

THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

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PREFACE

“Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?” All of us are familiar with this courtroom oath.

Truth is so very important! It is important in *every area of our present lives*: relationships, driving directions, recipes, chemical formulas, maps, financial dealings, administering justice, food ingredient labels, structural integrity of a building, blueprints, flying by instruments, scientific research, doctors’ diagnoses and prescriptions, education, politics; the list goes on. Yes, truth is definitely important in this life!

But truth is even *more* important in regard to spiritual and *eternal things*! This life — whether we ever come to know the truth about any part of it, or not — is only a few decades long; brief, at best; quickly passing. **Eternity never ends!**

We care about our bodies and our minds, . . . and we *should*. It is *right* that we want to know the truth about how to best nourish, protect and preserve them. But we should care *a million times more* about how best to nourish, protect and preserve *our spirits*, because even a million times the length of our life on this earth will still be less than a nanosecond, compared to eternity — and each of us is going to be living — **alive!** — *somewhere*, for **eternity**.

Tragically, as soon as we begin to talk about eternal, spiritual things, — “God”, “religion”, “faith”, “beliefs” — many people get turned off, they tune out, and turn away. They have zero interest in something they have already dismissed as nonsense. They couldn’t care less that their eternal destiny is being determined by their present skepticism.

Many people look to religion for answers to spiritual and eternal questions. But, sadly, the person sincerely desiring to know which answers are true faces the daunting, discouraging, and [many think] pointless task of sorting through over 4,000 religions, world-wide. Finding truth amidst so many conflicting teachings can be like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack, and — though they certainly *should* be — very few people are *that* serious about knowing the truth.

- Is there any way to greatly abbreviate the search for Truth?

[You know: like having a Truthometer, a Haystack Winnower, or a Truth Detector — giving you the ability to quickly pinpoint the needles of spiritual truth beneath piles of religious hay!]

- Is there any spiritual Truth to be found, in the first place!

[Is there any truth to be found outside of empirical Science, or outside of human reasoning?]

- Can Truth be found?

[Is spiritual truth discoverable? Or, is it just fairy tales!]

- Can we know that it truly *is* True, once we've found it!

[How objective is spiritual truth? Maybe what's 'true' for me isn't 'true' for you! Maybe spiritual truth is not absolute and changes from person to person and from time to time!]

The answer to these questions is a firm and resounding “YES!”

There *is* a way to greatly shorten the search for Truth!

Truth about spiritual and eternal things *does* exist!

Truth *can* be found!

Truth *is* objective, absolute, unchanging, the same for everybody!

This booklet is apologetic in nature; its purpose is to explain and defend authentic Christianity, in as concise and clear a way as possible.

Genuine Christianity is the truth.

This House of Truth is built on seven allegorical pillars, which I take to mean seven basic truths that support all the other wisdom and truths that comprise the remainder of the house.

I picture the house as being built vertically - like the Empire State building. It is built progressively, one section or story at a time, on and around a central pillar or column. Each subsequent story of the house rests upon the previous story. Each pillar is essential to the architecture of a specific section of the house, and all seven pillars are essential for the complete house.

The House of Truth, to me, is authentic Christianity. The adjective “*authentic*” is important because the generic term, “Christianity”, encompasses many counterfeits. **Think about it:** *Just because something calls itself ‘Christian’ does not make it Christian.* So, what *does* make something truly Christian?

Authentic Christianity

Authentic Christianity — the literal embodiment of this allegorical House of Truth — is always founded on the Bible. Authentic Christianity is Christianity that is built on, and fully supported by, an accurate understanding of the Bible and results in a life lived in alignment with the Bible. Anything other than this is not *authentic*.

Only one person ever lived a life of unimpeachable authentic Christianity, and that was the architect and builder of the House of Truth — Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Jesus Christ “the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24), and tells us that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Him. (Colossians 2:3)

So, I think of “Wisdom’s House” — the House of Truth — as being His house, and I believe the purpose behind the architecture of His seven-pillared house is to introduce us to Him and to establish our relationship with Him. These speculations and interpretations of Proverbs 9:1 are consistent with the entire content of the Bible.

Visiting the House of Truth

Though you will not see Him, if you knock on the door of the house, it will be opened by the Holy Spirit. He will usher you into the first floor of the house and will introduce you to God the Father. The Father is awesome, and you could spend a lifetime getting to know Him better. But you won't spend very much time with Him before He will lead you up to the second story of the house to introduce you to His Son, Jesus Christ — because it has always been God the Father's purpose to center the entire universe and everything in it around His Son, Jesus Christ. *“For by Him [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created by Him and for Him.”* (Colossians 1:16)

The remaining five stories of the House of Truth are five major lessons we need to learn about Jesus. By the time we have made our way through the entire house, from floor to floor and from pillar to pillar, we will have progressed from being outside the house — not knowing any spiritual truth, to being firmly grounded in the truth of authentic Christianity, and we will be enjoying a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, Who *is* The Truth. (John 14:6)

Hopefully, — and as is usually true of those who enter — you will never want to leave the House of Truth. You will find yourself falling more and more in love with Jesus. By staying in the House of Truth and growing in your love for Him and your relationship with Him, the purpose of the House of Truth will be accomplished in your present life, and you will find, someday, that the relationship that started with God when you entered the House of Truth, and which led you into a growing relationship with His Son, Jesus, goes on forever and ever!

The Seven Pillars

So, what are the seven main, indispensable, skeletal, structural pillars — the seven fundamental truths — that form the basic framework for

all the rest of the body of truth known in the Bible as “the faith once delivered to the saints”? (Jude 1:3).

The Bible doesn't say. Not in so many words, anyways. But, based on my understanding of the Bible, it makes sense to me that the seven pillars of the House of Truth are:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Divine Inspiration of the Bible
3. The Deity of Jesus Christ
4. The Atonement of Jesus Christ
5. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
6. Salvation by Grace through Faith
7. The Exchanged Life

These seven truths form the backbone of the Bible, of our entire body of spiritual and eternal truth, and, therefore, of *authentic* Christianity. They are “fundamentals of the Christian faith”.

With a little effort, one can find many lists of “the fundamentals of the faith”. They usually have a few points in common, and they often differ in the number of “fundamentals”. Regardless, any list of “fundamentals” underscores the fact that Christians have agreed for many generations that there are a few spiritual truths that are essential - fundamental - to the Christian faith. Without them — without any *one* of them — one does not hold to the Christian faith and, in fact, is not a Christian.

My list of the “seven pillars of wisdom” is not meant to be a list of “the fundamentals of the faith”. Nor is it synonymous with others' lists of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. My list is deliberately progressive, just as building a seven-story tower would be a progressive undertaking. I am concerned with which is the first spiritual truth a person must embrace before he can move on to the second truth and so forth, leading him logically and progressively to the last truth. And, since Proverbs 9:1 specifies “seven” pillars, I am

concerned to determine what those seven truths would be, from first to last.

To be sure, there are a few “fundamentals” that are not included in my list of the seven pillars. And there are many other important sub-points in the Bible and in Christian theology — many other unchanging, dependable truths. But they *are* sub-points: it will be found that they all rest upon one or more of the fundamental “pillars”.

Here are the “Seven Pillars of Truth”, again, with just a few of the most important sub-points added to show what I mean by “sub-points” and to show that they *are* sub-points:

Pillar #1: The Existence of God

- A. The Trinity
 - B. The Eternality of God
 - C. The Holiness of God
2. The Divine Inspiration of the Bible
 - A. The Infallibility of the Bible
 - B. The Authority of the Bible
 - C. The Completeness of the Bible
 - D. The Credibility of the Bible
 3. The Deity of Jesus Christ
 - A. The Eternality of Jesus Christ
 - B. The Humanity of Jesus Christ
 - C. The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ
 - D. The Sinless Life of Jesus Christ
 4. The Atonement of Jesus Christ
 - A. The Sufficiency of His Atonement
 - B. The Efficacy of His Atonement
 - C. The Scope of His Atonement
 - D. The Finality of His Atonement
 5. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - A. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ defined
 - B. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ defended
 6. Salvation by Grace through Faith

- A. Salvation Defined
 - B. Grace Defined
 - C. Faith Defined
 - D. Getting Saved
 - E. Staying Saved
7. The Exchanged Life
- A. The Exchanged Life Defined
 - B. How the Exchanged Life Affects the Individual
 - C. How the Exchanged Life Affects The Church
 - D. How the Exchanged Life Affects the World

This is, by no means, an exhaustive list of sub-points. In fact, there are sub-points to the *sub-points and beyond!* [You might enjoy thinking of some sub-points, yourself, and then figuring out under which “pillar” they would be found.]

But this small booklet is not intended to be an exhaustive look at theology — as much as I love the subject and see the need for a book on *Authentic* Christian Theology. Its purpose is only to distinguish between *authentic* Christianity and the many imitations, and to show how the truth *can be known* by any sincere seeker.

By learning about the “Seven Pillars” and some of the sub-points listed above, you will have been introduced to spiritual truth, and you will have the mental foundation necessary for continuing on the narrow, twisting path of Truth (Mt. 7:14), — no matter what other spiritual or theological questions might arise.

So, let’s take a brief look at each of the seven pillars and a few of its sub-points.

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 CHAPTER ONE

**PILLAR #1 - THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

*“Without faith, it is impossible to please God; for he who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He rewards them who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)*

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments. (Psalm 111:10)*

There is a progression in the order in which I have listed the seven pillars of truth. There is a starting point, and there is an ultimate destination.

### **The starting point is believing in the existence of God.**

It is no coincidence that the opening words of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 read, *“In the beginning, God . . .”*

This is the premiere spiritual truth and principle — *“In the beginning, **God.**”* In this principle is contained the primary purpose of our brief, physical existence on this earth as well as the initial signpost to the road of truth that will lead us safely to our eternal, heavenly destiny.

**A “Heads Up!”: God can neither be found by Science, nor fathomed by human reasoning.** So, if these are the only two means by which one thinks to prove or disprove the existence of God, he will certainly be disappointed, because they will end in failure.

Here’s why: . . .

### **Science**

Science deals with the five physical senses: what we can see, smell, hear, touch, and taste — things that can be measured and quantified. This parameter automatically puts God outside of Science’s reach, because *“God is a spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (Jesus speaking in John 4:24)* Science doesn’t deal with spirits. By definition, Science doesn’t *believe* in spirits.

So, back to our lead Scripture verse for this chapter: *“Without faith, it is impossible to please God; for he who comes to God [paraphrased: “anyone who wants to find God”] must believe that He exists, and that He rewards them who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)*

A supernatural God cannot be ‘found’ by Science’s natural means.

## **Human Reasoning**

Human reasoning cannot ‘create’ God, either. Human reasoning can create any number of *false* gods — [according to one source, there are 33 million Hindu gods], but it can never create the one and only true God of the Bible. Why is that? Because human reasoning is, first of all, *finite*, and, secondly, *fallen*.

## **Finite Minds**

Our finite minds are unable to comprehend the infinite God of the Bible. We are good at creating finite gods — gods with obvious faults and limitations; [that’s one reason for creating *more* gods — gods who can do what other gods cannot do!] Society, past and present, has created many thousands of such gods.

**Think about it:** If there is one God who is infinite in all His attributes, how much *room* is there in the universe for another God?

And if there is one God who is perfect in every way, how much *need* is there in the universe for another God?

And how willing would an infinite God be to share the universe with a second-rate being calling *itself* “god”?

The answers to the first two questions are self-evident. I’ll answer the third question by quoting God, Himself: *“I am Jehovah: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.” (Isaiah 42:8)*

## **Fallen Minds**

But even if our finite minds were able to create an infinite God — which, trust me, they're not — we have an even higher hurdle to clear before we could come up with the God of the Bible: we're 'fallen'. Theologically and Biblically, we are sinners, with the result that we are broken — in body, soul, and spirit. Like produces like, [*“after its kind” another universal principle from Genesis 1*] and, since our minds are broken, they could never conceive the God of the Bible. “For **all** have sinned, and all **fall short** of the glory of God”. (Romans 3:23)

We can conceive of *imperfect* gods, like ourselves, and we will create gods in our *own* image and in our *own* likeness, but we could not — and would not — create the God of the Bible. To tweak an old saying: “Man *could not* devise the God of the Bible, if he *would* have; and he *wouldn't* have devised the God of the Bible, if he *could* have.”

This is one reason why God told the Israelites not to attempt to create any likeness of Him: because He knew they *couldn't*! It was impossible for them, or anybody else, to capture the essence of God in wood, clay, stone, metal, . . . whatever! Their very best efforts, with the best intentions and motives in the world, would result in misrepresenting and insulting God, leading to ever-increasing mental, moral, and spiritual decay.

The God portrayed in the Bible — which is His revelation of Himself to us — is a Being infinitely beyond our finite ability to comprehend, and a Being we would change to suit us better, if we could.

Human reasoning will never find the God who so often confounds and defies human reasoning.

### **Finding the Invisible God**

So, how is it possible to *believe* in a God we cannot find with our best Science and cannot conceive of with our best mental endeavors?!

**Through visible, tangible, incontestable *evidence*!**

Even though God is a spirit, He has given us *plenty* of evidence of His existence.

We cannot go into detail by giving examples in this small booklet, but let us at least *list* the ways God has deliberately revealed Himself to us. We'll include a supporting Scripture or two for each point:

### **God has revealed Himself to us through . . .**

1. **Nature** — *“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psalm 19:1)*

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [literally: “suppress”] the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.” (Romans 1:18-23)*

One has to be willfully blind to not ‘see’ the signature of God throughout all of Creation. The theory of Evolution defies both logic and Scientific Law. Whether looking through a microscope or a telescope, God’s fingerprints are all over Creation!

2. **The Bible** - *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” (2 Timothy 3:16)*

*“Yet when I am among spiritually mature Christians, I do teach deep spiritual wisdom and truth, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom I teach are the mysteries of God—of his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world were unable to understand this plan; if they had been able to understand it, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord. That is what the Scriptures mean when they say,*

*“No eye can see, no ear can hear,  
and no mind can imagine  
the amazing things God has devised  
for those who love him.”*

*But God has revealed these things to us by his Spirit. For his Spirit knows everything and reveals to us God’s wonderful secrets. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s thoughts except God’s own Spirit. And, incredibly, we were given God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit) at salvation, so we are able to receive and understand the many wonderful things God has freely given us by His grace!*

*So, when we teach you these things, we are not teaching you things that come from, or necessarily agree with, human reasoning and human wisdom. Instead, we pass on to you things given to us by the Spirit, letting the Spirit work through us to explain these spiritual truths to you.*

*Man, using only his natural senses, cannot receive spiritual truths. To him, they are nonsense. He is totally unable to perceive them because he lacks the spiritual receptors. Only those who have spiritual life can receive and understand truths revealed by the Holy Spirit.*

*Those who have spiritual life and who see things from God's perspective are able to evaluate and understand both physical and spiritual things, though they themselves are under-valued and misunderstood by the unsaved. For, . . .*

*"Who can know the Lord's thoughts?  
Who knows enough to teach Him?"*

*But we understand God's wonderful mysteries and truths,  
for, being in Christ, we have the mind of Christ."  
(1 Corinthians 2:6-16)*

Despite man's best efforts through the centuries, nobody has been able to disprove the Bible. To the contrary, the more man discovers through Science, Archaeology, Psychology, Astronomy, etc, the more the Bible is validated.

Until they metamorphose, caterpillars are incapable of *looking like, feeling like, or acting like* butterflies. Just so, until a person is "born again" spiritually, he is unable to understand spiritual things God has revealed in His Word, the Bible.

3. **Our Conscience** - *"(For merely hearing the law doesn't make us right with God - as many people think. It is obeying the law that makes us right in His sight. Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.)"* (Romans 2:13-15)
  
4. **Jesus** - *"Long ago, God spoke many times and in a variety of ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now, just recently, He spoke to us through his Son! (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

*“If you have seen me, you have seen The Father. I and the Father are one.” (John 14:9-10)*

5. **Our spirits** - *“Whoever is led by the Spirit of God is a child of God. And God does not want us to feel toward Him like cowering slaves; instead, He wants us to be like adopted children - calling Him “dear Father”. The Holy Spirit confirms deep within our hearts that we are, indeed, His children.” (Romans 8:14-16)*

So, to summarize this section, the first step to finding the needles of truth in the haystacks of lies, deceptions, false religions and skepticism is to **believe in the existence of God.**

The idea that God exists agrees with . . .

- my five senses

The variety, beauty, intricacy, size [both directions], harmony and perfection of everything I see, hear, smell, taste and touch convinces me that God is its Maker.

- my common sense

If I, and all mankind, cannot duplicate — with our best efforts, funding and laboratories — a single thing we find in Nature, I definitely cannot believe they all just happened; I believe a supernatural Being with a supernatural mind and supernatural abilities made them. Common sense tells me a housefly, for instance, didn't just happen by random chance and time.

- logic

Logic says there has to be a “first cause”. The only first cause that makes sense is the God the Bible describes.

- true Science

Evolution — the idea that everything in the universe started from nothing [*It had to start from nothing, otherwise who or what created it?!*]; that the nothing became all the matter in the universe compressed into an infinitesimally small dot; that the dot exploded; that the explosion created all the stars and planets in the universe; that over eons of time,



Believing in God's existence is the indispensable first step on the road of truth, and it gives new birth to our mind, our eyes, our ears, our heart, . . . our life.

**Think about it:** If we were created *by* God, and *for* God, doesn't it make sense that we can't experience life as He intended until we come to believe there *is* a God?

### **Getting to Know God**

Having come to believe in God, our journey on the road of truth continues by getting to know Him. We may have many questions about God. *What is He like? What can He do? Does He have any limitations? What kind of relationship can I have with Him? What kind of relationship would He want to have with me?* The questions are endless; and so begins an endless — and delightful — journey on the road of truth — discovering God and getting to know Him better. *[No other goal in the world has the capacity to satisfy our ever-thirsty minds and hearts like the goal of getting to know God. King David said, "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so does my heart pant after You, oh God!" (Psalm 42:1) The apostle Paul said, "For me, to live is Christ! . . . that I may know HIM!" (Phil. 1:21; 3:10)]*

We have seen that the first floor of The House of Truth is built around the pillar of belief in God. God is the source of all truth; knowing truth begins with believing in Him. God wants everyone "to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4) But without this first, fundamental, basic belief, a person - though "ever learning" is spiritually blinded and "never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (2 Timothy 3:7)

God knew from the beginning that mankind would be unable to know Him, to know their origin, or to know any spiritual or eternal truth through their own reasoning, so He lovingly gave us a written revelation of these things — the second Pillar of Truth.

## **The second Pillar of Truth is God's revelation to us — the Bible.**

In theological terms, the Bible is said to be “divinely inspired”, which means inspired by God. The Bible is a book that was written by God — a book in which God communicates to us what He wants us to know, through the written word. The wonder of this, and the value of such a communication, cannot be over-emphasized or over-appreciated!

### **The Bible's Purpose**

Why did God give us the Bible? What is the Bible's purpose?

In general, the Bible is filled with revelations from God about things He wants us to know — things we could never know unless He told us, because they happened too long ago, or because they are spiritual, invisible things, or because they will happen in the future. Here is a small sample:

#### **PAST THINGS**

- the origin of the universe
- the origin of the earth
- the origin of mankind
- the origin of sin
- the devastating impact of sin on mankind
- God's covenants with mankind

#### **PRESENT SPIRITUAL THINGS**

- the existence of Satan, angels, and demons
- the existence of Heaven and Hell
- that God is a Trinity
- that mankind is a three-part being [body, soul, spirit]
- that we need a Savior
- that Jesus came to this earth to be our Savior
- Grace: its definition and importance
- Faith: its definition and importance
- the infinite riches of God's grace

- the Holy Spirit
- spiritual principles for successful living
- godly character
- Biblical purpose

## FUTURE THINGS

- the end of this age
- the Rapture
- the Tribulation
- the Millennium
- the Great White Throne Judgement
- the New Heavens and New Earth
- Heaven and Hell

## **The Bible's Primary Purpose**

But, primarily, God gave us the Bible because He wants us to know *Him!* Not know *about* Him, but actually *KNOW* Him — have a heart-to-heart, friend-to-friend relationship *with* Him!

### **Think about it:**

How tragic it is that the God who created everything in the universe, including us, . . . and Who craves a relationship with us so much that He gave us the Bible to reveal Himself to us, . . . and Who rolled out the red carpet for us to have a relationship with Him through His Son . . . .

*. . . how tragic it IS that so few people in the world today know about Him! believe in His existence! believe the Bible is His love-letter to us! know about the salvation and relationship He offers! And it is even more tragic that so few people even care!*

But, on the positive side of the issue, how *wonderful* it is that so many millions of people *DO* know about Him! *DO* believe in His existence! *DO* believe the Bible is His love-letter to us! *DO* know the salvation and relationship He offers . . . *DO* care! How wonderful it is that very few of those who have ever come to know God would ever wish to

turn away from Him or live their lives without Him, now that they've found Him.

It is this second Pillar of Truth — the Bible — that reveals so much about God to us: His character, His attributes, His plan for our lives and for this earth, His provision, His love for us, His truth, His grace, etc.

### **The Source of Truth**

The Bible is an inexhaustible *mine* of truth, a boundless *ocean* of truth, a comprehensive *encyclopedia* of truth.

If God said it, it is true — so we need not walk on shaky ground, wondering what is truth and what isn't. With our feet firmly planted on God's Word, the Bible, we are standing on solid rock!

But all this is true *only if* the Bible is God's revelation to us!

### **Proofs of the Bible's Inspiration**

So, how do we *know* the Bible is God's inspired, infallible Word? Here are a dozen key proofs with bare-bones definitions:

1. **UNITY** - Though the Bible is a compilation of 66 books written by about 40 men over more than 4,000 years . . . there is perfect unity in its purpose and teachings.
2. **FULFILLED PROPHECY** - The Bible contains many impossibly specific prophecies that have been fulfilled to the letter.
3. **COHESIVENESS** - There are no contradictions in the Bible's teachings.
4. **ARCHAEOLOGY** - Archaeological discoveries always validate the Bible's claims.
5. **SCIENCE** - Eventually, real Science always comes to agree with the Bible.
6. **HISTORY** - Verifiable History corroborates the Bible.



*“You search the Scriptures because you think the key to eternal life is in obeying them. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.” (Jesus talking to some Pharisees in John 5:39-40)*

The third pillar supporting the superstructure of spiritual truth is the deity of Jesus Christ — the fact that Jesus Christ is God; not “a god”, but actually God; the second member of the Godhead - of the Trinity.

### **The Importance of Jesus**

Why is this so important? How does this fact qualify as one of the seven pillars of Wisdom/Truth?

It is of prime importance because . . .

1.) Jesus is the central theme of the entire Bible. If one wishes to understand the Bible, one must realize that it is about Jesus.

2.) The Bible proclaims Jesus to be “God with us”, God in the flesh. If Jesus is not what the Bible proclaims Him to be, the Bible is not trustworthy . . . and there goes the second pillar of truth and the entire House of Truth with it!

3.) Salvation is built entirely on Jesus. Jesus claimed to be God. If Jesus is not God, He was a liar; if Jesus was a liar, He was not sinless and therefore could not be sinners’ Savior.

4.) If we believe Jesus is God — as He claims to be — we can immediately dispense with all the heaps of hay of other religions that concern other gods and that deny the deity of Jesus Christ. *[Now you know one reason why I was able to say, earlier, that it wouldn’t be that difficult for you to find the needles of truth in the haystacks of false religions.]*

Our primary purpose in life is to get to know God and to have a heart-to-heart relationship with Him. The best way to get to know God is to



before we can live. [Seeds are a natural example of this principle.]  
There is no crown without, first, a cross.

We've taken a brief look at the first three Pillars of Truth. We've seen that Wisdom's House of Truth is built in a person's life by, first, believing in the existence of God, then, believing that the Bible is His infallible revelation to us, and, third, believing that Jesus is God in human form. We're making very good progress on the pathway of spiritual truth — true wisdom!

I hope it is becoming clear to you that . . .

- an individual is totally blind, spiritually, who does not believe in God.
- he is without any spiritual foundation or moral compass who does not believe the Bible is God's infallible revelation to us.
- he neither understands the primary emphasis of the Bible nor the underlying flow and purpose of history who does not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh.

Understanding just these first three Pillars will make it much easier for you to identify piles of worthless 'hay' in other philosophies and theologies, and much better able to sort truth from deception.

The final four Pillars of Truth will build on the first three Pillars and will 'fine-tune' your truth-detection skills.

Pillar #4 is Christ's atonement for our sins and is logically sequential on our path of truth:

- God [Pillar #1] is absolutely holy.
- He tells us in the Bible [Pillar #2] that we are all sinners; that every one of us fails to measure up to His standard of righteousness; that we are totally incapable of doing so, on our own; that we need a Savior — someone who can measure up for us; someone who can

pay the death penalty which we deserve — and which God demands — for our sins.

- Jesus, being God in human form [Pillar #3], measures up to God's perfect standard of holiness. Being a man, He is qualified to represent mankind before God. Being sinless, He has no sins of His own to pay for and is, therefore, qualified to pay for someone else's sins. Being God, He is infinite and able to pay an infinite price — plenty big enough to pay for “the sins of the whole world” - of all mankind (see I John 2:2, at the beginning of this chapter).

### **What the Atonement is All About**

This is exactly what “The Atonement” is all about. We are, all, sinners and are incapable of living a sin-free life to earn our way into God's favor and into Heaven. If we had to pay the just penalty for our sins and rebellion against God, we'd spend eternity separated from God, in Hell. But, because God loves us, and longs to have a loving relationship with us, He paid for all of our sins, Himself!

“He paid a debt He did not owe.  
I owed a debt I could not pay.  
I needed someone to wash my sins away.

And now I sing a brand new song:  
“Amazing Grace”, the whole day long!  
Christ Jesus paid a debt that I could never pay!”

Christ's atonement for our sins is one of the greatest wonders of the world, deserving everyone's total appreciation and thanks. It is one of the seven pillars of truth because, once again, our salvation hangs upon it, and because, without it, we would be hopelessly confused by the myriad of false teachings that abound in this world about how to be saved and “go to heaven”.

### **The Only Way**

Christ's atonement is the only true means of salvation. Accepting Jesus Christ's atonement for your sins is your only way to Heaven. Jesus said, *"I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life; nobody comes to the Father, except through Me."* (John 14:6)

How can we be so certain of this!?

Well, . . . back to the first three pillars:

1. We know there is a God.
2. We know that He has given us a written revelation — the Bible.
3. We know that the primary character in the Bible is Jesus Christ, and that the main theme throughout the Bible is Salvation through Christ.

You can see how each pillar of truth is built upon the previous one, and how they all work together to make a cohesive and logical structure of truth.

### **Think About It:**

If there is no God, there is no written revelation from God.

If there is no written revelation from God, there is no Jesus Christ - God the Son.

If there is no God the Son, there is no Atonement.

If there is no Atonement, there is no Salvation.

### **A Summary of the Atonement in the Bible**

So, how does the Atonement work?

Very briefly, here's a summary of what God reveals about it in the Bible:

The first few chapters of the Bible show that . . .

- God created humans through Adam and Eve [not through eons of evolution] to have a mutual, loving relationship with them. He created them three-part beings [body, soul, spirit]; perfect in every way so that He *could* have a relationship with them. He warned

them not to disobey Him — making it clear that, the day they sinned against Him, they would die.

- But, despite God's warning, they willfully sinned against Him. God's justice demands the death penalty for sin. Sin is the opposite of holiness, so sinning broke their fellowship with this holy God, and caused instantaneous spiritual death. They were still alive in body and soul (though, now, both of these 'parts' were dying), but were spiritually dead, from that point onward. **Think about it:** What punishment is just for the person who is a rebellious traitor against a perfectly holy, loving God?
- But God had a plan. God's plan was to, someday, pay their penalty by dying in their place — by coming to this earth, in person, as mankind's Savior.
- In the meantime, God entered into a covenant with mankind. He instituted a system of what we will call "interim atonement" in which people were permitted by God to sacrifice specified animals as their substitutes. The Old Testament is about this covenant. [Old Testament is another way of saying Former Covenant.] A significant portion of the Old Testament concerns sacrifices — and now you know why.
- The Old Testament comes to a close without the promised Savior making an appearance. 400 years pass between the last word from God in the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, and the next time God speaks to mankind in Matthew, the first book of the New Testament [the New Covenant].
- The New Testament opens with the birth of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Savior.
- As God in the flesh, — i.e. God in human form, Immanuel: God with us! — Jesus lives a perfectly sinless life and performs miracles of all kinds as clear evidence that He is, indeed God.
- Despite His sinless life and His irrefutable miracles, the religious leaders hate Him [He is upending their religious system, and they are losing all their followers], so they trump up charges against Him and have Him crucified.
- Thinking they are succeeding in stamping Jesus and His new "way" [to God] out, they are actually fulfilling all of the prophecies

God gave throughout the Old Testament about how Jesus would be crucified to atone for our sins.

- In the Crucifixion of Christ, the Savior God had promised thousands of years before sheds His blood to not merely be an interim atonement for our sins — as the animals' blood had been doing — but to completely, permanently, once and forever, fully and eternally atone for them.

### **How Does The Atonement Apply To You?**

If you're a human, you're a sinner — like the rest of us. If you're a sinner, you need a Savior — somebody to pay the debt you cannot pay. Jesus is that Savior. Jesus died for sinners, so, Jesus died for you. You'll either humbly and thankfully accept His atonement for your sins and spend eternity with Him, or you'll reject His payment for your sins and you'll spend eternity in Hell — in eternal rebellion against God — forever paying for your sins and for your rebellion against God, yourself. Those are the only two options God gives us.

Though *“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9), He does not violate your free will; He leaves the choice up to you. Your salvation is as near as a simple, sincere *“Thank You”* to God for the atonement He provided for you.

Those who are truly saved, find themselves loving Jesus and being thankful to Him for dying for them. This attitude of appreciation and thanks remains true of them, for as long as they live, and throughout eternity.

%%%%%%%%%%  
CHAPTER FIVE

### **PILLAR #5 THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

*“The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I*

*have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.” (John 10:17-18)*

*“Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come. See where his body was lying.” (Matthew 28:6)*

*“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest that will include all who have died believing in Him.” (I Corinthians 15:20)*

Once again, we see in this chapter another instance of how each of the seven pillars are inextricably linked and integral to the architecture and strength of the entire house. The House of Truth with its four previous pillars would totally collapse if it weren’t for this fifth pillar — the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every religion other than Christianity was founded by prophets or men who died and are still in the grave. Jesus rose victorious over death, and promises that His followers will do the same.

Many people deny that the resurrection of Christ ever happened. But denying that something happened is not proof that it didn’t happen. Christ’s resurrection was denied 2000 years ago when it occurred, but could not be disproved. It has been denied, ever since, but has never yet been disproved.

His resurrection was attested to by hundreds of eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) and was the backbone of the early believers’ faith and message — many of whom gave their lives under excruciating torture rather than deny it.

**How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ relate to the other six pillars?**

### **Pillar #1 - The Existence of God**

The resurrection of Christ shows that God exists and that He has authority over death. To believe in an omnipotent God is to believe in His ability to do anything — including raising the dead. To disbelieve in the resurrection of the dead is to limit the power of God. If God is not omnipotent — if His power is limited, He is not worthy of our faith and worship. Our faith is in a God who has absolute sovereignty over life and death — as the resurrection proves.

### **Pillar #2 - The Divine Inspiration of the Bible**

The resurrection of Christ validates the Bible, because it fulfills the Old Testament prophecies that told of Jesus' sufferings, death, *and resurrection*, (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:10) and it authenticates claims made by Jesus and recorded in the New Testament that He would rise from the dead. (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34)

### **Pillar #3 - The Deity of Jesus Christ**

The resurrection of Christ shows Him to be God because it validates His claims to be the source of life and resurrection. By rising from the dead, Jesus backed up His claims that He *is* "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), and He *is* "the way, the truth, and the life". (John 14:6)

Christ's resurrection proves that Jesus was God, as He claimed to be, because only God has the power to raise the dead. Jesus demonstrated that He had that power over other people (Luke 7:11-17; 8:52-56; John 11) and He backed up His claim to have that power over His own body. (Matthew 17:23) Since God is the Only one who can restore life after death, the fact that Jesus raised the dead and raised Himself from the dead proves that Jesus is God.

*"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."* (John 10:17-18)

## **Pillar #4 - The Atonement of Jesus Christ**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is essential to His atonement for our sins because it demonstrates that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

As our High Priest, Jesus was to take His own blood and present it as an offering before God. To do this, Jesus would have to rise from the dead. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead shows that God accepted the atonement of Christ's blood for our sins, for if Christ's death and His blood hadn't been complete or sufficient or acceptable to God, Christ would not have been raised from the dead.

The purpose of the Atonement was to satisfy God's holiness and justice by paying the penalty of our sins [death], free us from the power of sin, deliver us from Satan's authority and dominion, justify us from our sins, deliver us from the fear and power of death and Hell; give us eternal life.

None of this would be possible if Christ, Himself, remained dead after His crucifixion.

- If Christ remained dead after His crucifixion, how would we know that God's holiness and justice was satisfied?
- If Christ stayed dead after dying to atone for our sins, how would we know the penalty of our sins was paid?
- If Christ did not demonstrate power over sin by His resurrection, how would His death give *us* power over sin?
- If Christ did not demonstrate power over Satan's authority and dominion by rising from the dead, how could we hope to have any power over Satan?
- If Christ's atonement did not result in God justifying Him for the sins He carried as our Sacrifice, how is there any hope for us to be justified by God?
- If Christ could not conquer death and Hell, how can we have any hope of victory over them?
- If Christ did not rise from the dead unto eternal life, how can we hope to be resurrected, someday, and have eternal life?

## THE RESULTS OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

But, since Christ *did* rise from the dead, WE HAVE IT ALL!!

- God's holiness and justice has been satisfied. (1 John 2:2)
- The penalty of our sins is fully paid. (Isaiah 53:5)
- We have been freed from sin's power. (Romans 6:14)
- We are no longer under Satan's authority or dominion.  
(Colossians 1:13)
- We are forgiven and justified from all our sins. (Romans 3:24)
- We no longer fear death and Hell. (I Corinthians 15:53-57)
- We can be assured of a future resurrection and of eternal life through Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

A solid faith in the resurrection of Christ empowers us in our present service to the Lord. After speaking about the resurrection, Paul says: *"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

His point is that we can endure persecution and danger for Christ's sake (verses 30–32), just as our Lord did for us, because we know we will be resurrected to new life, just as He was. Because of their faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, many thousands of Christian martyrs through history have willingly traded their earthly lives for the everlasting life that they knew would follow their resurrection.

The Bible [Pillar #2] guarantees the believer's resurrection. Resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory awaiting every believer. Those who have died believing in Christ will, one day, be raised up, and those who are still alive at Christ's coming in the Rapture will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18).



## **Think about it:**

- If there's no God [Pillar #1], there's no need for salvation, because there's no sin and no punishment *for* sin.
- If the Bible is not God's Word [Pillar #2], we cannot trust anything it says about salvation.
- If Jesus is not the Son of God [Pillar #3], there's no way He can provide Salvation for us.
- If Jesus' crucifixion was just the death of a man, there is no atonement for our sins [Pillar #4] and, therefore, no salvation.
- If Jesus died but did not rise from the dead [Pillar #5] — victorious over sin, Satan, and death — we have no Savior and no salvation.

## **The Need for Salvation**

Because we were born spiritually dead - separated from God - sinners, we were under God's death penalty and heading for an eternity in Hell. We needed to be *saved* from all that!

## **What is Salvation?**

Salvation can be defined as eternal life given to those who believe in Jesus' atonement for their sins.

Jesus is able to give us life because He is life. Death has no power over Him, and death has no power over those to whom He gives life. Jesus confers His life on those who trust in Him. (1 John 5:11-12) Since His life is eternal, the life He gives to those who keep their faith in Him is eternal.

- Salvation is having your sins forgiven.
- Salvation is being adopted into the family of God.
- Salvation is being freed from the death penalty for your sins.
- Salvation is being freed from the fear of going to Hell.

- Salvation is being transferred from Satan's kingdom to the Kingdom of God.
- Salvation is not being afraid of dying, because you know you will spend eternity with God.
- Salvation is trusting in Jesus as your Savior.
- Salvation is being "in Christ".

## **Two Sides to Salvation**

It is of prime importance to understand that there are two sides to salvation: God's side, and Our side. Grace and Faith. God's side is Grace. Our side is Faith.

## **How does one get saved?**

Salvation is "By Grace", "Through Faith".

*"It is entirely by the grace of God that you are saved as you keep your faith in Jesus as your Savior."* (Ephesians 2:8)

## **Salvation is "By Grace"**

Grace is unmerited favor. Grace is being given something good that you definitely don't deserve. Grace is a gift; no strings attached; no return payment — of any kind, expected. Grace cannot incur a debt. If anything is expected from you in return, it's not grace.

## **Salvation is "Through Faith"**

But Salvation is not only "by Grace", it is, also, "through Faith". Faith is believing God; it is believing that what God says is true; it is trusting God.

John 3:16 says that those who *keep on believing* in Him will be saved. Saving faith is ongoing; it is not a one-time-only thing. Faith can be weakened. Faith can be lost. Faith can be strengthened. Faith can be regained. Faith can fluctuate. Faith can grow.

## **A False Salvation - by Works; not Grace**

Salvation is “by grace”, that is, salvation is a gift God gives you that you don’t deserve and cannot earn. If, in your mind, your salvation is based on your good works — your good behavior [going to church; reading your Bible; giving money to the poor; etc], you are not really saved. You are holding to a false salvation. In essence, you feel that you have saved yourself by your own goodness.

The simple truth is that we cannot save ourselves — no matter how good we may be. A single sin makes us a sinner and is enough to damn us to Hell for eternity — and who of us can honestly say we have never sinned?

Yet, many people think they are saved because, in their minds, “their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds”. Many people are trusting in themselves, or in their church, or in some other religious ritual to get saved and to stay saved, rather than trusting in Jesus’ atonement to save them. Trusting in anything other than Jesus’ atonement is a deception; a false salvation.

### **Think about it:**

If we can save ourselves, why do we need a Savior? If God knew we could save ourselves, why did He give His Son, Jesus, to die for us?

No. Salvation is by grace, not by our own good deeds, good works or righteousness.

*“God saved us from that kind of lifestyle — **not because of any good things we had done**, but totally because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit who He generously poured*

*out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. By his grace he made us perfectly right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.” (Titus 3:5-7)*

## **A False Salvation - Faithless**

It is important to understand that though Salvation is made available to us by God’s grace, it is accepted and retained by our faith.

The proper understanding of both sides of this Pillar of Truth is missing in many people’s lives and because it is, many people *think* they are saved, when they are not. On the one side, they think they are saved by whatever good things they do, rather than totally by God’s grace. On the other side, they think they are saved because they once professed faith in Jesus as their Savior, even though, now, they don’t really believe in Him.

The needle of truth in this haystack of misunderstanding is that *saving* faith is faith that *remains* in Christ as Savior.

Some people once *were* saved — when their faith was in Christ — perhaps as a child or young adult. But they are now lost, because they subsequently stopped believing in Him. They think they are saved when they are not, because they are trusting in something they once prayed, or said, or did, rather than maintaining their trust in Jesus.

## **Illustrations of Salvation**

Electrical lights and appliances function *as long as they remain ‘plugged in’*. There is plenty of power available to run the appliances, but the appliances are only connected to the power grid through their power cord being plugged into a working outlet. If the appliance is unplugged from the outlet, it will not function.

The person who cannot swim is saved from drowning *as long as he keeps hold of the life-ring that was thrown to him*. If the non-swimmer in deep water lets go of the life-ring, he will drown.

The goldfish is saved from death *as long as he stays in his bowl of water*. If the fish does not stay in the bowl, it will die.

The branch is saved from dying as long as it remains part of the tree. If the branch is separated from the tree, it will die.

*We are saved as long as we keep our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Jesus is our source of power, our life-ring, our source of life. Our faith is the 'electric plug' that connects us to the endless power source: Jesus Christ.*

It is the combination of God's Grace and our Faith that results in salvation.

### **"God won't send anybody to Hell."**

You may have heard it said that God is "too loving and kind to send anybody to Hell".

The fact is that God IS loving and kind and doesn't want *anybody* to go to Hell. BUT, . . . God is also holy and just, and He *must* demand that sin be fully paid for. That is what He *does* demand. Jesus fully paid for all of our sins. He fully satisfied God's justice, for us. Now, God, in His grace, is perfectly just in offering pardon and salvation to anybody who accepts Jesus' payment for their sins. And He is perfectly just to allow anybody to go to Hell who refuses to accept Jesus' payment for their sins, and to leave them in Hell until they *do* choose to accept His payment for their sins.



This is the final pillar, and it is a truth very few Christians know about or come to experience in their lives. Though most Christians realize they were not saved by keeping God's laws but by Grace, many Christians remain under bondage to God's laws in their minds. They keep trying to merit God's grace by their performance, rather than rejoicing and resting in His grace because of Jesus' performance and their position in Him.

### **Grace-based Christianity**

Those who fully understand the good news of the gospel of the grace of God know that they've been accounted holy by God because of their faith in Christ as their substitute — even though their lives are often far less than holy, and will continue to be so, as long as they live. They realize that "the great exchange" has taken place in their lives because of their faith in Christ: they gave Him their sins and He gave them His righteousness.

Because by faith they are "in Christ", all of the riches of God's grace are theirs for the taking, . . . now! Those riches include . . .

- being forgiven by God of all sins — past, present, and future!
- being fully justified by God: "no condemnation"!
- being accepted by God into His kingdom, His family, and His presence!
- being given the perfect righteousness of Christ!
- becoming "one spirit" with God!
- being seen as righteous by God!

They realize that they can continue to try to be holy by their own merits [and keep failing], or they can accept the gift of Christ's righteousness, by faith, and learn to let Him live His life in and through them. They can keep white-washing the

cracked pot to try to make it more acceptable to God, or they can just relax — cracks and all — and let God fill the cracked pot with Christ's life.

The exchanged life is what discipleship is all about — learning to give control of our lives over to God. Another word for this process is 'alignment'. After coming to God through faith in Christ for salvation, our life becomes a continual growth in alignment with God in everything we believe and do.

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SUMMARY

These are the Seven Pillars of Truth, as I see them taught throughout the Bible. Whether or not I am right about the seven pillars of Proverbs 9:1 representing seven specific truths, or not, doesn't really matter. It is a fact that God's House of Wisdom — Authentic Christianity — is built on the seven truths I have described. And, it's a fact that these seven truths must be embraced *by faith*.

A Journey of Faith

When the Israelites left Egypt for "The Promised Land" — only a few days' journey away — they ended up spending forty years wandering around and around in "the wilderness", instead. Why? What happened to stop their forward progress? One word sums it up: unbelief, or faithlessness.

One of the main themes of the Bible is Faith. Four times, the Bible declares "Those who have been made righteous shall live *by faith*." (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38) Any time God repeats Himself, we need to pay special attention!

From start to finish, authentic Christianity is a journey of faith.

- It begins by believing in God's existence. [Pillar #1]
- Next, is believing that the Bible is His infallible revelation to us. [Pillar #2]
- The faith journey continues by believing that Jesus is God in a human body, [Pillar #3]
- by believing that Jesus died for our atonement, [Pillar #4]
- by believing that Jesus rose from the dead as proof that He is God, that His atonement was acceptable to God, and that there is life after death for all who trust in Him. [Pillar #5]
- The journey of faith leads us to salvation: keeping our faith in Jesus. [Pillar #6]
- And the ultimate culmination of the journey is to have Christ living His life in and through us. [Pillar #7]

The Logical Progression

As we have shown, these seven truths form a logical progression: Pillar #1 must be firmly standing in a person's life before he can go on to Pillar #2.

- We must believe there is a God [Pillar #1], before we can believe God has communicated to us through the Bible. [Pillar #2]
- We must believe God has communicated to us through the Bible, before we can believe that Jesus is God. [Pillar #3]
- We must believe that Jesus is God, before we can believe in His atonement for our sins. [Pillar #4]
- We must believe Jesus died for our atonement, before we can believe in His resurrection. [Pillar #5]

- We must believe in Jesus' resurrection, before we can believe in Him for salvation. [Pillar #6]
- We must believe in Jesus for salvation, before we can believe in Him for His transforming life within us. [Pillar #7]

The Importance of Each Pillar

We have also shown that if one of these pillars falls, they all fall — and the whole 'House' of authentic Christianity falls with them.

- No God? [Pillar #1] No revelation from God. [Pillar #2]
- No Bible? No biblical Jesus. [Pillar #3]
- No Jesus? No atonement. [Pillar #4]
- No atonement? No resurrection. [Pillar #5]
- No resurrection? No salvation. [Pillar #6]
- No salvation? No exchanged life. [Pillar #7]

I hope it has become clear to you that if these things are true, philosophies and theologies that disagree with them are false.

I hope you can see the importance of checking everything out with the Bible. If God says it, it's true — no matter what anybody else says, and no matter how many other people disagree.

Finding these Pillars in Others

If I see a person who calls himself a Christian, I expect to see some evidence of Pillar #7 in his life. If I don't see such evidence, I have every reason to doubt his salvation [Pillar #6].

If I see a person who is not saved, or who has no interest in becoming a Christian, I try to find out where they are stuck

in their journey of truth. Do they have Pillar #1 in their lives? If so, do they have Pillar #2?

Missing Pillars in People's Lives

Many times, I have found that people *think* one Pillar or another is standing in their life, when, in fact, it isn't.

- They may *say* they believe in God, but when you present them with the God of the Bible, it becomes clear that they really don't believe in Him. They have created — made up — their own image of God in their minds.
- They may *say* they believe the Bible is God's Word, but their lives don't align with the Bible. And when you show them what the Bible says, they argue with you about it.
- They may *say* they are saved, but their lives are no different than the lives of their unsaved friends, and they have no personal relationship with, or love for, Jesus.
- They may *say* they understand the exchanged life, but they never grow in it. They remain shackled by the same problems, throughout their life, they make all kinds of excuses, or they adopt all kinds of "remedies" to solve their problems, other than full surrender to Christ.

My hope for you is that all seven pillars are undergirding your life.

If not, I hope this book has helped you see which ones are missing in your life.

Want to Learn More?

If you desire to know more about Authentic Christianity and to grow more in it — these seven basic truths, or any of the

many sub-points beneath each of them — here are some suggestions:

1. Tell God. Ask for His help. By including Him in this matter, you are building your relationship with Him. And the more you work at building your relationship with Him, the better.
2. Begin reading the Bible for the purpose of getting to know God better and aligning your life with His. Treat yourself to some time, every day, of “mining” golden nuggets of spiritual truth from God’s Word.
3. Find another Christian who is able and willing to encourage and mentor you.
4. Associate with a sound, Bible-based church that has healthy, happy, holy home group and join one of them. If you can’t find such a church, pray about having God use you to start a home group.
5. Write down whatever insights God gives you. Hoard them up, like the treasures they truly are. As you show God you value His truth, He’ll be sure to show you more of it.
6. Read helpful books, subscribe to helpful daily online devotionals, listen to helpful online pastors, etc. [Use some discernment, because not everything “out there” is helpful. Use your Bible, the peace of God in your heart, your mentor, and these Seven Pillars of Truth to help you discern when what is being taught is not truth.]

Last Words

Pillar #1

God *does* exist! . . .

- and He wants a relationship with *you!*

Pillar #2

The Bible *is* His love-letter to us! . . .

- and the smartest thing we can do is align with it.

Pillar #3

Jesus *is* God in the flesh! . . .

- so He *is* who He claimed to be, and we can trust Him!

Pillar #4

Jesus *did* atone for all our sins! . . .

- so the price is paid, and we *don't* have to pay it, ourselves!

Pillar #5

Jesus *did* rise from the dead! . . .

- so we can have absolute faith in Him for our salvation and look forward to spending eternity with Him!

Pillar #6

Salvation *is* by grace, through faith! . . .

- so we can *rejoice* in God's daily grace,
- and we can keep our faith *firmly* in Christ.

Pillar #7

"Christ gave His life for you, to give His life to you, to live His life through you!" . . .

- so you can relax and rejoice in Him.

CONCLUSION

"Wisdom has builded her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars." (Proverbs 9:1)

Are you living in Wisdom's house?

“AND I SHALL DWELL
IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD,
FOREVER!”
(Psalm 23:6)