_\_\_

## *Praises*

- I praise God for the safety and many blessings upon my friend and I on a recent trip to PA.
- I Praise God for the privilege of our senses (sight, smell, hearing, tasting, etc.)

## *Prayer Requests*

- Salvation of Mike, Debbie, Tom, Gary, Kim, Jose, Adam and A.J.
- God's perfect will for the HFT editor regarding job needs
- Salvation of my sister Wendy and her friend Ben, my nephew Jacob and Aunt's Sybil and Bernice.
- Outreach of Heritage Baptist Church (We have distributed over 3000 'Marked' New Testaments and gospel tracts to Norwood and surrounding towns!)
- Needs of the body of Heritage Baptist Church
- Missionaries across the globe
- Unspoken request for HFT editor

***Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.***

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***Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***

***His Servant,  
 Craig Glickman  
 Prov. 3:5-6***

