



Article Title— "Faith Equity"™

Article Category— Practical Christianity



"Jesus is Lord!" Righteous people proclaim that. Unfortunately, though, today's deceivers proclaim it, too! How else might they deceive so many sincere Christians? If you trust your denomination for truth, you must know that most (Some think all.) religious institutions have interpreted critical portions of God's word incorrectly. Otherwise, would they not agree? God says He isn't the author of the confusion, so who'd that be? And for what purpose?

Think you can't be deceived? Even the elect would be deceived if "that time" were not to be shortened; remember? Given that, might you be deceived? No one can deceive you without your permission, though. How does one grant that permission? Passively, by investing one's **Faith Equity**™ in any other human being. No matter how spiritual or charismatic or compassionate or competent or pious or religious they may appear to be, human beings are not to be trusted for truth. Doubt that? God, himself, declared it:

> "Thus sayeth the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man..." —Jeremiah 17:5

"But I pray every day that the Holy Spirit will lead me into all truth and keep me from being deceived." While praying for truth sounds really spiritual and feels good, too, it is also in direct conflict with what God's written word says each Believer must do: Until the 20th Century, literacy was the exception. It is the norm today. Because you are literate you are required to study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the written word of truth. Remember that? It's at 2 Timothy 2:15. That's also the only scripture in the entire Bible that tells us precisely what we must do to gain God's approval!

Some who read this will continue to "pray and have faith"...that their preachers will lead them to truth. With itching ears, instead of studying to discover truth, they'll heap unto themselves teachers; a.k.a. preachers. Not willing to endure sound doctrine, they'll turn away from truth and be turned to fables. (2 Timothy 4:3,4) "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thessalonians 2:11) Fables are among the readily observable characteristics of wildly popular doctrines...the kind that generate lots of followers and treasures of followers' dollars.


To qualify as "sound" a doctrine must enjoy the clear support of a reasonable collection of objectively comprehended scriptures, each within its rationally perceived context. All else is either heresy or mysticism. Fables sound good. Fables feel good. Fables often sound and feel more *religious* than truth. To be saved one must acquire a love of truth. Instead, believers typically acquire a love for their preachers...and for the warm fuzzies. That warmth will become more and more comfortable for them as those God-sent delusions escalate. Those who refuse (either actively or passively) to *study* to discover Truth will be damned, per 2 Thessalonians 2:12. (Again, I am fully aware that it is likely that you've been hearing something very different.)



"But I just feel in my spirit that 'what we believe' is true!" Seminaries of every denomination teach "what 'we' believe." Seminary graduates preach "what 'we' believe." Those who warm their pews believe "what 'we' believe." Every denomination owns a different "what 'we' believe" franchise. And, besides, those who rely on feelings for confirmation of truth are deceived already. If they persist in that God will continue to strengthen their delusions. Take it to the bank.

A pastor recently exclaimed, "You will never convince me to discount all the things the Holy Spirit has revealed to me to be true." That was near the end of a marathon of email exchanges, during which he was unable to cite even one sensibly interpreted scripture to support any of those things that had been "revealed" to him. During that exchange, I had cited volumes of objectively divided, clearly pertinent scriptures that are, jointly and severally, a clear indictment of those "revealed" things. Still, he sincerely believes those revelations to him have been by the Holy Spirit and not by one of many "other" spirits that seduce naive people—as documented at 1 Timothy 4:1 and 1 John 4:1.

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Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

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Beloved by his parishioners, that pastor is a compassionate man. I think that some of those who follow his lead would give him their last dime. A few of them may even give their lives for him. My compassion for them grew as my email dialog with their beloved pastor gained momentum. I know that pastor personally. I am also acquainted with several of his flock. He is, in fact, a good-hearted man. His very large mainstream denomination has certified his ministry. He is ordained. Unfortunately, though, "compassionate" and "good-hearted" and "ordained" do not necessarily equate to "fully competent" or even "reasonably informed." This may help you to fully comprehend the gravity of my observations:

> "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity?...and fools hate knowledge." —Proverbs 1:22

When a presumed feeder of Christ's lambs consistently exhibits more faith in mysticism, fables, old wives' tales and "what 'we' believe" than in the clearly written words of God, how safe are Christ's lambs who faithfully follow his lead? Christian flocks everywhere are observably much like that pastor's flock, in that they have invested their *Faith Equity*<sup>SM</sup> in their preachers. Those who have learned that "human nature is the sin nature" know why preachers' egos observably grow in direct proportion to the numbers of Christ's lambs who trust them completely. The caveat? It is this: When those lambs inevitably learn that their loss is enormously greater than the losses of any of Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme victims, who will they blame? If you were to be required to trade places either with one of those lambs or with one of their preachers on Judgment Day, which would you choose?

If you trust your preacher for truth, please know that the overwhelming majority of clergymen can be shown not to have completed their basic due diligence—even the seminary graduates. If you were Satan and as smart as we know him to be, who would you choose to carry out the massive end-times deception that Jesus warned us about?

Given an abundance of such readily observable evidence, it becomes very clear that the deceivers Jesus warned us about are members of the Christian clergy (even large numbers of them that are sincere but demonstrably misinformed), along with the institutions to whom they have pledged their allegiance. Unfair? This is not intended as an indictment of them but as a wake-up call. If you are a preacher, please heed the call. Our time is short. If you will keep reading – beyond this article – you will discover invaluable help...and eternal rewards. Promise.

> "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" —Paul, at Galatians 4:16

The essence of something I read in Reader's Digest. years ago is forever imprinted in my memory. This is how I recall it: "Pessimists complain when the wind blows. Optimists anticipate the inevitable calm. Realists change the set of their sails!" Also indelibly fixed and resurfacing regularly in my mind are these clearly pertinent words of caution:

> "Not every one that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity." —Jesus, at Matthew 7: 21-23

(A warning to *other* preachers and their faithful followers and to *other* denominations...???)

Again, imagine yourself Satan: Who would be your easiest prey? Who but those who are already deceived? Who are they? Many (perhaps most) of those who've gained comfort in believing "what 'we' believe" will be among them. If I were Satan, and as smart as we know him to be, I'd capture the minds and hearts of naive clergymen, first. Why? For one thing, their parishioners have observably invested all or almost all their *Faith Equity*<sup>SM</sup> in them. Arguably, most parishioners follow their preachers blindly.

Yes, objectivity is rare in the human experience. Evidence of that is abundant, especially within the contexts of religion and politics. It is evidenced in the 2 Timothy 2:3,4-styled "heaping unto themselves teachers." The rise of superstar preachers is further evidence of it. In the 1950's and 60's, there were divine healing superstars. From them came prosperity and "seed faith" superstars of the 1970's, 80's and 90's. The 21st Century heralds the meteoric rise and popularity of end-time prophecy superstars. Itching ears. Popular doctrines. Sugar-coated salvation messages. Attractively "packaged" Christianity. Hyperspiritualized gospel. Financial empires. Megachurches.

> Christianity started as a fellowship. At Greece it became a philosophy. The Italians made it into an institution. In Europe it was to become a culture. Worldwide, today, it's an enterprise. —from a David Ryser quote


Informed laymen are beginning to ask, "Why would any member of today's clergy align himself with objectively comprehended First-Century Truth when in doing so he would risk losing his employment and income security?"

> "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his job depends on not understanding it." —Upton Sinclair

> "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **But thou, O man of God, flee these things...**" —Paul, at 1 Timothy 6:10,11

Clearly not a warning to rank-and-file believers, but to members of the career professional clergy.

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Those who are willing to challenge the logic – and even the credibility – of our conclusions from time-to-time are of uncommon value. Without them, how might we ever hope to gain Original Truth? Those who search for Truth in a vacuum search in vain. Those who hope to gain Truth passively, and in environments that discourage reciprocal challenge and scrutiny, cannot succeed.

Preachers, informed laymen are concerned. Some of us are interceding for you in prayer...that you will begin to confront the dictates of Human Nature (the Sin Nature) and "make full proof of thy ministry." (2 Timothy 4:5)

Preacher or parishioner, why not wisely re-invest your *Faith Equity*<sup>SM</sup> where Jesus is invested. He brilliantly demonstrated that for us in his post-wilderness-temptation experience—"It is written..."


> "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God." —John 1:1

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).

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