

Beware of False Light, False Teachers, and False Prophets – Part 3

False Teachers: Exposing Universalist Deceptions and Scriptural Twists

1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We discussed the parable of the wheat and tares **Mat. 13:24-29; 13:36-43**. How it relates to truth vs. falsehoods regarding the word of God. The world sowing falsehoods into truth, twisting the scriptures to conform to the world. (an agenda or ideology). Sowing lies, i.e. bad seeds.
- We discussed discerning false prophets and testing the spirits. **1 Jn. 4:1-6 (NKJV)**. Vine's Expository Dictionary quote: "behind the false prophets with their false Christology (and false light teachings) is the spirit of the antichrist, and ultimately the spirit of the liar Satan, and behind the spirit of believers to which he is writing to is the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth)."
- We also discussed the "Spirit of Truth (The Holy Spirit)" **Jn. 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13 (NKJV)**. How the Holy Spirit gives us discernment and helps us rightly divide the Word of Truth. **2 Tim. 2:15 (NKJV/ESV/AMPC)** – * How do we do what this scripture says? Discuss...
- 2 Tim. 2:15 Expositor's Bible Commentary - "Do your best" refers to a person being zealous or eager. Timothy must put forth every effort to be a Christian minister approved by God. When his work is inspected by God, he will then have no reason to feel ashamed. "Who correctly handles or rightly divides" suggests a plowman making a straight furrow in the soil. As Timothy teaches the Scriptures, he is to guide the word of truth along a straight path and not turn aside into the devious paths of deceiving interpretations."
- We also discussed Bible translations: word for word, thought for thought and Paraphrase.

2. Let's go over some examples of false light and deceptive teachings.

- a) **Example 1 (False):** Francois Du Toit quote (author of The Mirror Bible Paraphrase)
Quote: "If the gospel we preach does not begin with the fact that every person on the planet is equally valued and included in Christ, well then our good news is just not good enough! The danger was never to exaggerate the gospel, but always to underestimate it! Something happened to mankind in Christ which is by far superior to what happened to mankind in Adam!" - **What jumps out at you when you read this quote?** – This quote is alluding to a misinterpretation of **1 Cor. 15:22-23**. It is carefully worded to teach **universalism**, that all of humanity is "in Christ" and that all are or will eventually be saved. The idea of "all are in Adam and all are in Christ. **1 Cor. 15:22-23** is not saying that, especially when you bring in **vs 23** for more context. Let's read this and discuss. **Verse 23** is very different than **vs. 22**. The all who shall be made alive is defined in **verse 23** as those who are Christ's at His Coming." **1 Cor. 15:22-23 Believer's Bible Commentary** - "Adam and Christ are presented as federal heads. This means that they acted for other people. And all who are related to them are affected by their actions. All who are descended from Adam die. So, in Christ all shall be made alive. This verse has sometimes been taken to teach universal salvation. It is argued that the same ones who die in Adam will be made alive in

Christ, and that all will eventually be saved. But that is not what the verse says. The key expressions are in Adam and in Christ. All who are in Adam die. All who are in Christ shall be made alive, that is, only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will be raised from the dead to dwell eternally with Him. The all who shall be made alive is defined in verse 23 as those who are Christ's at His Coming."

b) **Example 2 (False):** Stan Mitchell (graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School and pastor to the LGBTQ+ community) – Quote: “*The idea that two people being coaxed by a talking snake into eating a forbidden fruit somehow justifies every human ever born deserving to be tortuously separated from God for eternity is undoubtedly the most ridiculous religious assertion ever made. And, arguably, the most effective. The premise of innate separation from God is a terrible untruth, one that has laid the groundwork for many a religious industry to profitably fix a problem that doesn't exist.*” - **What jumps out at you when you read this quote?** – First thing that jumps out to me is the mocking of scripture.

- This is also tying into the misinterpretation of **1 Cor. 15:22-23** pointing again to the idea that all of humanity is saved (or will eventually be saved) and has never been separated from God. It is also casting doubt on the validity of the Word of God and is even mocking it. i.e., does the Bible really say that? Similar to **Gen. 3:1** where satan said to Eve, “*did God really say you cannot eat from the tree in the garden?*”
- This is the sobering truth of God's Word: Those who believe in Christ receive eternal life, while those who do not, face eternal separation from God and everlasting destruction, excluded from the Lord's presence and power (**2 Thes. 1:6-9, NLT/AMP**), due to their unbelief and rejection of Christ. One must believe in Christ to “receive” salvation.
- Those who believe in Jesus Christ belong to Christ. When you believed, He identified you as his own. He put His seal upon you by giving you the Holy Spirit. **Eph. 1:13-14 (NLT)**, Unbelievers do not yet belong to Christ. So, as noted in **1 Cor. 15:23** “those who are Christ's at His Coming”, is referring only to believers who are in Christ. All of humanity is not in Christ. All of humanity is not “Christ's at His coming.”
- There is a popular Bible paraphrase/translation called "The Mirror Bible Translation" (TMB) by South African Dr. Francis Du Toit of whom I have quoted above. He has thousands of glowing reviews on Amazon and very large following in South Africa and has become very popular globally as well. A comparison of a few passages from the ESV and the Mirror Bible will illustrate Francis Du Toit's theology ← - This translation is infused with the idea that all are included, all are saved and that there is no separation from God for all of humanity. i.e. “the gospel of inclusion.” Just one example of many false teachers that are persuading many away from the truth of what the Word says.

c) **Example 3 - A false teaching from the Mirror Bible by Francois Du Toit**

- **Truth: Jn. 1:11-12 (ESV)** “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” These are compared with the many who rejected Christ in **Jn. 1:11**. The point is, that while many rejected Jesus, those who receive Him (and only those) i.e., those who are saved through faith in Christ become God's children.

- **False: The Mirror Bible** completely reverses this. *“Everyone who realizes their association in him, convinced that he is their original life and that his name defines them, God gives the assurance that they are indeed his offspring, begotten of him; he sanctions the legitimacy of the sonship.”* - According to the Mirror paraphrase, it is not sonship that people need but assurance of that sonship. They (all of humanity) have always been a son regardless of salvation through faith in Christ. - The point of the Mirror Bible paraphrase is not that people need to become children of God but that they need to “recognize” that they are already children of God because of Christ. The Bible does not teach this. One receives sonship only through faith in Christ. – You can also see this in **Gal. 3:23-26 (ESV/AMP)**, *“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith”*. *Context is crucial!
Gal. 3:23-26 Believers Bible Commentary: *“Notice the change in pronouns from “we” in vs. 23-25 to “you” in vs 26. In speaking of the Jews as “we,” Paul showed that they were kept under law until the coming of Christ. The law maintained them as a separate people to whom justification by faith might be preached. When they were justified, they ceased to be under law, and their distinctive character as Jews ceased. The pronoun “you” from here to the end of the chapter includes both saved Jews and saved Gentiles. Such people are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”* * All of you saved Jews and Gentiles become a son of God through faith. Not all of humanity. The “All” is Jew and Gentile believers.

- d) **Example 4** - A false teaching from the Mirror Bible by Francois Du Toit
 - **Truth: Jn. 3:3 (ESV)** *“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* All other modern versions convey the same message, although the wording may be slightly different. The point is that without new birth through salvation a person will be excluded from God’s kingdom. **How does one get born again?**
 - **False: Jn. 3:3 (TMB)** gives a completely different emphasis: *“Jesus answered him emphatically; no one would even be able to recognize anything as coming from God’s domain unless they are born from above to begin with! The very fact that it is possible to perceive that I am in union with God, as a human being, reveals humanity’s genesis from above!”* Here, receiving Christ does not make one a child of God but simply proves the divine origin of mankind. All are born saved and all are children of God with an inheritance.
* This is not what the Bible teaches.
- e) **Example 5** - A false teaching from the Mirror Bible by Francois Du Toit
 - **Truth: Jn. 3:17–18 (ESV)** and very similarly in all reputable English translations reads, *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* The condemnation spoken of here is the condemnation of a holy God who judges unrepentant sinners who refuse, reject, and do not believe in Christ.
 - **False: Jn. 3:17–18 (TMB)**, In the Mirror Bible the warning of God’s condemnation becomes something else entirely: *“God has no intention to condemn anyone—he sent his son not to be the Judge but the Savior of the world. Faith and not flesh defines you! In the persuasion*

of your authentic sonship there is no separation or rejection! For someone to prefer not to embrace this is to remain under their own judgment sustained by their futile efforts to define themselves through personal performance. In their stubborn unbelief they reject what is revealed and redeemed in the Name of the son, begotten only of the Father and not the flesh.” - For Francis Du Toit, the condemnation of God for rejecting the Son becomes self-condemnation as one refuses to recognize his true sonship and tries to earn God’s favor by his performance. Francis Du Toit cannot except a God who is loving **and** just. He has a hard time believing that God would allow people to suffer torment in and separation in hell for eternity, so he has rewritten the bible to say that there is no hell and all are saved.

f) **Example 6** - A false teaching from the Mirror Bible by Francois Du Toit

- **Truth: Rom. 3:23-26 (ESV)** “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*” Here we can clearly see that salvation is received only through faith in Christ.
- **False: Rom. 3:23-26 (TMB)** “*Humanity is in the same boat; their distorted behavior is proof of a lost blueprint. Jesus Christ is proof of God's grace gift; He redeemed the glory of God in human life; mankind condemned is now mankind justified! Jesus exhibits God's mercy. In His blood conciliation, God's faith persuades mankind of His righteousness and the fact that He has brought closure to the historic record of their sins (not by demanding a sacrifice but providing the sacrifice of Himself). Jesus is the unveiling of the Father's heart toward us. All along God refused to let go of mankind. At this very moment, God's act of righteousness is pointing them to the evidence of their innocence, with Jesus as the source of their faith.*” In this translation salvation is not to be received by faith, it's something all of humanity already has. The Bible clearly does not teach this.

There are many more examples of twisting of scriptures to push an agenda or an ideology. Many of these are in the form of books promising a better understanding of what the Bible really says. One glaring example is this book noted below. Placing the short review here for reference:

That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation by David Bentley Hart - “*A scathing, vigorous, eloquent attack on those who hold that that there is such a thing as eternal damnation. In this momentous book, David Bentley Hart makes the case that nearly two millennia of dogmatic tradition have misled readers on the crucial matter of universal salvation. On the basis of the earliest Christian writings, theological tradition, scripture, and logic, Hart argues that if God is the good creator of all, he is the savior of all, without fail. And if he is not the savior of all, the Kingdom is only a dream, and creates something considerably worse than a nightmare. But it is not so. There is no such thing as eternal damnation; all will be saved. With great rhetorical power,*

wit, and emotional range, Hart offers a “new” perspective on one of Christianity’s most important themes.” – Can you feel the mocking of the Word of God and the casting doubt onto the Word in the above description of this book? Hart is twisting the scriptures and how they are translated to conform to the idea that there is no judgment/no Hell. i.e preaching another gospel. (2 Cor. 11:4)

Homework: The importance of the Word of God in our lives: Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 17:17; Matthew 24:35; Colossians 3:16; Luke 11:28; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 17:11; Ephesians 6:17 ~ Combing these scriptures together:

*“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. The Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. His Word is Truth. Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's Word will never pass away. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. The word of the Lord endures forever. When you received the word of God, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. **Examine the scriptures and see if they are true! Put on the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”***

A short study on Hell: Hell, described as the second death and the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14; 21:8), is both real and eternal. This truth is affirmed in Isa. 66:22-24, Dan. 12:1-2, Mat. 13:50; 18:6-9; 25:31-46, Mk. 9:42-48, 2 Thess. 1:5-10, Jd. 1:7,13, and Rev. 14:10-11; 20:10,14-15 (NKJV/AMPC). Scripture teaches that unbelievers will face this eternal judgment and separation from His presence (Love, Joy and Peace): Mat. 13:41,50; 25:46; Jn. 3:36; 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:6-8, (NKJV/AMPC). However, this clear biblical message is challenged by attempts to redefine core doctrines—such as salvation, heaven, hell, judgment, and the gospel itself—All in an effort to align Scripture with an “all-inclusive gospel.” Such redefinitions often undermine the authority of God’s inerrant, God-breathed Word (Ps. 19:1; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jn. 16:13; 17:17).

A deeper dive: I have a very long article I have written and worked on over the past 5 years or so that dives deeper into what the Bible says about salvation and the false teaching of inclusion.

My rebuttal to the “Gospel of Inclusion” (all are not in)

<https://christinyoustudymap.com/my-rebuttal-to-the-all-inclusive-gospel/>

Bonus homework:

1 Cor. 15:22-23 (NKJV) - “22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

"All in Adam all die," - this "death" is referring to: Eternal death, everlasting destruction, eternal exclusion, and banishment from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power as mentioned in **2 Thes. 1:9, Matthew 18:8, 25:26; Mark 3:29; Hebrews 6:2; Rev. 21:8 (NKJV/AMP)**.

"All in Christ made alive" this "life" is referring to: New life, now here on earth and eternal life with the Lord. The born-again transformation to new life and the everlasting life with the Lord. It is what will happen for those who believe in Christ. They "will be made alive in Christ". This life is eternal life in Heaven, everlasting life. **John 3:16, 11:25-26, 17:3; Matthew 19:29, 25:46; 1 John 5:13, Luke 10:25-28 (NKJV/AMP)**.

Easton's Bible Dictionary - [Eternal death](#)

Easton's Bible Dictionary - [Eternal life](#)

Double Bonus Homework: In reference to “*those who are Christ’s at His coming*” i.e. Those who belong to Christ, those who are in Christ. (all of humanity is not Christ’s at His Coming, i.e. all of humanity does not belong to Christ and are not in Christ). Adding this homework for a better understanding of **1 Cor. 15:22-23**.

I posed the following questions to A.I. for some in-depth research:

Question:

How do I reconcile 1 Corinthians 15:23 with psalm 24:1 with a focus on "those who belong to Christ" i.e. only believers belonging to Christ." Also take into account the following: Belonging to Christ is the positional reality of being "in Christ". The concepts of being "in Christ" and "belonging to Christ" are theologically equivalent in Pauline theology, as they both describe the believer's union with Christ. We also see this with believers being "sealed with the Holy Spirit". This sealing is a mark of divine ownership (Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 4:30 (NLT/NASB/AMP)).

Note: Below is an A.I. response to my challenging question and is pulling from the entire text of the Bible in these versions AMP, AMPC, ESV, KJV, NASB, NIV, as well as many commentaries, it is always wise to dig into the Word of God yourself and read the scriptures in full context while allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you as you dive in. Ask this same question yourself and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth as you dig into the word for the answers. Use the question and answer below for deeper study.

Answer:

To reconcile **Psalm 24:1** and **1 Corinthians 15:23**, we must distinguish between God’s **universal ownership** as Creator and His **redemptive ownership** as Savior. While every molecule in the universe belongs to God by right of creation, only those "in Christ" belong to Him by right of covenant and redemption.

Theologically, this is often called "**Double Ownership**."

1. General Ownership: The Creator’s Right (Psalm 24:1)

"The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

This verse describes **Ontological Ownership**. God is the rightful owner of all things because He made them and sustains them. In this sense, even the unbeliever, the mountains, and the stars "belong" to God. He holds the "title deed" to the universe.

- **Scope:** Universal (everyone and everything).
- **Basis:** Creation and Providence.

- **Status:** Subjection to divine authority and judgment.

2. Redemptive Ownership: The Redeemer's Purchase (1 Cor. 15:23)

*"...but each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming **those who belong to Christ.**"*

This verse describes **Soteriological Ownership**. While God owns the world, Paul is referring to a specific group—the Church—who have been "bought with a price" (1 Cor 6:20).

In Pauline theology, "belonging to Christ" (*hoi tou Christou*) is the functional equivalent of being "**in Christ.**" It is a positional reality where the believer is legally and spiritually transferred from the "domain of darkness" into the "Kingdom of the Son" (Colossians 1:13).

- **Scope:** Particular (only believers).
- **Basis:** The Blood of Christ and Union with Him.
- **Status:** Adoption, Inheritance, and Resurrection life.

3. Reconciling the Two: The "Seal" of Ownership

The link between these two concepts is the **Sealing of the Holy Spirit**. While everyone belongs to God as a creature, the believer is "marked" as a special possession.

In the ancient world, a seal (like a signet ring in wax) did three things:

1. **Identified the Owner:** It showed whose "property" the object was.
2. **Guaranteed Authenticity:** It proved the object was the "real deal."
3. **Provided Protection:** To break the seal was to challenge the authority of the owner.

The Moment of Salvation

As you noted, this happens the **moment** one believes. The scriptures you cited (Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:22) use the Greek word *arrabōn*, meaning a "down payment" or "earnest money."

- **Ephesians 1:13:** "In him you also, when you heard the word of truth... and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit."
- **Positional Reality:** The Spirit is the "brand" or "mark" that separates the believer from the rest of the world that God owns.

Summary: The Distinct Relationship

| Feature | Psalm 24:1 (Universal) | 1 Cor. 15:23 (Redemptive) |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Relationship | Master to Creature | Head to Body / Groom to Bride |
| Means | The Act of Creation | The Act of Redemption (Cross) |
| Requirement | Existence | Faith / Union ("In Christ") |
| The Result | Accountability to God | Resurrection and Inheritance |

The Reconciliation: 1 Corinthians 15:23 does not deny that God owns all people (Psalm 24:1); rather, it highlights that only those who have been **spiritually united** to Christ through the "seal" of the Spirit are participants in the specific resurrection of the righteous. At the moment of salvation, you move from being a "creature belonging to a Creator" to a "child belonging to a Father."

See also: [1 Cor. chapter 15 BibleRef Commentary](#) for full context of **1 Cor. 15:22-23**.
...and [Matthew Henry :: Commentary](#) on **1 Cor. 15**.

...and for further consideration I have placed below the [Believer's Bible Commentary](#) on **1 Cor. 15:22-23**.

15:22 **Adam** and **Christ** are presented as federal heads. This means that they acted for other people. And all who are related to them are affected by their actions. **All** who are descended from **Adam** die. **So in Christ all shall be made alive.** This verse has sometimes been taken to teach universal salvation. It is argued that the same ones who die in Adam will be made alive in Christ, and that all will eventually be saved. But that is not what the verse says. The key expressions are **in Adam** and **in Christ**. **All** who are **in Adam** die. **All** who are **in Christ** shall be made alive, that is, only believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will be raised from the dead to dwell eternally with Him. The **all** who **shall be made alive** is defined in verse 23 as those who are Christ's at His Coming. It does not include Christ's enemies, for they shall be put under His feet (v. 25), which, as someone has said, is a strange name for heaven.

15:23 Next we have the groups or classes involved in the first resurrection. First is the resurrection of **Christ** Himself. He is spoken of here as **the firstfruits**. Firstfruits were a handful of ripened grain from the harvest field before the actual harvest started. They were a pledge, a guarantee, a

foretaste of what was to follow. The expression does not necessarily mean that Christ was the first one to rise. We have instances of resurrection in the OT, and the cases of Lazarus, the widow's son, and Jairus' daughter in the NT. But Christ's resurrection was different from all of these in that, whereas they rose to die again, Christ rose to die no more. He rose to live in the power of an endless life. He rose with a glorified body.

The second class in the first resurrection is described as **those who are Christ's at His coming**. This includes those who will be raised at the time of the Rapture, and also those believers who will die during the Tribulation and will be raised at the end of that time of trouble, when Christ comes back to reign. Just as there are stages in the coming of Christ, so there will be stages in the resurrection of His saints. The first resurrection does not include all who have ever died, but only those who have died with faith in Christ.

Some teach that only those Christians who have been faithful to Christ, or who have been overcomers will be raised at this time, but the Scriptures are very clear in refuting this. All **who are Christ's** will be raised at His coming.