



Foundation Scripture: **Ephesians 5:1-2**

I. **II Corinthians 2:11**

A. Alert...Called...Chosen

1. One of the greatest concerns in Christianity today is the lack of knowledge concerning: a.) God's Will & b.) Satan's plan
2. We have a lack of alertness and complacency in the body of Christ....and this has caused a sub-par standard (the standard must be and can be met as we have already discussed Daniel and Caleb who followed God with a DIFFERENT Spirit...a spirit of excellence, wholly trusting in the Lord.)
3. The Story of Gideon – 22,000 men left because of fear...300 were chosen because they were alert and watching (Jesus said “watch and pray”).

B. Let's look at things from Satan's perspective...

1. He was openly defeated...the veil of the temple rent in 2...God's glory poured out upon the people of God.
2. The first thing Satan did after the resurrection was attempt to go to heaven to accuse the brethren, but Michael and his angels denied his access
3. **Revelation 12:7-17** – look at what Satan is trying to do: Persecute Israel and the remnant (Christians) – why? Because Israel is God's Chosen and Christians are as well (at least we are supposed to be)!
4. How does Satan prolong his days? By keeping God's people powerless and in the dark.....The clear message to the 1/3 of his demonic servants after the day of Pentecost: *“We must stop the church...do everything, anything in your power to stir up strife, division, hatred, jealousy, persecution....do whatever it takes...hold nothing back, we must not fail!”*

II. Satan's First Order of Business: **Divide Them** (Divide and Conquer)

A. **I Corinthians 1:10-13**

1. Is Christ Divided? 200 Christian denominations in America, 45,000 worldwide
2. Are we speaking the same thing?

B. A quick look at the history of the Christian church (Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox):

1. Catholic Church – has 1.2 billion followers (Pre-denominational)
 - The Roman Catholic church maintains that sometime after the events recorded in the book of Acts, that Peter was appointed by Jesus as the first pope basing this fact on **Matthew 16:18**. However, there are several problems with this idea:
 - 1.) Jesus would not build His church on a man, but rather the revelation that Peter had of who Jesus was.
 - 2.) There are no scriptures that identify Peter as having any special position over the other apostles.

3.) Catholics believe and teach that the Pope is infallible when it comes to his spoken word, but Paul confronted Peter publicly concerning his hypocrisy concerning his refusal to sit with other Gentiles.

4.) Peter never made any special claim for himself.

5.) Peter was married....so why are popes not allowed to marry today?
The change was made to prevent the inheritance of church property and authority from a priest to his children.

- Praying to Mary and other saints: Catholics view Mary and the saints as “intercessors” before God. They believe that a saint, who is glorified in heaven, has been perfected in love (including love for us) and has more “direct access” to God than do earthbound sinners. In Catholic thinking, prayers delivered by a saint are more effective than our praying to God directly. **Hebrews 4:16 and Matthew 12:47-50** puts this to rest.
- Confessional, Eucharist, The Lord’s Prayer, etc...
- Are Catholics Christians? - The Criteria is **Romans 10:9-10**; however, many live without knowledge and remain powerless living under a blinding covering of religious traditions (**Matthew 15:6-9**).

2. Protestant Churches

- The Protestant Reformation is credited to a German monk named Martin Luther who in the 16th century challenged the authority of the Catholic Church with his famous writing “the 95 Thesis”, which question the Pope’s authority. Within this time period, personal reading of the Bible and relationship with God outside of the priesthood became common.
- 10. AnaBaptist/Mennonites (5 million), 9.) Restorationism (7 million), 8. Zion Christian Church (12 million), 7. 7th day Adventists (21 million), 6. Presbyterian (40 million), 5. Methodists (60 Million), 4. Lutheran (75 million), 3. Baptists (80 million), 2. Anglicans (85 Million), 1. Pentecostal (285 Million).

III. Second Order of Business: **Bring a False Imitation (Matthew 24:24)**

A. Just because it looks good...(Look at the foundation)

1. Satan’s greatest weapon: Deception
2. Do you remember the Tree in the garden?

B. Mormonism

1. The founder of the Latter Day Saints Joseph Smith (born in 1805).
 - During his lifetime, he was charged with approximately 30 criminal charges and at least that many financial civil suits.
 - He was arrested at least 42 times for illegal banking, assault, disorderly conduct, polygamy, and conspiracy to commit murder.
 - 4 years before publishing the Book of Mormon, Joseph Smith was arrested and prosecuted for falsely claiming that he could locate hidden treasure through divination by peering at a stone. He was known as Joseph Smith, the “Glass Looker.”
 - Joseph Smith was 14 when God came to him in a vision and said that all churches were wrong and he was 17 years of age when the angel Moroni

(supposedly) appeared to him and told him about the golden plates that he would find and decipher by looking through special spectacles called the Urim and Thummim by which the book of Mormon was translated.

- Numerous phrases in the Book of Mormon have given forth strong evidence that Joseph Smith plagiarized scripture from the King James Bible and the Spaulding Manuscript. The original Book of Mormon had many errors of “copying” errored translations in the King James Bible from the 1769 edition that have since been changed by Mormon leaders.

2. There are over 17 million followers.

3. The problem with the belief:

- There is no historical or archeological evidence of anything written in the book of Mormon; no record exists showing there was ever a prophet by the name of Mormon as well.
- **The Bible:** Mormons believe in the Bible, but they do not believe that it is without error nor do they believe that the Bible is complete.
- **View of man:** According to Mormon theology, men and women are the spirit sons and daughters of God. We lived in a premortal spirit existence before birth. In this first estate we grew and developed in preparation for the second estate. In this second estate we walk by faith. A veil of forgetfulness has been placed over our minds so we don't remember what we did and who we used to be in our premortal existence. Our purpose in this life is to grow and mature in a physical body to prepare us for our final eternal state.
- **View of God:** In Mormon thought, God has a physical body. According to *Doctrine and Covenants*, “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also;” but “The Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit.” Brigham Young once remarked, “How many Gods there are, I do not know. But there never was a time when there were not Gods and worlds.” What is clearer is that the Mormon God is not a higher order or a different species than man. God is a man with a body of flesh and bones like us. Mormons do not believe in the Trinity. They affirm the unity of three people, but the unity is a relational unity in purpose and mind, not a unity of essence. The three separate beings of the Godhead are three distinct Gods.
- **View of Jesus:** Mormons believe that Jesus is pre-existent, but His pre-mortal form was not as God. Rather, Jesus is our elder brother from the great star, Kolob.
- **Conclusion:** Mormons believe in “a” Jesus, but not “The Jesus”.

C. Jehovah's Witnesses

1. Founded by Charles Russel in the 19th Century (9 million followers)
2. **View of Jesus:** They believe that Jesus was created by God as Michael the archangel before the world. They do not believe that Jesus is equal to God.
3. **View of Holy Spirit and Trinity:** They deny the Holy Spirt as a person and refer to Him as “it”, claiming that the Trinity is a deception from Satan.
4. **View of Salvation:** Works related and only 144,000 will enter the higher levels of paradise. **Conclusion:** “a” Jesus but not “The Jesus”.