

A native of interior China wanted to become a Christian but couldn't understand how Christianity was superior to Confucianism and Buddhism. One morning he came to the missionary in a happy mood saying, "I dreamed last night, and now I understand. I dreamed I had fallen into a deep pit where I lay helpless and despairing. Confucius came and said, 'Let me give you advice, my friend; if you get out of your trouble, never get in again.' Buddha came and said, 'If you can climb up to where I can reach you, I will help you.' Then Christ came. He climbed down into the pit and carried me out." It takes the Savior of man to do that.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1 John 4:9 Indeed, we rejoice with David, "I will extol thee, O LORD; for thou hast lifted me up..." Psalm 30:1

No-Cook Peanut Butter Fudge

1/2 cup honey
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/4 cup molasses

1 cup coconut cream powder (or similar powder)

Combine first three ingredients. Beat until smooth. Add coconut cream powder. Add additional powder until mixture pulls away from bowl. Knead. Flatten fudge into greased 8x8" pan. Refrigerate. Cut in 1" squares and serve.

NOTE: You may also double this recipe, add 2 cups partly crushed cornflakes, and cover with melted carob chips.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

"A man really believes not what he recites in his creed, but only the things he is ready to die for."

Richard Wurmbrand, a Christian who suffered 14 years in a communist prison and tells his story in the book "Tortured for Christ"



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PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Susanna Wesley was the godly and devoted mother of 19 children. Her children went on to change the world, including two of her well-known sons - John and Charles Wesley. John Wesley wrote, "I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians in England." Here is a glimpse into her child-rearing techniques.

Susanna Wesley's 16 Household Rules

- 1. Eating between meals is not allowed.
- 2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 PM.
- 3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
- 4. Subdue self-will in a child and work with God to save the child's soul.
 - 5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
 - 6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
 - 7. Give them nothing they cry for, and only when asked for politely.
- 8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented of.
 - 9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
 - 10. Never punish a child twice for the same offense.
 - 11. Comment and reward good behavior.
- 12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed, should be commended.
 - 13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
 - 14. Strictly observe all promises.
- 15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well. (She taught reading at age 5.)

 16. Teach children to fear the rod.



Making a Case for Christ

Recently, while thinking I was going to watch a video on health, I was privileged to watch a Christian interviewing a non-Christian with a Muslim background who also happened to have a theology minor (taught by a Jewish professor). It was almost like watching the Great Controversy in real-time. The Christian, by asking questions and listening to the non-Christian's answers, was able to bring the conversation around to the gospel. She shared many things including John 3:16. Again and again, the Christian interjected politely that Jesus said He was the way, the truth and the life, and that no man comes to the Father, but through Him (Jesus). Repeatedly, but politely she raised the question, "What if He was telling the truth?" It was abundantly obvious that she believed Jesus' statement to be truth. However, during the interview the man never accepted Jesus, and sadly, we know he died the following day. Of course, we hope that the Holy Spirit drove home the gospel message and that the man accepted Jesus before he died. But watching the whole experience stirred up and challenged my thinking—if I hadn't been raised a Christian, would I choose to believe in Jesus? How could I decide that the Bible was the true book over the Koran (Muslim "holy" book) or the Bhagavad Gita (Hindu "holy" book)?

How can a person establish the truth of the Bible and Jesus Christ?

Here are a few thoughts my family and I discussed about why we believe like we do.

1. It is evident from the "book of nature" and things like snowflakes that that there is a <u>Designer</u>. Indeed, even avowed atheists have come to the conclusion that "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."



Psalm 19:1 In fact, recently, I read a story about some atheists who grew up under communism. However, once while working on a statue of Stalin the wife said, "Husband, how about the thumb? If we could not oppose the thumb to the other fingers – if the fingers of the hand were like toes – we could not hold a hammer, a tool, a book, a piece of bread. Human life would be impossible without this little thumb. Now who made the thumb?" Long story short, despite their previous Marxist brainwashing, over the years they came to worship not only the Designer of the thumb but also the Designer of the stars, flowers, children and everything beautiful in life simply because they could see that someone had to have designed them. Believing in a Designer removes the option

of being either an atheist (doesn't believe in God) or an agnostic (neither declares faith or disbelief in God).

2. Nature also declares a <u>loving Creator</u>. It is evident from the sunsets, bird songs, flowers, etc., that a loving Creator designed these things not just for practicality, but for our enjoyment. This does not match any of the tyrannical gods of the heathen world. For me, gods like Molech would not be an option just by their harsh dictates.

3. Nature declares an <u>Almighty</u> God. When you see the majestic mountains, see the vastness of the ocean, try to count the stars, or watch an elephant move a tree, you must recognize that the Creator of these things is bigger and stronger than they are. This does not match with heathen idols that cannot see, hear, or talk, and have to themselves be rescued in storms.

4. Nature declares a <u>God of order and reason</u>. The sun comes up, the sun goes down. The tide comes in, the tide goes out. The seasons follow an expected pattern year after year. The order and reason seen in nature eliminate any gods who have unreasonable expectations that cause disorder. For example, "in India... killing monkeys is forbidden. Hindus consider monkeys sacred, living representatives of the monkey god Hanuman... many people feed monkeys in the

hopes of divine rewards." Now there are so many monkeys that they are causing confusion and chaos. This type of thing is unreasonable and does not match nature's God of order and reason.

- 5. Yet, the fact that sin exists is evident. Murder, rape, and other atrocities confirm the existence of sin and evil in the world.
- 6. The weakness of humanity to save himself is also evident. Mankind has not been able to save himself from disease or natural disasters. Though many religions teach that man can save himself, I believe it is evident that he cannot. If we have to depend on man to save himself we are doomed. This shows we need someone outside ourselves. We need a Saviour.
- 7. That there is a kind, helpful, and giving God is evident, just by watching nature. For example, what makes a dolphin lead a ship through difficult passages, a grizzly rescue a drowning crow, or an elephant pick up a baby and set it to the side in the midst of a stampede? This does not fit evolutionary theory, these kind impulses must come from somewhere. A Creator who taught the animals kindness must have a plan to help mankind out of the mess we are in. I read in my Bible that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 The gospel perfectly matches the picture we already established from nature of a loving, Almighty, orderly, reasonable, kind, helpful Creator seeking to save helpless man drowning in sin. But there are at least three more reasons why I would choose to be a Christian.

- 8. Unlike the "holy" books of other religions I have examined, the Bible immediately begins with relevant facts to a question every man asks, "Where did I come from?" It begins with "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1 followed by "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7 It continues with other relevant facts like, "What must I do to be saved?...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:30,31 I could go on with John 3:16, Eccl. 12:13, John 14:1-3, etc.
- 9. The gospel story has beauty in its simplicity that even a child can understand. I find the other religions to be complex and confusing. Many are tiered like multilevel marketing where there are the privileged few who got there first or are most intelligent. Other "holy" books I have examined often even disagree with their own teachings making it frustratingly impossible to ever fulfill their demands. Some of them, for example, teach that the Bible and/or Jesus are historically true, yet they deny the very truths contained in and surrounding them. We must recognize that Jesus was either who He said He was or a liar—He could not be just a good man. (For more info read "Jesus Christ --Immortal or Imposter?" here

https://www.biblepicturepathways.com/resources/Jesus%20Christ--Immortal%20or%20Imposter%20E-book.pdf)

- **10.** "But amid the confusion of other religions, the gospel is simple. A child following the Leader can easily reach his destination. The Bible has an ever present Guide, and Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6
- 11. And last but not least, frankly, I like the Bible's story line the best. It's not about what you know or can do, but Who you know—this provides hope for all mankind, even for the ignorant, poor, and the most degraded sinner (Acts 3:26, 1 John 1:9). The Bible story line depicts a Shepherd searching for and finding His lost sheep. It details how the King of the Universe sent His Son to be born and laid in a manger, to live, die and be resurrected to save mankind. It tells of Someone who loves you and will help you—Emmanuel—God with us (Matt. 1:21-23) It explains that the beautiful rainbow is for a covenant between heaven and earth. It tells of a Father who notices even a little sparrow that falls. It shares the blessed hope of a home in heaven and a soon returning Savior. The gospel story fulfills all the needs of mankind providing love, purpose, meaning, and a reason to smile.



All this and more, I believe seals the case decidedly in favor of Jesus, the Christ.

1-- https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2004/09/23/indian-officials-send-notorious-monkeys-to-jail-for-life/



A New Jesus and another Gospel? **Prophetic News Notes and Study to Show Thyself Approved**

"The Chosen," the first-ever multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus, is said to be "the largest crowdfunded media project of all

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ENTERTAINMENT U.S. & WORLD FAITH

How 'The Chosen' is unifying people of different faiths and backgrounds

By Tent Topon (Hosener) And 7, 2023, 1.59 pm PDT

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time." Wikipedia states that "According to an analysis commissioned by the producers, 108 million had seen at least part of the show as of 2022. Translation into as many as 600 languages is being funded by the Come and See Foundation." This dramatization of "Jesus" and the "disciples" has become quite popular among many different varieties of people. It has been stated that "'The Chosen's' impressive feat is that despite doctrinal and theological differences, it is resonating with audiences across various Christian denominations — Presbyterians, Baptists and other evangelicals, Catholics, Latter-day Saints and even nonbelievers.... The director and the actor who plays Jesus say they share a specific goal to unify viewers."

Indeed, one exposé called "The New Jesus" documents how this TV series has some sinister links to Catholicism, Mormonism, Freemasonry, and Spiritualism (talking to the dead) and more. Sadly, it seems very few are heeding Jesus' warning for the last days. "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:4, 5,11



Because "The Chosen" is a TV series, the repeated image of this "Jesus" is permanently engrained into the minds of viewers. They "hear" his voice and "see" his face whenever they think of Jesus.

There are even apps for interaction as one article headlines, "Fans can pray with 'The Chosen' Cast Members...on the Hallow App" Very few seem to consider the fact that Satan's first temptation to man came when he acted as a serpent to deceive mankind, and when he tempted Christ he acted the part of angel of light. If Satan came as a TV "Jesus," would anyone suspect him? Paul warned

Fans Can Pray With 'The Chosen'
Cast Members by Joining Advent
Challenge on the Hallow App



that the unwary might receive this deception. "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15

Paul preceded his warning to the Corinthians concerning someone that "preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached" 2 Cor. 11:4 with a caution to the Galatians warning against those that "would pervert the gospel of Christ." saying, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Gal.1:7-9

So the question is, does "The Chosen" provide another Jesus and another gospel? Of course, the biblical Jesus is "the truth." He didn't just pretend to be a something He was not. He was not acting, He "became flesh." John 1:14 In addition, the Bible is the standard of truth. John 17:17 states, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." But the "Jesus" of "the Chosen" isn't biblical, and scenes are included which are actually contrary to the Bible record. Producer Dallas Jenkins admitted, "I'm making a show about Jesus where 95 percent of the content isn't from the Bible. Although there are some portions of the show biblically similar enough to deceive, the Jesus of "the Chosen" presents a new fallible variety of Jesus. The Atlantic reported, "The Chosen's Jonathan Roumie plays Jesus as someone you'd actually like to hang out with, projecting divine gravity accented with easygoing warmth. He cracks jokes; he dances at parties. This is not the Jesus of the Bible. Words are also added to the script that Jesus would not say. For example, one concerned Christian writes, "Jenkins constantly puts words in Jesus' mouth which He did not say, and would never have said. For example, in Jn. 3 there is the account of the meeting between Jesus and Nicodemus. In The Chosen 'Jesus' is shown asking Nicodemus, 'What does your heart say?' These words are not to be found anywhere in the biblical text. Furthermore, Jesus would never have asked such a foolish question, given that His own Word says of the human heart, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?' (Jer. 17:9). But this kind of question – "What does your heart say?" is so typical of modern western confusion today. "Listen to your heart" is pop psychology. It is what people say to one another all the time, but this is not the teaching of the Bible as the heart is deceitful and wicked, and since men cannot know it truthfully or fully, listening to it is very, very bad advice."

No matter how popular he is, a "Jesus" who is not the "truth" is a lie. And the warning must go out that the Bible predicts those who do not receive "the love of the truth" will fall under a "strong delusion that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess. 2:11,12 While only time will tell if this series will be used by the Antichrist power to "change" God's word for its purposes, "The Chosen" certainly has caused people to follow a new Jesus, an "antichrist" meaning "instead of Christ." We are warned, "as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." I John 2:18 But vigilant Christians will heed the plain warning of scripture for, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20

1-- https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9471404/ 2-- https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9471404/ 2-- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chosen_(TV_series">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chosen_(TV_series") 3- https://www.deseret.com/faith/2022/1/7/22848367/how-the-chosen-is-unifying-people-of-different-faiths-and-backgrounds 5- https://churchleaders.com/news/439616-pray-the-chosen-cast-advent-challenge-hallow-app.html 6--https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_- Yyq1FPQI&t=1500s&ab_channel=MelissaDougherty_Minute_Marker_24:30_7-https://www.theatlantic.com/culture/archive/2021/06/the-chosen-jesus-tv-show/619306/ 8-
HTTPS://www.BIBLEBASEDMINISTRIES.CO.UK/2022/07/06/THE-CHOSEN-TV-SERIES-ECUMENICAL-HERETICAL-AND-BLASPHEMOUS/



The Race

The snow covered the ground, and three young boys were playing in it. A man said to them, "Would you like to try to race, with the promise of a prize for the winner?"

The boys agreed, and the man told them that his race was to be different. "I will go to the other side of the field," he said, "and when I give you the signal, you will start to run. The one whose footsteps are the straightest in the snow will be the winner."

As the race commenced, the first boy began looking at his feet to see if his steps were straight. The second lad kept looking at his companions to see what they were doing; but the third boy just ran on with his eyes fixed on the man on the other side of the field.



The third boy was the winner, for his footsteps were straight in the snow. He had kept his eyes on the goal ahead of him A long time ago, another man using similar words taught the same principle. It was Paul who said, "Brethren... this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13,14

Indeed, "there is a heaven to win, and a hell to shun"* and this is best accomplished by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ.

*Review and Herald. April 8.1909, par.14



Are CBD and other Hemp Products Really Safe?

At Swift Runner Ministries, we have always believed that marijuana is not an herb, but a drug. Some of the reasons behind this statement were detailed in a July 2019 Bible Banner article (p.3) available here. https://www.biblepicturepathways.com/resources/July%202019.pdf However, although they all come from the same basic plant (just grown differently) many people think they are using hemp and CBD from the cannabis sativa plant and not marijuana. Here's the difference, at least in theory. "THC [tetrahydrocannabinol] and cannabidiol (CBD) are the most common cannabinoids found in marijuana and hemp; hemp generally contains low amounts of THC and high amounts of CBD, while marijuana generally contains high amounts of THC and low amounts of CBD. According to the new federal statute, cannabis containing 0.3 percent or less of THC is hemp, and cannabis containing more than 0.3 percent of THC is marijuana."1

To reiterate, by law cannabis containing 0.3 percent or more of THC, which is known to be psychoactive, is called marijuana. Cannabis containing 0.3 percent or less of THC can be classed as hemp or CBD and is legal even in places where marijuana is illegal. This has made CBD very popular. In fact, according to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA] Advisory, "In 2020, as many as one-third of American adults reported using CBD products."²

The fact that CBD has become readily available tends to confuse people, and they think things labeled CBD or hemp are harmless. This is not necessarily true. Case in point, the following is a story related to me by a friend and health professional: "A certain woman I knew had some health problems, so she decided to take some CBD gummies at the recommendation of a relative. As she drove home that evening, after purchasing a bottle, she popped one after another into her mouth, eager to get rid of her pain. Unfortunately, later that night, she woke up having hallucinations. It frightened her so badly that she decided to go to the ER where she actually tested positive for drugs. Evidently, there was enough THC in the CBD gummies both to cause hallucinations and to cause the woman to test positive for marijuana."

Indeed, according to a government document, "The federal Department of Transportation has issued a warning that CBD use can show up as a positive THC result on a drug test. [And] The U.S. military has banned the use of hemp/CBD products for military personnel."

In addition, "adverse reactions to CBD include: hepatocellular injury [liver damage], somnolence [drowsiness] and sedation, suicidal behavior and ideation, hypersensitivity reactions—allergic reactions... "4and also "changes in alertness... changes in mood (e.g. irritability and agitation)" as well as "male reproductive toxicity." Furthermore, "CBD use can impair kidney function and cause anemia...." and "Research shows that more than 40% of children with epilepsy who were given CBD orally had adverse events that included THC like symptoms. The research challenged the widely accepted premise that CBD is not intoxicating." 4

So those who like Daniel, purpose not to defile themselves (Daniel 1:8) need to wake up and take note. Consider this study. "The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop and validate extraction protocols and analytical methods to measure the amounts of THC, tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), and total



Study Reveals Inaccurate Labeling of Marijuana as Hemp decarboxylated THC in plant material. The NIST researchers procured 53 hemp samples in plant form from five different commercial online sources. The online hemp vendor websites included a general declarative statement indicating that their products are hemp as defined under federal law. The statements disclose, 'All products contain less than 0.3 percent THC' or, similarly, 'Products are lab tested to ensure their THC content is less than 0.3 percent.'

"Researchers screened the samples for THC-related compounds ...

Analyses indicated that of the 53 samples examined, 49 were incorrectly labeled

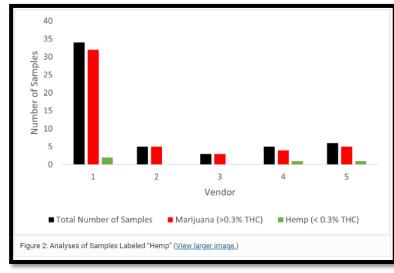
as hemp because they technically fit the federal classification of marijuana (Figure 2) [Next page]. Of the 34 'hemp' samples obtained from Vendor 1, only two fit the federal classification of hemp as determined by total THC; the remaining 32 samples fit the federal classification of marijuana.[5] Of the eight samples from Vendors 2 and 3, none of the "hemp" samples examined should be classified as hemp—all should technically be marijuana. And of the 11 "hemp" samples examined from Vendors 4 and 5, only two samples fit the federal classification for hemp, while nine were technically marijuana..."

Testing by the FDA in 2020 found similar results. "Of the 200 products purchased, testing for cannabinoids was completed on 147 of them...THC levels in the products tested ranged from below the LOQ [limit of quantitation] to 3.1 mg/serving, with 72 products (49 percent) found to contain THC or THCA at concentrations above the LOQ." 5

In response to numbers like these showing that hemp labels can't be trusted, US Navy has taken a very strong stand against the use of any hemp products (with the exception of rope and clothing.) For example, a 2020 directive states, "In order to ensure military readiness and the reliability and integrity of the Program, the knowing

Navy Explains Why It Banned Hemp Shampoos And Lotions For Sailors

ingestion (orally, intravenously,





through smoking/vaporization, absorption of transdermal or topical applications, or through other means) of products containing, or products made or derived from, hemp is prohibited... Sailors and Marines are prohibited from using any product made or derived from hemp... including CBD, regardless of the product's THC concentration, claimed or actual, and regardless of whether such product may lawfully be bought, sold, and used under the law applicable to civilians. 'Use' means to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body. 'Use' includes the use of hemp products designed to

penetrate through the skin layer, including but not limited to transdermal patches. 'Use' also includes the use of topical products containing hemp, such as shampoos, conditioners, lotions, lip balms, or soaps." Since this and other military directives even include topical products containing hemp, personally, I will be eliminating and replacing some of the soaps, etc., that I have used in the past. My philosophy is, "It is better to be safe than sorry." With some of these studies showing up to a 92% chance of accidentally getting psychoactive marijuana in hemp products, I think it's much safer to assume that cannabis/hemp is for rope-making.

1—2 Screenshots https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep22-06-04-003.pdf https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7723146/#b6-ms117 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7723146/#b6-ms117 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7723146/#b25-ms117 <a href="

5-- https://hempindustrydaily.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/CBD-Marketplace-Sampling_RTC_FY20_Final.pdf
6-- https://www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Portals/55/Messages/ALNAV/ALN2020/ALN20074.bt#:~:text=Sailors%20and%20Marines%20are%20prohibited.the
7—Screen shot Navy https://www.marijuanamoment.net/navy-explains-why-it-banned-hemp-shampoos-and-lotions-for-sailors/



God's Amazing Creatures

Virginia opossums live in North and Central America. They have long, hairless, and prehensile tails, meaning they can hold onto branches and other objects with their tails. They are omnivorous and eat a wide range of plants, as well as insects, eggs, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. When threatened, a Virginia opossum will sometimes play dead. When opossum babies get old enough to leave their mother's pouch they cling to their mother's back. It is during this time they learn survival skills. Just like the opossum babies cling

to their mother, we should put our trust in God and He will help us when we call.





Muno is 5 years old. She is carrying her 2 year old baby brother on her back. Muno is from Somalia, a country in Africa. (The red country on the map). A lot of the boys and girls in Somalia are very poor.

Most of them don't know that Jesus loves them. In Somalia, you say "Jesus loves you" like this: Ciise waa ku jecelahay.

(Ees wah koo ju-hăl-a-haī.) Please pray for someone to tell the

boys and girls in Somalia that Jesus loves them.

Pictures from Unsplash (Muno) and Wikipedia (Map)