

# *The Christians Manifesto*

*Man·i·fes·to*

**1**

**Noun:** A public declaration of policy and aims, especially one issued before an election by a political party or candidate. Synonyms: policy statement, mission statement, platform, (little) red book, program, declaration, proclamation, pronouncement, announcement; As in: "A party manifesto that would change the course of world politics"

*Gal 1:11*

**2**

**11** For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

What comes to your mind when you think about the Apostle Paul having to defend himself as an Apostle; and doing this, not against the opposition of the world, but against so-called brethren of the Church. They said that he was not truly an apostle, because he had not seen the Lord; and they said a great many other derogatory things to him. To maintain his claim of Apostleship, he was driven to start many of his epistles with "Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ"...

*2 Cor 1:1*

**3**

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:

This address is also seen in *Eph 1:1; Col 1:1; 1 Tim 1:1; 2 Tim 1:1*, though his work should have been self-evident proof of his calling. People, in the smallness of their minds and the arrogance of their opinion chose to ignore the truth he was speaking and seek to undermine that truth by denying him. Peter talks about this circumstance in...

*1 Peter 4:12-14*

**4**

**12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; **13** but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation His glory you may rejoice with exultation. **14** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

It almost seems that some think it necessary to challenge the truth of God just because. Though the real dynamic isn't a challenge to God's truth, it's a challenge to the one teaching it. These people couldn't challenge what Paul was saying so they challenged Paul. Therein is the point of Paul's statement. When we look at that statement, it should be possible for each of us to say the same thing. Consider the Gospel that called you, did it come from man or God? If it came from man, then friends I would encourage you to question your own conviction, your own faith. Now, please don't misunderstand, we probably all have someone that stands out in our minds as being instrumental in our conversion. Maybe a parent, a friend, a coworker, or a spouse, this isn't what I am talking about. What I am talking about is the truth of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that

speaks louder than any man could ever hope to, that calls to our hearts, bringing us to God. What does your faith tell you about the source of that calling? Isn't that Paul's statement...

**5** ***“The gospel which was preached by me is not according to man”***

Paul says that he “Certified” that that Gospel was not from man. This means that he gave his personal guarantee that it did not originate with man. Paul would that all Christians felt that same certainty of the origin of the Gospel and what it can do. Notice what Paul tells Timothy in...

**2 Tim 1:12**

**6**

**12** For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Paul says it plainly, The Gospel did not come from man and that he trusted it and God who inspired it explicitly. I have to understand that this meant that in his mind he accepted and believed that it came from God through Christ. So, there are some thoughts that we want to look at in this lesson...

**7**

1) The Gospel is from God

Obviously, there is a sense in which we received it from men. Remember what Paul says...

**Rom 10:14**

**8**

**14** How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

When Philip asked the Eunuch if he understood what he was reading the Eunuch responded by saying “How could he, unless someone explain it to him.” Yes, we all need to hear the Word from someone and in that sense it can be said that it was received from man. But that is not the discussion we are having. We are talking about the ultimate source of the Gospel. Did it originate with man?

**Ps 119:105**

**9**

**105** Your word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

**Ps 119:130**

**130** The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

**Ps 119:160**

**160** The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

The Psalmist illustrates how we should think about God's Word. What it does for us in its eternal purpose.

Where does your faith come from? Are you absolutely certain that it is God's truth? What called us to God? Were we called by the grace of God through His Word? Paul was called by

Christ himself speaking to him from heaven, and revealing himself in his own light. I think part of the reason why that happened the way it did, beyond the fact to be an Apostle it was necessary for Paul to have seen Christ after the resurrection is so that Paul could say...

**10** *"I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ?"*

My point is that we can also say the same thing. We also have received the Gospel in a way that is beyond the power of man to convey it to us. While men may have brought it to our ears, the Lord himself applied it to our hearts.

*1 Cor 3:6-7*

**11**

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

This illustrates our next point...

**12**

2) The Gospel of Truth cannot originate with man

Man can speak the truth. He can believe it. He can live by it. He can be saved through it, but he cannot originate it. That is beyond his capacity or ability.

*Jer 10:23*

**13**

23 I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Truth comes from God. Truth is God.

*1 John 5:5-6*

**14**

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

The real point is...

*Titus 1:1-2*

**15**

1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

God is the source of all truth and it is impossible for Him to lie. Weigh that now against what is seen in the world today. The world thinks that the Gospel is only one of many religions. It doesn't take into consideration that the Scriptures of God, the Bible, are in direct and stark opposition to what so many teach is OK with God. How can the Christ who tells Pilate...

*John 18:36*

**16**

**36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Turn around and tell His servants that any who don't follow the Koran are infidels and are to be destroyed? Or the Lord who said...

**Matt 23:9**

**17**

**9** Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

Then demand that certain ones be called Father as is seen in so many different religions of today? One of the dangers in a discussion of this sort is that the focus tends to get skewed. The point is that the Gospel originated from God and that nothing that originates from man should be considered to be absolute truth, unless, of course, it has been absolutely copied from the Word of God. But then it isn't from man, is it. What I have just described though is a common and popular tactic with Satan that he has been using since the Garden of Eden. Take just enough truth to make it sound palatable and then throw in enough deception to mislead the hearer. There is no mistaking the inspired Books of the Bible if you have any spiritual discernment at all. In...

**2 Tim 2:15-16**

**18**

**15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. **16** But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,

Therein is the truth of God revealed to man, nowhere else. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is beyond the capability and reach of human thought. When men have exercised themselves to the very zenith of their intellect, they can still not attain to the perfection of true Gospel.

Some argue that the scriptures are nothing more than the works of man compiled together. That the early historical works of Moses became the foundation for others to pick up the storyline and add to it. Kind of like the Star Trek series of movies, originally written and conceived by Gene Roddenbury and then added to as the years went on and is still a popular franchise for movie goers. But seriously, think about that. If that were such an easy accomplishment then why don't we see it happening time and again through the centuries? We don't see anything even approximating this kind of collaboration with the advanced and sophisticated cultures such as the Egyptians or Chinese or even the Greeks, why is that? Why don't we see anything like what is seen in the works of Moses, or Isaiah, the Gospel writers, or Paul? If man could accomplish this kind of effort, then there would be other comparable works to it. Consider those great cultures and thinkers of the past. Did any of these think out the doctrine of free and sovereign grace? Did they guess at the Incarnation and Sacrifice of the Son of God? Note what Paul says in...

**1 Cor 2:6-9**

**19**

**6** Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; **7** but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; **8** the

wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; **9** but just as it is written,

This brings us to our last point...

**20** 3) What confidence is there that the Gospel is not from men

We have already looked at the evidence from the scriptures and how that they present the Gospel as the absolute truth of God. Absolute truth, as we have already seen cannot come from man.

While a minor point, there is also the idea that man just doesn't, as a whole, take to it. It is opposed constantly. Or if it is accepted, it is rarely accepted in its entirety, but perverted, changed, and only partially followed. There is a dynamic going on in the world today that is disturbing, in the least. It has to do with respect. You pick the special interest group and every one of them has the same mantra...

**21** ***You must Respect us for the decisions we have made***

The world demands respect for themselves, the government is beginning to legislate such respect calling anything said against a group a hate crime and punishable, but why are they not as willing to give respect.

More important is the evidence that is extant that proves there can be no other conclusion than the Gospel's only possible source is God. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle through his Sherlock Holmes character wrote...

**22** ***"Eliminate the impossible, and what is left, no matter how improbable, must be the truth"***

What are the possibilities concerning the origin of the Gospel?

**23** 1) They came from man

2) They come from God

So unless you happen to believe in aliens from outer space coming down and planting the scriptures to, for some reason, become a way of religion for man, these are the only two possibilities. There is a reason why so many of the scientific world are coming out and saying that the universe, the galaxies, the solar systems, Earth would not, could not be here unless there is a God. Now that is not to say that they are rushing to become Christians fully accepting the Bible as God's Word. They are not, because they have yet to eliminate the impossibility that while not only did God create all of this, He actually has a great affinity for His creation, us. And because of His Love for man He has prepared a way for man to have a relationship with Him, and not just now, in man's life, but eternally, when this life is over. Did this come from a bunch of men, who over a span of some fifteen hundred years compiled 66 books, written for the most part by uneducated men, that completely complement each and work together to make a complete story that is totally in agreement with no contradictions.

Eliminate the impossible, that man wrote this, and whatever is left, no matter how improbable, must be true, God wrote it. So, what is your...**24**