

# Focus on the Kingdom

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Anthony Buzzard, editor

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## God, Our Free Will and Our Responsibility to Believe

Genesis 6:6-7 reports the amazing fact that God, viewing the sorry state of sinful mankind on earth, actually regretted that He had made man! God was sorry about His own creation of man! He was grieved in His heart at that tragic spectacle of humanity, massively and resolutely opposed to its own Maker. This is the ultimate level of tragedy in the appalling chronicle of world history. It also points to the staggering truth that God has honored human beings with the enormous privilege of choice. We are not puppets in the hands of God. Much less has God consigned the baby being born as I write, say in Atlanta, to perpetual torture forever and ever (the ghastly doctrine of Calvinism).

The same awful possibility of fatally wrong choice as demonstrated before the Flood threatens our world. The Bible as the authoritative constitution for us all, as to how we are to conduct our affairs, has been widely “ditched” as irrelevant. This is a fearful state of affairs. “As in the days of Noah...” Jesus warned commenting on the state of affairs which he foresaw would characterize society just before his return.

The justice of God and of Jesus His appointed agent will prevail. It is our wisdom as individuals to repent and bring our lives into line with the commands of God. God after all has determined “to judge and administer the world with justice through a MAN Jesus, whom He has appointed for this task, and He has given public proof of this by raising him from the dead” (see Acts 17:30-31). Bringing a dead person back to life is about as dramatic and incontrovertible proof of divine activity and miracle as one can have!

Some commentators seem embarrassed by the straightforward words of Genesis 6:6-7. Their preconceived idea of what God may and may not do leads them to dissolve the plain meaning of the text and cry “anthropomorphism” — a long word which simply means that they think that God, being God, only *appears* to regret having made man! After all, since God, as they suppose, knows every detail of everything that happens in advance, He could not regret anything that He did, and could not have been grieved. But the Bible states otherwise. It reveals the same truth about God’s fascinating and amazing dealings with man, and our responsibility and free will, when in 1 Samuel 15:11 we

read that God **regretted having made Saul king**. Saul turned out unimaginably bad.

It was recently observed, “If you deny that one has to have some control, in order to be blamed for anything, then you have moved into Calvinist territory. I urge you not to go there; it is a theology which portrays, frankly, an evil God, who eternally tortures the majority of the human race, people who never received the slightest opportunity of not being damned, having been damned by an inflexible decree before the creation of the world.” These were the wise words of Professor Dale Tuggy, from correspondence.

From one commentary, not seeing the point, we have *the failure* to believe that GOD *can indeed regret and grieve*, on some occasions, when things turned out worse than He, allowing man a measure of free will, anticipated: “When NaCHaM [Hebrew for ‘to be sorry, to repent’] is used of God, however, the expression is anthropopathic [ascribing human feelings to God] and there is no ultimate tension. From man’s limited, earthly, finite perspective it **only appears that God’s purposes have changed.**”

This is a cop-out. God really did feel sorrow and grief at the appalling depravity of man or individuals on some occasions. These marvelous texts in Genesis and 1 Samuel diminish in no way the absolute uniqueness and unlimited power of the One God:

“Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O LORD [Yahweh or Yehovah], your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, a God feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome above all that are around Him? O LORD God of hosts, who is as mighty as You, O LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them” (Psalm 89:5-9). ✧

## Non-Negotiable Points of Obedience

1. We are to repent and believe the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mark 1:14-15).
2. We are to listen to the first, principal command of Jesus that “the Lord our God is one Lord” (Mark 12:29).
3. We are to obey the command to be baptized in water upon reception of the Gospel (Acts 8:12, etc.).
4. We are to understand that salvation depends on obedience to Jesus (Heb. 5:9) and requires

persistence to the end (Rom. 11:22; 13:11; Luke 8:13).

5. We are to love our enemies and give serious thought about whether it is ever right to kill any of them, lest we disobey Jesus! (Heb. 5:9; John 3:36).

## Defining the One God with Confidence and Clarity

The great, central core of biblical faith was emphasized by Jesus, who was of course a supreme teacher of and believer in the One God, the Father. Jesus uttered this plain and simple unitarian, non-Trinitarian statement when defining the essence of what it means for us to gain the Life of the Age to Come: “This is the Life of the Age to Come: that they believe in **You, Father, who are the only one who is true God**” (John 17:3). This is simply an unarguable assertion of the unique and sole Deity of the Father. It is a tragedy that many Bible readers stumble at it under the crushing pressure of church tradition and “theological correctness”! Your three-year-old has no trouble with easy statements like John 17:3. What about this from John: “On the next day the people who remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been **only one boat** there” (John 6:22). Let’s argue about what “only one boat” means! Let’s not! But when it comes to John 17:3, “only one God, the Father,” a fact repeated over 1300 times in the NT, pandemonium and chaos break out (we see it daily on the internet!).

**It is wise for us to pay the closest attention to the easy creedal words of Jesus in Mark 12:29 and John 17:3.** These propositions must form the firm foundation of our Christian faith and obedience. And without obedience to Jesus no one can be saved (John 3:36; Heb. 5:9; 1 Tim. 6:3; 2 John 7-9; Acts 5:22). ✧

### The Trouble with “Christianity” as Uncritically Accepted by Many

“Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it. The Greek mind, dying, came to a transmigrated life in the theology and liturgy of the Church; the Greek language, having reigned for centuries over philosophy, became the vehicle of Christian literature and ritual...Other pagan cultures contributed to the syncretist [a hodge-podge “soup” and mixture of various religions] result. From Egypt came the ideas of a divine Trinity...and the mystic theosophy that made Neoplatonism and Gnosticism, and obscured the Christian creed...[Orthodox] Christianity was the last great creation of the ancient pagan world.”

(Historian Will Durant, *Caesar and Christ: The Story of Civilization*, Vol. 3, p. 1).

## John 1:1: The Elephant in the Room

The Bible is, alas, in some passages a sort of crime scene. Unwary readers, who claim that they just go by the Bible and *only* (anyone want to argue about the word “only” here?!) by the Bible, do not know that they are sometimes naively in the hands of translators from the original Greek (in the NT). The classic example of this is John 1:1-3. Your version of the Bible probably speaks of the “Word” (with capital W) and tells you that “In the beginning the Word was with God.” You instinctively read “Word” as a second Person, other than the Father. You then hear “Jesus the Word, a second Deity, was with the Father.” You are hearing that the Son, that is “God the Son,” was with the Father, both as fully God and uncreated. That makes two who are eternal GOD.

What you may not know is that *logos* in the Greek text means “word” and not “Word,” a Person. Hundreds of examples of this are to be found in the Old Testament, which is 75% of our Bible. Jews spoke of God’s “word” as His self-expression, God in His wisdom carrying out His unique wise plan for the world.

Perhaps you did not know that all the English translations from the Greek, before the King James Version of 1611, did not force you into thinking of “word” (*logos*) as a Person separate from the One God, the Father. Either they did not put a capital letter on “word” or they described “word” as “it.” “All things came into being through it.” That sort of statement is echoed in Jewish literature from the same time period as our New Testament. ✧

**Robert Rector, senior research fellow in domestic policy studies at Heritage Foundation**, the author of an interesting article on “Marriage: America’s Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty.” laments the fact that “When the War on Poverty began in the mid-1960s, only 6 percent of children were born out of wedlock...In 2008, 40.6 percent of all children born in the U.S. were born outside of marriage.”

That is an easy but shocking statistic to grasp. Note the massive church presence in the USA has not been able to stem that decline. Sex belongs in God’s scheme only within marriage, the proper environment for providing a safe nest for children!

God gave rules and a constitution for the human race. Sex belongs strictly in marriage only. Then a safe haven is provided for the inevitable children. Disobey that, as we have, and you have inevitable chaos.

The remedy: return to the teaching of Jesus and the Bible. This takes lots of persistent teaching and a refusal to compromise. A nation claiming to be “under God”

cannot afford to thwart the laws of God about marriage and family. Nor can we afford to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to the words of Jesus.

### God's "Supersize" Promises

The Bible says: "GOD loved the world in this way [so the Greek]: that He gave His uniquely begotten SON [Luke 1:35], so that all who believe and obey him [Heb. 5:9] should not be consumed in a fire and cease to exist, but have the Life of the Future Age of the Kingdom" (John 3:16).

## Speaking of "Tongues" (Languages)

**I received this from an avid Kingdom, One God believer and offer it for our readers' consideration. It comes from Helen Nielson of Alaska and she kindly allows us to share her experience with you.**

Your message has not been forgotten and now I will spend a little time replying to the issue of "tongues" from my perspective, starting with my background. (I am including the scripture references we used to back up our dogma, even though it is highly probable that the scriptures have been twisted in many cases.) I was raised in the Catholic Church and while attending a Catholic women's college I first heard a nun "speak in tongues." Thus began a journey which included attending charismatic prayer meetings, seeking the experience and turning my attention and total devotion to the religious life. I first "spoke in tongues" while alone in my dorm room, initially thinking I was making up the sounds that came out of my mouth, but later reassured with confidence by the same Roman Catholic nun that I was in fact speaking in tongues to God, Who understood, even if I didn't (1 Cor. 14:2). Varied circumstances led me to want to know more about the spiritual gifts and I attended a special three-week class on these, which ultimately changed the course of my life. I was instructed in the "proper use" of each of the nine gifts as my teacher had been "shown" by God (or so he claimed). It is hard to resist "God told me..."

I made a decision to leave college, the Catholic Church and even laid aside my plans to enter the convent, in order to attend a small Bible school and feed my strong spiritual hunger. I was taught that to properly serve God I should do the works as delineated in Mark 16:15-18, including speaking in tongues, casting out demons and healing the sick. I wholeheartedly accepted this teaching. It made very good sense.

Upon graduation from Bible school, two of my fellow students and I formed a "trio" and began to travel the country and even Mexico, teaching the "full gospel" of salvation — confession of Jesus as Savior, "once saved,

always saved," receiving the "baptism of the Holy Ghost" (evidenced by "speaking in tongues") and utilizing all the spiritual gifts.

This included of course an emphasis on "ministering healing" to the sick. Imagine how thrilled we were whenever someone "spoke in tongues," fully believing that this person had been filled with the "Holy Ghost" and confirmed as a believer in Christ. Of note — we were even counselors at a Bible camp where many of the junior high campers "spoke in tongues" as we instructed them to do (we likened it always to the day of Pentecost and the start of true revival).

The "trio" dissolved, but I continued to make it foremost in my life to preach the Kingdom of God, which I fully believed meant using all the nine gifts as the Apostles did in the book of Acts. I made it my priority to teach my five children these things and was comforted when they "spoke in tongues" at very early ages (usually somewhere around three years of age). I took great comfort in this, believing that when anyone "spoke in tongues," they belonged to God, sealed until the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13-14).

I did not believe it was required for salvation, but rather a seal or confirmation of having salvation. When a person was "born again," accepting Christ as their Savior, I believed that God put a new creature or new spirit into them (2 Cor. 5:17 — once again, twisted — we don't "get" a new creature; we *are* new creatures in Christ). It was this new creature which received and used spiritual gifts, for the natural man, or flesh, was corrupt (1 Cor. 2:11, 14; John 6:63: "the flesh profits nothing"). I thought that a believer who was Spirit-filled had an "edge" when it came to understanding the Scriptures, being more able to "receive revelation" directly from God (1 Cor. 2:12-13). (Rather a snobbish attitude!)

According to the teaching, it was important to spend much time praying in tongues (Paul said he thanked God he spoke in tongues "more than you all," 1 Cor. 14:18), because prayer in tongues was understood by God (1 Cor. 14:2), and our understanding is unfruitful (1 Cor. 14:14). The whole reason for "praying in tongues" is to bypass the carnal mind, which is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7), and therefore interferes with perfect prayer. "Prayer in tongues" is according to God's will, and as such is always answered (1 John 5:14-15). I made a conscious and conscientious effort to "pray in tongues" silently whenever I thought about it, even while driving or doing the dishes. Yes, it became an ingrained practice, for I still catch myself doing it without thought. Even with that in mind, I often felt guilty that I didn't pray in tongues as much as I thought I should. (Is this what God wants — a spiritual guilt trip?)

The scripture we based some of the above doctrine upon was Romans 8:26-27. (I here utilize the King

James, for that is the Bible I then believed was the only accurate translation! I have since seen the light of day on that issue): “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

How these verses were twisted to mean “prayer in the spirit” or “prayer in tongues,” I still do not know, but I firmly believed it and held to it. Obviously, I turned a blind eye to “the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which CANNOT be uttered.” As if by praying in tongues I was enabling the spirit to pray for me. It’s a fog, but I was tenacious in that fog. After all “tongues” are clearly utterances, whereas “groans,” Paul said, are not.

We confidently believed that we were speaking actual languages, either of men or of angels (based on Acts 2 and 1 Cor. 13). We insisted that if anyone speaks in tongues in public, they should also bring the interpretation in the language of their understanding (1 Cor. 14:13, 26). This interpretation, we thought, was what one is inspired to speak immediately following the utterance in tongues (usually including portions of scripture and always “unto edification”) and was equated with prophecy (1 Cor. 14:5). We even went to the extent of “speaking in tongues” and “interpreting” (equivalent to prophesying) over individuals on special occasions, such as at water baptisms or at weddings. Once again, in all my years of such exercise, I was never personally aware of anyone recognizing “the tongue” which I spoke, as happened on the day of Pentecost.

It is quite an outrageous claim, I now realize, that a person is perfectly speaking a language they have never studied. That was sidestepped by the teaching (shown by God to my teacher) that the gift of tongues is “the God-given ability to speak in a language you have never learned and to speak it perfectly.” If God, the giver of good and perfect gifts, gives the ability, who can question its perfection? Being able to bring the interpretation, then, was also a supernatural ability, given by God. No room for questioning or analytical reasoning. God made me able to do this. Done deal. The same goes for the other gifts, including healing the sick and performing miracles. (I no longer hold these doctrinal stances, but am just stating them here. I want to help you understand my former position.)

About five years ago, I was introduced to your pamphlets and books. *What Happens When We Die?* had the greatest impact on getting me thinking a different way about myself before God. I discarded that new creature doctrine, which also stated that when a believer dies, the

new creature sleeps in Christ and is raised up, receiving a new body at resurrection. This did not match the Scriptures. The light dawned that I was not a possessor of a new creature or new spirit (which teaching parallels having an immortal soul), but I am one whole person as in Genesis 2:7 (body with life in it). If it were true that I was merely human, I wondered, “What within me is able to speak in tongues? Or heal the sick, cast out devils, or do anything of supernatural caliber?” The false supernatural wing of my dwelling had been demolished!

I also came to realize that in almost 30 years of “praying in tongues,” I could not go back to any time when I “prayed in tongues” and knew that my prayer was answered. It was all done in “unknown tongues”! I did not know what I had been saying! I had gone on blind faith that I was praying and God was looking after His part. A person can speak in such sounds and not even be thinking about anything spiritual. Is this meaningful prayer? I now think that it was merely a way of placating myself, more or less as beneficial as repeating a Buddhist mantra, setting the mind at ease, as it shuts out the cares of this world and zones out spiritually. As much could be accomplished by taking a walk in nature. It is through my understanding that I communicate with others; how much more with my Lord? Better for me to use the mind I have been given to communicate than to abandon my mind to noise. Better for me to seek to follow the commands as Jesus set forth to love God and my neighbor, than to abdicate my duty to mindless muttering, and call that service.

Yes, there is an emotional aspect, also, but we were taught against the feelings and fanaticism that often goes along with emotional displays. We considered ourselves a cut above the main charismatic circles, since we did everything “decently and in order” (1 Cor. 14:40). No frenzied outbursts allowed, no falling down, rolling, barking like dogs, or all speaking at once.

At this point in time, I would agree that “tongues,” as we learned it, is a copied behavior. How else does one explain a toddler speaking in tongues at the request of his mother, who demonstrates to him how to do it? A toddler who does not yet understand all the theology that is hinged on tongues! Children were always the easiest to lead into the experience. They are touchingly eager to please. And so, for anyone who is sincere in their desire to please God, upon hearing that speaking in tongues pleases God and is a way to build one’s faith, then what is stopping them from launching ahead and making sounds “as the spirit inspires them and makes them able”? (How easily we are deceived in our eagerness to do God’s will!)

For so many years, I stood very firmly in what I had been taught. But as I said, my spiritual house was caving in quickly. The book on *The Doctrine of the Trinity* also

impacted me. It clarified Jesus as my Messiah, for whom I wait and who does not expect me to speak in “tongues” (he never did), but rather teach the Kingdom of God Gospel as he taught it. I am not here to establish the church as the first apostles were commissioned to do. I am here to be guided by the Scripture writings they left. I was also taught that my mind, being at enmity against God, was fairly worthless when it came to understanding spiritual things. However, it is clear that we are to love the Lord our God with our whole heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37). We “are to have the mind of Christ” (1 Cor. 2:16).

One would think the mind is important then and given to us to be used to analyze what we read. God wants us to understand with our minds, not bypass them. We are all on a level playing field, after all. As Robert Hach made clear to me in his book *Possession and Persuasion*, we are to be persuaded in our minds of what we believe. We don’t believe the ineffable, the inexplicable. We don’t base our faith upon “supernatural experiences” as in the charismatic movement, a furtherance of gnosticism (in my opinion). Our faith is based upon the testimony of Jesus and the Scriptures. It is wonderful to be set free to serve God and not go on daily guilt trips for failing to live up to the impossible expectation of performing the miraculous.

Checks and balances for “experience” are these: “Tongues” (real languages) are a sign to unbelievers, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:22. This is a demonstrable, public miracle. Paul also urged the “tongues, languages gifted person,” to “pray to interpret” so that all know what God is saying (1 Cor. 14:13).

P.S. Anthony, We are preparing for a journey to visit family in Montana and Minnesota. I look forward to any opportunities to speak with them about the things of God. I know most will be relieved to hear that I no longer hold to tongues and associated fallacies, having replaced such expectations with the good news of the coming kingdom of God. My parents and one brother are yet Catholic. My sister and I veered off the same direction. My other brother is conservative evangelical (I think they attend a Baptist church in Texas). It will be interesting!

Regarding the message and animation on the DVD, it was so familiar to me! In fact, when I attended the conference in Atlanta, I was astounded at the straightforward presentations by the various speakers. Having in hand the complete typed messages was a new dimension I had never known. I appreciated the openness during the question and answer session following each speaker, as well. A contrast in many ways to the altar call with laying on of hands, music in the background and of course, the encouragement to “harden not your hearts.” A twinge of guilt may spur the hesitant to approach the altar

to receive. I now recognize the calm compared to the storm.

As for “tongues,” I lean toward it being a copied or learned behavior. Translatable languages is too much of a stretch logically. Linguists with tape recorders have repeatedly shown that “tongues” by Christians, including Mormons, and also from Tibetan monks show no evidence of being real language.

We both know that there are familiar sounds that cross over in any language and have meaning. I’m thinking of an example we used in teaching. The sound “see” means different things in English (the letter C, the sea, to see, etc.). The same sound in Spanish means “yes.” What are the odds that someone in their attempt to speak in many different sounds (which is how we encouraged people to speak to receive the gift), will speak familiar sounds that may be a phrase in a foreign language?

I think we were so eager to validate our experience that we had some “testimonies” to the effect that a foreigner recognized a message in tongues and it was interpreted exactly. I personally never heard that, but was told by others. When that happens, I strongly lean toward demonic influence as the only explanation. Demons know every language, don’t they? Otherwise how is it possible for them to speak through a possessed person in the language of the understanding of the possessed? But I am raising more questions than I’m answering.

When I “spoke in tongues” I don’t think I was being influenced by an evil spirit. I always spoke when I chose and controlled when I stopped. I have seen people go into a frenzy and seem out of control and I wonder if demons weren’t involved there. Personally, I pushed myself to make sounds that I didn’t know and that is basically a function of a brain deceived — basic babble. (Ten years ago I wouldn’t have imagined myself saying such things!)

I have been encouraged by your fellowship and efforts to keep the Kingdom of God Gospel at the forefront in obedience to Jesus in Mark 1:14-15. My sons have been chatting on the web in a forum with other teens and the topic of the Trinity has kept them seeking out the scriptures from Greg Deuble and your books on the Trinity. I even get to share my ideas along the way. It will be fruitful. Gentle persuasion is the best approach. ✧

**2014 Theological Conference • May 1-4, 2014**

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Please mark your calendars now for what promises to be a quite exceptional gathering of passionate Kingdom and biblical unitarian believers! Your excitement and passion for truth is the blessing you bring to this gathering.

Dear *FOTK* Brethren,

Due to the wide readership of *Focus on the Kingdom* and what it means to all of us who believe in the One God and the humanity of Jesus Christ, I am beseeching each of you to *make the time* to write a note or letter to **The Great Courses**. This magazine has an enormous readership and is very reputable and highly acclaimed. It presents courses as learning tools via DVDs and CDs by reputable scholars, and covers a wide range of subjects including theology.

I have written a letter to Mr. Erik Olson, Customer Experience Manager, requesting a course *exclusively* on the historical origin of the Trinity doctrine and tried to impress upon him there is a great need for such a course.

**The Great Courses** have the potential to change the tide, and make it an even playing field for sincere truth-seekers. As such, it can be a great vehicle and conduit for our position/platform. Your letters will prove highly instrumental and substantiate the importance of more **education** on this most mysterious, incomprehensible and widely neglected centuries-old dogma. **I cannot impress upon you the monumental importance of your input.** It could mean the difference between success or failure in reaching our objective.

**Please write ASAP to:**

**The Great Courses, 4840 Westfield Blvd. Ste. 500, Chantilly, VA 20151-2299 to the attention of Mr. Erik Olson.**

Thank you,

Priscilla Jervey

Author, *The Tyranny of the Trinity*

## Comments

“Whenever I hear about the preexistent Jesus I am reminded of the book *The Da Vinci Code*. What’s the connection, you might ask. Part of the story in this book is the ‘hidden’ story of Christ — that he was actually married and had children. Don’t you instinctively dismiss this out of hand? With so much of the Bible dedicated to the life of Christ wouldn’t something this big warrant inclusion? Couldn’t you say the exact same thing about his alleged time before his birth? So-called ‘preexistence’?”

“You have got the central character of the entire NT just floating around as some USB (unidentified spirit being). It doesn’t say what or where he was or what he was doing. Was he an angel? God? Or something else entirely? Why never call him by name and say what he was doing in the OT? Did his name change as well as his form? Where is anything like this ever described in the Bible? Wouldn’t this warrant inclusion somewhere?”

People are then left to spin their own story. And they do! They try to become illegitimate authors of the Bible. They make Christ Michael or another unnamed angel. They make him God in addition to the One God, the Father — making two GODS, and violating the first commandment. They make him everything but what was described in the gospels.

Isn’t it self evident that when someone is called a man, conceived in the womb of his mother, born, with his lineage discussed and detailed, that this is the person’s logical starting point? Isn’t this common to us all of us human beings and very easily understandable? Wouldn’t some strange supernatural backwards (spirit to flesh) metamorphosis have to be *explained* to be assumed about him? A God or an angel just changed, transmuted into an embryo and this wasn’t discussed?! It is an attempt to bridge a gap to a flawed understanding. It is a story I hear people tell me who aren’t prophets or apostles. The great Truth about the real Jesus needs to be reinstated into Bible study and preaching.” — *Ohio*

“I am an avid reader of the publication *Focus on the Kingdom*, for years. I read your book *The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity’s Self-Inflicted Wound* which was the basis for opening my eyes several years ago. And for that I’m very thankful. I was introduced to it by a fellow believer. I’ve studied Scripture for a long period of my life, which included my husband who was Jewish, and became a believer in Yeshua. That was on his own, I might add. I do not have a Jewish background, however, we both arrived at the conclusion that Yeshua was the Lord Messiah, and of course, not God. We didn’t believe Yeshua pre-existed, nor did we believe in the Trinity or a Triune God. The *Shema* (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29) was **all-important**. I’ve also read *They Never Told Me This in Church!* by Greg Deuble. I so enjoy reading all your articles and look forward to them.” — *Florida*

“I am a ‘transitioning’ former Trinitarian Christian — I say I am in transition because although I’ve felt like I’ve known the ‘Gospel’ my whole life, having been brought up in church a pastor’s kid (and in ministry myself as an adult), I am realizing that my believe-in-Jesus-and-go-to-heaven upbringing wasn’t the Gospel at all. Your books have been a major factor in the theological developments which have been going on in my life these last few years which have led me to understand this and many other Bible truths. Your teachings aren’t the first time I’ve come across the truth (frankly I think my doubts about heaven, hell, the tri-unity of God etc...have been lurking there all along). I’ve heard it in bits and pieces from various groups (some I deemed cults!) and people, but you (your writings) put it all together for any thinking Christian to see, and I thank you for this.” — *New York*

“I wanted to take a moment and thank you for the work of the ministry that you are doing. I am writing a brief history of myself in order that you may be encouraged concerning the task you have undertaken in preaching the truth as it is revealed in the Scriptures. I am a pastor in Alabama. A little more than 2 years ago when responding to the leading of God to start a new work here in my hometown I began to seek God with a conviction that I would preach only the truth as it is revealed in the Scriptures and not just pass along doctrines that were not based upon His revealed Word. When I asked God to lead me to the truth I had no idea where He was taking me. I just had an awareness that we were missing something in the message which we were passing off as the Gospel. God in His faithfulness and kindness led me in steps as only He is able to do. It wasn't long before I began to see that Jesus talked a great deal about a Kingdom that was rarely mentioned in the church where I grew up. For many months I taught a series on 'One Gospel,' the Truth according to Jesus.

“As the Father began to reveal the marvelous truth of the Hope we have in Christ I began to notice something in Scripture that I had never seen before, the genuine humanity of Jesus. Some find it hard to believe, but I was unaware that there was anyone who was Christian that didn't believe in the Trinity. As a result of God beginning to point these things out to me in Scripture I was very concerned that I was heading down the wrong path. I shared my concerns with a pastor in Louisiana who began to inform me of his own findings, as he too had been seeking God for truth. He directed me to your website, which has been a valuable source for information in my search for truth. I have since found there are many like-minded brethren preaching truth as it is plainly written in scripture. Thank you for your many years of devoted research and study of God's word and your gift of making it easy to understand for the less scholarly like myself. May God bless you and help you as you endeavor to open the eyes of the blind to the wonderful truth that we have in His Holy Words.” — *Alabama*

“I have truly learned about the Scriptures from your site. I pray that God will continue to bless you and yours with the insight to convey the word in the proper light.” — *Georgia*

“I am a 33-year-old married Christian man and I just wanted to send a short note saying how thankful I am for your research, ministry, and hard work you have done for the Kingdom. I grew up in a Nazarene Church and never remember hearing sermons on the Trinity, but later I was told that Christians believe in the triune God. I acknowledged that belief but never quite understood it. Someone did challenge me on the Trinity and told me that I should read the whole New Testament without any presuppositions and take notes on what the Bible actually

teaches. I did just that and was amazed that it clearly taught that Jesus Christ and God were separate; Jesus wasn't God and vice versa. I was then later introduced to your book with the subtitle *Christianity's Self-Inflicted Wound*. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and even found more of your teachings and debates online.” — *North Carolina*

“I wish that I could describe to you the spiritual improvement that God is bringing me to. I tell you this not to brag, but to simply share the satisfaction and joy I feel. I had sinful habits in my life which God has helped me to get rid of. Honestly, much of it stemmed from sinful thoughts. God has showed me how to control these thoughts and thus refrain from sin. It is totally unbelievable. I have all of my weaknesses written down and I grade myself every day. While I still fail, it is heartening to see the rate at which God is helping me to improve. The amazing thing is that it has taken years for me to overcome these obstacles. Though that might not seem amazing, the fact that God has been patient enough with me to see me through is remarkable.

“On another note, I struggled with chronic insomnia for 7 years. I have recently been cured of this awful disease.

“The knowledge that I have received concerning the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is so awesome! I dream about the Kingdom every day. I think about how the judgment will be. Will I see every one who has ever lived be judged? What will I look like? What will Jesus look like? What will the Kingdom on earth look like? What will my job be in the Kingdom? Where will I live in the Kingdom? These are just some of the questions that run through my head. It is incredibly better knowing this Gospel than the old watered-down, washed-out story. I am motivated to improve on my character so as to bear the fruit that God wants. I hope these words will inspire you. I have to thank you for your videos and emails. You have really helped me in my journey. I will be doing some videos soon. Maybe you can help me with them.” — *email*

“I just wanted to write you and tell you I had the privilege of attending the Bible study group that met at the Tenino High School (Washington) with Robin Todd. I had a wonderful time and met some great people who actually have the Truth. I didn't want to leave. It was very encouraging for me to see that there are people who believe what the Bible teaches and there is a light at the end of this exhausting tunnel. Thank you again for helping those who are coming out of false doctrines and who truly want to serve God truthfully and willingly. I hope to make a trip to Georgia sometime in the hopefully not-too-distant future and meet even more brothers and sisters engaging in true worship.” — *Washington*