

How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture

A paraphrase and some thoughts Based on the book and video series
by historian Francis Schaeffer, "How Should We Then Live?"



Francis Schaeffer, 1912 –1984

A WARNING FROM HISTORY

Bear Valley church of Christ lecture by Dr. Denny Petrillo 7/2011
Mark O'Brien

"Those people who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants."
-William Penn

Which thinking man of history or even one marginally interested in history has not thought upon the fate of the great empires of the world over the last 3,000 years and wondered to himself, *What happened to these great peoples from which we today gained so much of our own cultural background, science, and thinking?* Their ruins stand today as solid evidence of these people's existence and inspiration to modern man. If these empires were so mighty, why didn't they survive even longer than they did? Why do we only see remnants of their way of life today?

What in the world happened to these people?

Schaeffer's writing is considered by many historians as a classic of Christian Apologetics and Philosophy. In his ten-part video series, *How Should We Then Live?*, Francis Schaeffer shows in plain talk, what exactly happened to these peoples and how the art and music they left behind proves it. The main point of Schaeffer's overview of history is that **society needs a base** on which to build. If the foundation is faulty the entire structure will be faulty and will not last. Humanism in all forms is a faulty foundation, not just because it denies God his value, but because in pushing God out of the picture man is left without value. All that is left is apathy, despair, pessimism, and hopelessness. History shows us that the godless vacuum is always filled with **slavery**. Everybody's heard Spaniard George Santayan's quote, *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it"*. But what is it that we have to remember in order to avoid enslavement by the next conquering people? How can we save our way of life for our children and avoid going the same way as say, Rome? And what man can live his life successfully ignoring the cold, hard facts of history? Who can successfully live a life based on fantasy in place of reality? How can a man live a life based on a lie? He cannot, and should not! Since the Roman Empire was one of the last great conquering peoples, we should consider what became of them and why. Dates are not always the most important parts of remembering history. Nor are they the interesting parts. Most of us are intrigued by the *reasons* behind the changes that contributed to the rise and decline of empires.

The series begins with this quote....

*"There is a flow to history and culture. This flow is rooted and has its wellspring in the **thoughts of people**."*

We must firstly understand that our thinking determines the way we live, and thinking determines the way empires go since empires are made up of people. So if we examine the thoughts of people and their philosophy, we can see where they came from, and where and why they went the way they did. Truly, *"The inner thought world determines the outward action."* (http://cmunki.net/articles/how_shall_we_then_live.htm)

Schaeffer closes his first chapter with this compelling statement.

“Rome did not fall because of external forces such as the invasion by the barbarians. Rome had no sufficient inward base; the barbarians only completed the breakdown — and Rome gradually became a ruin.”

I remember my teachers saying that Rome fell from the attacks of the barbarians surrounding the empire. After viewing these Francis Schaeffer films and the evidence in them, it is clear to me now that the barbarians only finished an already in-progress decline. Italian society weakened internally because it did not have a sufficient way of bearing the weight of that society. **Rome lacked a spiritual belief system that could support its society.** The Romanists governed the people using three standards. These standards were meant to be the very base upon which society itself would be built.

- 1) **Good men were chosen to rule.** These were men from the elite who were thought of as good men who might also make good decisions.
- 2) **Finite gods (statues which were idols)** The Italian government created these idols and relied upon them as standards of right and wrong.
- 3) **Authoritarianism.** [Authoritarianism](#) is the belief that power should be centralized in one man. The Caesars were the centralized and brutal final authority in Rome. [Also see HERE.](#)

Roman citizens were forced to worship the Caesars as gods in the name of unity within the State. Any other new religions – religions that had **not** existed when the [Roman Empire was established in 63 BC](#) on the Palatine Hill (modern city of Rome), were illegal ([More on the establishment of the Roman Empire](#)). Jews were not required to worship the Caesar gods because they existed before the Empire was founded in 63 BC. The three standards obviously did not hold up under the pressures of their society and the empire disintegrated from within. The government was looking for answers within this three-pronged system. They were searching for absolutes because they knew absolutes could change the inner beliefs of the Roman citizen and that would cause the individual to obey the government and the empire could sustain itself through the obedient individuals collectively. **Absolutes and truth create unity in the state.** Schaeffer states,

“In many ways Rome was great, but it had no real answers to the basic problems that all humanity faces. Consequently, their value system was not strong enough to bear the strains of life either individual or political.”

Mark Twain said regarding history, “*History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.*” We really are just like the Roman empire, but with Baseball and Hamburgers! It’s Rome just with different things.

Here is a description of how the Roman Empire gods functioned in case you are interested in reading about them.

Roman Gods - Early Pantheism <http://www.allabouthistory.org/roman-gods.htm>

Roman gods originated in the ancient "village" of Rome as the faceless and formless deities that supported farmers in their efforts with the land. The large number of Roman gods can most likely be explained by the pantheistic belief of "numen," which holds that gods and spirits inhabit places, objects and living things. The early Romans believed that everything in nature was inhabited by numina.

Even though the early Romans placed little importance on the personalities of their gods, they did care about their functions. The early Romans integrated their worship of gods into all aspects of their personal and public lives. Nothing better exhibits the extent of this worship in everyday life as in the household cult of the Dii Familiaris. In this system, every family had a guardian spirit known as the Lar Familiaris. This spirit was honored at all family functions, including sacrifices at funerals. The creative force that engenders an individual and allows him or her to grow, learn and act morally was known as the **Genius** for men and the **Luna** for women. This spirit stayed with an individual until death. The worship of Roman gods in Dii Familiaris went as far as to assign a protector spirit to different areas of the house. For instance, Forculus protects the door, Limentinus the threshold, Cardea the hinges, and Vesta the hearth.

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[Continued below](#)

Roman morals, values, decision making, and final decisions were almost completely worthless because Rome had no solid absolutes to appeal to for decision making. Good men, finite gods, and authoritarianism cannot support an empire, nor are they sufficient for the individual. These are [arbitrary absolutes](#). That is to say Roman decisions were determined by chance or impulse instead of by reason based on an infinite God.

Another spiritual ideology was introduced **in Jerusalem** in AD 33. This ideology was the very answer the Romans were looking for. However, for some reason they could not realize that the answer was right under their noses! When Christ told Peter he'd be preaching the world's first Gospel sermon, we have the establishment of the first church ever, **in Jerusalem** in the year AD 33. This was prophesied in the Old Testament repeatedly and here it was now.

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" **Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."** Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are **Peter**, and on this **rock** I will build my **church**, and the gates of **Hades** will not overcome it. **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven;** whatever you **bind** on earth will be **bound** in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be **loosed** in heaven." Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ." (Matthew 16)

Let's look quickly at the figurative language in this paragraph. "Keys"? "Kingdoms"? "This Rock"? The "gates of Hades"? It sounds so lofty – what could all this play on words mean? [Why would Christ](#)

[pick Peter out of the entire group?](#) After all, **Paul** is spoken of as the preeminent Apostle in the Bible, *not* Peter. Weren't the other apostles able to make the same statement of faith that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah as Peter did? Peter was an excellent speaker and spoke with authority the Scriptures tell us. Jesus was foreshadowing something exceedingly important that Peter would soon declare to the world. In Acts chapter 2, we see what that important "binding and loosing" is. This is the superlative of the entire Bible! The Holy Spirit - inspired Peter preaches the world's first-ever Gospel Sermon! It should be very obvious that the KEY to God's Kingdom is the Gospel of Christ. This truth is the foundation of Jesus' religion. The rock of our verbal confession like Peter's is the foundation of Christ's kingdom in a man's heart and is what the church is built on. Conversion always begins by instruction and is followed by belief, faith, repentance, **confession**, and immersion for the remission of sin to get the Holy Spirit. Since the church has **one** Foundation; that is Christ Jesus, this leaves none for Peter. (Mathematically, $1 + 0 = 1$). Peter is much too unstable a character to serve as the foundation for any enterprise. Even Peter himself writes in 1 Peter chapter two that the only foundation is the Christ. Peter talks about Zion. In the New Testament, Zion is an AKA New Testament name for the church. Peter writes that God the Father states that Christ is the only foundation, and that the cornerstone is Christ and the Christ was set in Zion, which is the church. The Jews in Acts chapter 2 were finally convinced by Peter's preaching about the Christ. They finally realize that they had just murdered the Son of God and are looking for a way to get rid of the guilt and shame they all felt.

"Now when they heard this (Peter's inspired preaching), they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them,

Repent, and be baptized (immersed) every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Judaism and the [Patriarchal Covenant](#) were fulfilled and the Christian age had been born. Jesus had shortly before told Peter that Peter would be the one to deliver the KEY message, and in Acts 2 Peter delivers that message about the "KINGDOM". God through Peter "loosed" heaven (the church of Christ) onto Earth by being the messenger to the world of what the Gospel was. Peter did not speak his own words but God's. That's why Christ used the figure of speech, "Keys". The term, "Keys" carries the meaning of the authority to open something. That is exactly what God did through Peter; He opened the church to the world. This new religion spread from the towns and cities around **Jerusalem**, and eventually to Rome, Italy, even inside the first century time frame. In the governmental seat of the Roman Empire, the first believing Jews evangelized. Jewish and Gentile peoples worshipped God according to the teaching of the Apostles. They did not have any, nor did they need any other teachings

or creeds. They knew they were to use one Book, one Way, and one God. They practiced simple Bible Christianity. They did not conform to the thinking of the time that all/any spirituality should be mingled or merged with any and all other spiritual belief systems. They taught the same thing the Apostles taught because the Apostles had taught them. They taught that the simple pattern and example was *not ever to change*. They did not blend this teaching with the Roman Italian government's religions or gods. [Ecumenism and Sychretism](#) were denied as false religion because they poison the pure teachings of Christ with human ideas. All other gods were false. No mechanical instruments were used when they sang based on the pattern the Apostles taught, they celebrated Christ's death by sharing a special meal every Sunday, they took a collection, they sang hymns, and someone preached a lesson. All churches were autonomous. There was no headquarters for the church. No men were allowed authority over more than one church as an Elder in that one local church. Collections were only to be used at that one church, and money did not flow back to any one person or central congregation or city. All written records from this period affirm these facts – including Scripture. Sadly, this made them rebels in the Roman Empire since they had begun a new religion that had not existed prior to the founding of Rome, and that was illegal. Christians were absolutely convinced the Bible was from God and they lived their lives that way. Christians had an *infinite God* compared to the finite Roman gods around them. Christians were in the world, but different *from* the world though they paid taxes, worked, and were Romans like the rest of the Italians around them. But they could not worship any other gods. These groups were *thinking differently and therefore acted differently* than the rest of Roman society. And because they were different, the world around them noticed.

Christians began to attract attention to themselves when they refused to worship the Caesars. Their refusal to worship the Caesars threatened the unity of the state. The Christian “threat” was dealt with brutally by the Roman Empire's government. The Italian governmental officials brought statues of the Caesar around all throughout Italy and demanded worship from the people. The statues held a bowl of hot coals and the official would call the families out of their homes so that they could pay their respects to the Caesar god by sprinkling incense on the coals while reciting some incantation proving their allegiance to Roman Caesar gods. If the husband refused because he was a Christian, the government official took the sword to the wife or child first and then eventually to the husband. All this was an attempt to create unity in society. Roman rule was brutal and merciless. This cruelty against humanity continued inside the Roman State-church system long after the Roman Empire fell in 476, though under a different name.

The Emperor Constantine made “Christianity” legal in 313 AD. This was both good and bad. Good because the church of the Bible could now openly worship and evangelize without being killed in the arena by the lions. The land that had been stolen from the Christians was returned to them. The political legalization was bad however in several ways. In a typical power grab move of politicians, [Constantine declared himself “Bishop Ordained by God”](#) and made himself the overlord (or pope) of “Christianity” throughout the world. Constantine replaced Jesus Christ as the head of the church. He used his personal political desires as the Emperor to create his own “church” and control the Roman empire with it. He tried to strengthen the empire as it was collapsing. Any non Constantine-approved churches were forced to stop their worship and align with the church of Constantine. **Constantine's Roman State-church** was forced on the entire population. Most of the Roman Empire's citizens still wanted to worship the gods they had always believed in. They did not want to be converted at all. Biblical Christianity was diluted

by the Roman government so that it could be used for political power. The Roman State-church now became the substitute for Christ. It was used to prop up the crumbling empire's political system instead of to teach the people truth about God. Constantine's wife Helena had a Christian belief system. She acquired many of the relics like the wood of the cross, and the bones of the three wise men (so she thought). Helena is attributed to instituting relic worship of the Roman State-church. The Roman State-church believed (and still does believe) that relics brought spiritual authority to their city.

The [Gospel became Italian common law](#) and these practices were outlawed: Crucifixion, murder of unwanted children (including abortion), Gladiatorial games, slave abuse, tattoos and body piercing. The [Church Father, Eusebius](#) lived during same time as Constantine. Eusebius said Italy was changed and became bright and hopeful when Christianity was legalized. So the basic principles of Christianity appear to have helped give the empire some type of morals, values, and absolutes. The true fundamental doctrine of Jesus' religion was rejected however, in the creation of the Roman State-church. This rejection of truth was just another sign of a crumbling nation. Constantine's legalization of *his church* created an unusual and politically-based unity of church and State and there was confusion about how government and religion should interact with one another. The Italian government took only the basic parts of Christianity that they wanted, and ignored the majority of the Gospel. This new Constantinian sect was first called *Catholicism* in about AD 450 by the Roman government who created it. The Greek word, Καθολικός, "katholikos" meaning, "universal" is not found in any text of the Bible. The Roman government took the word *Catholic* from the Greek word "καθολικός". Then the Greek word was *transliterated* to "katholikos" and then later turned into "Catholicos". This word means *universal*. But the Roman State-church is not katholikos or "universal". It is Italian. ***We should always remember that the one and only church was founded in *Jerusalem* in AD 33, NOT in Rome in 500 AD.** The Word of God came first, then the church. The Protestant Bible was available in itinerant letters inside the first century, and then in bound form exactly as you have it today, by AD 100. The Bible gives us the example of what the church is supposed to do and be. The Bible **Christians** simply called themselves the church of Christ (Romans 16:16), or Christians, in contrast to the Roman government's political katholikos.

The Italian government blended the Italian State government and a few of the concepts of Christianity. "Christian" State government priests now replaced pagan priests in worship and government. Huge, ornate cathedrals were built, like St. Peter's in Rome. Constantinian church authorities mass produced Bibles by hand copying circa 325-400 and distributed them to the people that they had recently confiscated Bibles from. No business was to be open on Sunday. Another major departure from scriptural Christianity appeared: the observation of "holy days", or holidays. For example, Constantine created "Christmas" circa 350. For three hundred years no Christian celebrated Christ's birth. Constantine picked December 25 to celebrate Christ's birth. Sunday, December 25th was a pagan holy day (birth of pagan gods) already. Constantine kept the date the same for convenience. Meanwhile, the original and true church of Christ continued to worship in the scripturally simple manner as they had from AD 33, but under the radar since Constantine's new laws would not allow Biblical Christianity to be practiced. Only Constantine's Roman State religion was allowed.

The Biblical church would not change and allow these secular, governmental ideas to be mingled with the church Christ built. The authoritarian ideas they rejected were the Caesar worship and the

development of a “Papacy” along with any other unscriptural changes. True Christians were again forced to worship in secret to retain the purity of the teaching of Christ while the political State-church religion of Rome spread inside the crumbling empire. The true Christians leaned fully and only on the Bible. In contrast, the State-church religion of the Italian hierarchal political system mingled their authoritarian system with the basic principles of Biblical Christianity hoping to gain political power and unity in society. Roman society was a bizarre mixture of people who still relied on the Roman gods and those who were part of Constantine’s new “church”. The empire continued to crumble since there still was no real base to support the culture. The Italians were still using finite gods and authoritarianism to rule the people. As the empire crumbled, intriguing signs of degeneration in art and architecture appeared.

In art, paintings became less real and more symbolic. Architecture during this period is called *Gothic*. (Think : [Flying Buttresses of Notre Dame](#), and [St. Chapelle in France](#).) The whole idea of Gothic architecture is the magnification of the individual. The ornate nature of the art during this period was created to show the greatness of self. This idea in itself is a major departure from the simplicity of the Scriptures and Biblical thinking. The Italian State-church also made changes in music under Pope Gregory (590-604). This happened just after the Roman Empire had finally fallen to the invading hordes in 476. Gregory “The Great” is attributed to supporting, formalizing, and codifying songs for the State-church religion of the new Roman State-church. As it is known, *Gregorian chant* is the formal, written music of the Roman State-church. It is much more *impersonal* than the beautiful ancient Psalms and Hymns the true church was using at the same time. Pope Gregory’s chant lacks the life and heart of the Psalms and Hymns that true Christians have been using for two thousand years. These Psalms and Hymns came from the Jews from Acts chapter 2 in AD 33. The Jews had been using these Psalms and Hymns in the Temple and Tabernacle worship for 1500 years already. All the new Christians had to do was modify the Psalms and Hymns to reflect the facts of the Christ’s work and they were usable in worship services.

In the 300’s art clearly shows a lack of creativity and pandered to the popular demand. Artists lost their ability to differentiate between that which is beautiful, and that which is not, due to societal apathy. The knowledge of **aesthetics** was lost. Coinage stamped during this time was irregular and ugly compared to coins from 100 years earlier. Reliefs and paintings became bland or too busy, lacking beauty and clarity. The music became overblown and pompous. It was loud and strident, having no beauty since it lacked movement from one dynamic to another. It was just always loud. Sensuality began to dominate art and music as well. Disgusting and degenerate sexuality was rampant throughout the empire and enslaved the minds of the people of the empire. The arts were dominated by this immorality and it destroyed the beauty which good art can behold. [Kitsch](#) art was popular. It was vulgar, pretentious, tasteless, inferior, and aesthetically deficient. We see this change in the American culture as well. Since the 1960’s popular music and art in general has become completely sexualized in debased manners, loud and strident, and lacks beauty. These crude 20th century innovations are given fancy academic names in hopes of legitimizing the art and music. But [Kitsch](#) cannot be legitimized. It is the sign of a crumbling nation. We believe that we’re actually being entertained when we submit ourselves to this popular “music” and “art” but we are only dulling and destroying our senses. There are many other similarities between the fall of Rome and the current state of society in the U.S.A.. While Rome disintegrated from inside, the new Constantinian State-church was increasing in military and political power and changing

how Italian society thought and acted. Since the Italian people had only a little knowledge of the bible, Christ's teachings were weakly rooted in their hearts. Constantine's State-church system was just not powerful enough to cause real change in the individual and so the empire continued to decay. Thinking continued to shift from selflessness to the selfish thinking of the individual and what the individual says is beautiful and good. Constantine's weak State-church could not cause a lasting change in the hearts of men because it was not fully depending on biblical truth. People were not taught the concept of God's authority correctly. Human philosophy became part of *katholikos*. In other words, authority was now divided between the Bible and the opinions of the men inside the Roman State-church to create a mixture of biblical principle and human reasoning.

Human ideas and philosophy were slowly injected into the Roman State-church system over time. Educated men of strong intellect like [Thomas Aquinas](#) mixed the ideas of the non-Christian Aristotle with Christian principles. This question was soon asked, "Is the Bible necessary since truth can be reached without the Bible?" This new thinking led to the Roman State-church's teachings being equal to the Bible. This is precisely how the *Katholikos* has retained their unscriptural "authority". Aquinas reached his odd conclusions through an incomplete understanding of the effect of Adam and Eve's sin on the human body. Thomas Aquinas taught that the human intellect was not affected in the fall of man and so was still in its perfect state. This idea is not provable scripturally. Humanity's sin affected us all in that our flesh (including our brain) is corrupted and dies after about 85 years. We had not been cursed with death before sin, but now we each have to face death. Once Aquinas convinced the Roman State-church that men could use the Bible AND worldly Philosophy (with a perfect brain and reasoning) to find "truth" themselves, the Roman State-church's doctrines were equivalent to the Bible's truth! Now, **the Roman State-church became the substitute for Christ**. Men could now think their way out of their sinfulness with their "perfect brains" and save themselves, if that were possible. Roman State-church authoritarian rulers now had power over the Bible. The Roman State-church therefore accepted [humanism](#) as a valid spiritual standard.

Christ was dethroned and made less important to (or at least equal to) human philosophy. Consider for example, Michelangelo's Sistine chapel painting which shows [pagan prophets standing next to and with the Old Testament Prophets as equals](#). Now the Roman State-church was equivalent to Christ himself just like the pagan prophets were painted as equal to the Old Testament Prophets. Great tension was created between the Bible and philosophy of *relative truth*. Should man find truth by admitting the Bible is the inerrant Truth, or should we think that man is independent from God and the Bible, and can find salvation on his own? Now the general congregants of the Roman State-church were vulnerable to any manmade ideas from the men in command of the State-church. Anything and everything could be taught as biblical. New spiritual ideas were introduced such as laws about men's works. Men began to believe that working "good" earthly works in place of the works of God, would please God. This switch in spiritual thinking completely destroyed the Biblical teaching that Christ's work is the only way to truth. The substitutionary work of Christ is the only thing that can remove man's moral guilt. Men now tried to *earn* the merit that only Christ can give us since the Roman State-church was teaching that it was possible. The writings of Thomas Aquinas and Francis of Assisi were required to be taught as scripture by the men in charge of the Roman State-church religion. Since now the Roman State-church was equivalent to Christ, their sayings and writings were foisted upon the world as new revelations. And the

Roman State-church defended their teachings with lethal force all around the world to attempt to create societal unity. But unity based on finite men cannot support a society. Names were given to these Roman State-church manmade writings to try and legitimize them. The writings were called, [Sacred Tradition, or Magisterium](#). [See also here, and here](#). This is a typical “power grab” move of a Roman politician to harness any ideology to gain the upper hand over other potential competing men who also wished to become Emperor. In contrast, the true church of Christ continued to lean wholly on the Bible and the work of Christ and rejected all new humanist philosophies, writings, and evangelism by force.

The Roman Empire timeline flows in a very logical manner. This is the “flow” to history Mr. Schaffer speaks of in the film series and book, “How Should We Then Live?”. The Roman Empire imploded due to the lack of societal base of a Christian world-view. Christianity would have given the Romans an infinite God on which to build a lasting and fair society and government. The absolutes the Romans were looking for were right in front of their faces in the teachings of the Bible and the early church, but they could not or would not consider it. When the Roman Empire adopted *some* of the principles of Christianity, *some* hope was brought to the people of the Roman Empire. The Empire tried to hold itself together with a weak form of striped down Christianity mixed with military power and politics. They hoped to invoke God’s power and love to reclaim their Empire. The Constantinian “church” sect seems to have temporarily rallied the people again and awake them from their apathy but it was too late. The Western Empire was gone in AD 476. The city of Rome was almost completely abandoned by this time.

Constantinople, also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, stood until 1453. Even it fell due to the lack of a sufficient base of Truth. I wonder... had the Roman State-church had adopted ALL of Christ’s teachings with an honest heart, would the Empire still be around? Maybe. The majority of the people must have thought that the Roman State-church was the Biblical church, because they gave their allegiance to the papacy honestly and willingly. The Roman State-church spread far and into so many countries because their powerful manner of [conversion by force on pain of death](#). The failed lessons of attempting to rule a nation under the Caesars were not heeded by the “new Caesars”. The new Caesars were the highly structured, unscriptural papal system which included bishops, arch bishops, cardinals, and the like. The Roman State-church leadership used and continues to use the **exact** same three-pronged governing system that the failed Caesars of Rome used before them. To review, here are the three standards.

1. **Good men were chosen to rule.** To be a Pope, a man must be thought of as *good*.
2. **Finite gods (statues which were idols) were created.** In pre-Christian Rome, these were relied upon as standards of right and wrong. This governing standard is represented in the Roman State-church system by relic worship. The existence of relics in Roman State-churches represents political and spiritual power and authority.
3. **[Authoritarianism](#) was established.** This was the rule of the Caesars. Caesars were the brutal final authority. But now, the Popes stepped into that role and began evangelism of the world by bullying, threats of death, using the “because I said so” appeal instead of teaching Scripture, and many, many “holy wars”. [See here, too](#).

So, with a few little tweaks to the three standards of the bungled old Roman governmental system, the new Roman State-church political religion became a powerful governmental-religious institution that appeared very pious and Biblical, while not using the Bible at all! The popes are simply “new Caesars” who claim to be guardians of Christianity. The papacy should be more fittingly thought of as guardians of their personal hallucinations of world domination under Italian rule. The system of the crown of the Caesars passing to, and living on in the papacy is well known. [See this link here.](#) The result was the [Dark Ages](#). Technically speaking, the Emperor Constantine was the first “Pope” since he is the man who created the Roman state-church and sustained it with great military might as have all the popes since him.

Today, Italy still seems to live behind America in many ways. Church attendance is 30% at best. And these are mostly women. Obviously, Italians do not take the papacy and his religion very seriously. And consider other “Catholic” countries like Mexico, South America, and Spain. These countries struggle with abject poverty and many of their cities look like they are still in the stone age. But huge, lavish cathedrals stand in the midst of the impoverished neighborhoods, all filled with gold, silver, and priceless art “collected” from the citizenry. Also consider countries who have rejected any principle of Christianity such as Japan, WWI/II Germany, Red China, India, France, Russia, all the “-istans” in the Middle East, and the like. They are all built on anti-Judeo-Christian religions, and the people suffer because of this. Japan is Shinto, India is Hindi, Red China is Buddhist, Russia is Atheist. These countries have paid a dreadful price for their anti-Christian belief systems over time. The belief systems they use cannot support the society. Their rulers are using the same tactics that Rome used in some form; rule by good men, authoritarianism, and false gods/idols. There is little justice. Poverty, disease, rape, kidnapping, illness, and early death are common. In Mexico, the citizens spend the majority of their day looking for Beans and Rice. There is no clean water to drink. They do not have the technology to keep sewage separate from the food they eat. Notice also that the Roman State-church’s governing system is the exact opposite of the American Constitutional system. The two governing systems do not mingle in any way.

Schaffer closes by saying that,

“He [the Apostle Paul] said that the integration points of the Greek and Roman world view were not enough to answer the questions posed either by the existence of the universe and its form, or by the uniqueness of man. Here he is saying that the universe and its form and the mannishness of man speak the same truth that the Bible gives in greater detail. That this God exists and that he has not been silent but has spoken to people in the Bible and through Christ was the basis for the return to a more fully biblical Christianity in the days of the Reformers. It was a message of the possibility that people could return to God on the basis of the death of Christ alone. But with it came many other realities, including form and freedom in the culture and society built on that more biblical Christianity. The freedom brought forth was titanic, and yet, with the forms given in the Scripture, the freedoms did not lead to chaos. And it is this which can give us hope for the future. [It is either this or an imposed order.](#) As I have said in the first chapter, people function on the basis of their world view more consistently than even they themselves may realize. The problem is not outward things. The problem is having, and then acting upon, the right world view — the world view which gives men and women the truth of what is.”

It is clear by looking at the historical evidence that Full Biblical Christianity carefully practiced in the observant churches of Christ is the only way to God and the only way to true societal & national freedom and contains the absolutes necessary to govern society successfully. Follow the true absolutes in the Bible. **That** is how we avoid enslavement by another nation. Trusting the Biblical absolutes and teaching our society these truths will enable our nation to exist successfully. Unfortunately, there is a human tendency to abandon truth for felt needs. [Belief and unbelief is a cyclical pattern](#) throughout human history. But it does not have to be. We could reverse this pattern we are in right now and return to the old paths. Consider quotes from men who are responsible for our beginnings...

The **U.S. Supreme Court** identified America as a Christian nation in 1892, after **10 years** of examining hundreds of documents on the foundation of the country. The Justices came to the unanimous conclusion that the documents undeniably prove that The United States of America is a Christian nation. Here's the quote.

"These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a religious people, a Christian nation." [SEE LINK HERE](#)

John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, summed up the historic event that led to America's independence when he said,

"The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: that it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity." [SEE LINK HERE](#)

Beware of supplanting the language of Jesus with the logic of man. It would be nice if all the preachers or churches in the land taught the same thing on every biblical doctrine. But that is not going to happen. Man has divided (created denominationalism) God's truth since the beginning of both covenants and has destroyed the beautiful flow of the tapestry of His written Truth. We must study diligently to come to the correct understanding of Scripture. According to the universal laws of logic, any Bible passage can only mean ONE thing. That one meaning must be determined to be the meaning it was given when God wrote it. [Links on LOGIC](#) [And HERE](#) If we do not rule from the solid base of biblical Christianity, we will inevitably go the way of all fallen empires. All men are fallen – even our “good” leaders. Using the Bible will ensure freedom from arbitrary absolutes and arbitrary decisions. Humanist-based law systems are very unstable and always lead to enslavement because the humanist has no method of determining right from wrong. [Notice how the countries not based on Christianity have to build walls to keep people inside, but they flee to nations like the United States.] Humanism cannot determine any absolutes. Man is not autonomous. Humanism also damages scientific thought by breaking down the structured thinking in the Scientific Method.

In countries like the Middle East and China, we notice that science never matured like it does in the Christian countries. They do not have a solid base on which to build scientific thought. Humanism also tries to separate the Bible from science. The great scientific minds of history such as Bacon and

Newton rejected that idea. They knew that the universe was created in a consistent, reasonable, and orderly way. The cause and effect model is only workable in a Christian worldview. The humanist view of a random universe is not reasonable. In the U.S. we see this happening since the popularity of Darwinism. From Darwinism comes racism and terrible pessimism and depression because if man is only a conditioned machine, what is the point of the continuation of humanity?

Removing God and putting humanism in its place is extraordinarily poor judgment. Mr. Schaeffer deftly describes the reasons empires like Rome fall and are enslaved by other nations. If we can learn from history and return to God's Word, we should prosper again. If we continue to reject Him, and replace Him with the ideas of men, we can expect very little societal benefit and strength. Thoughts are the beginning of the basis of a nation. Thinking on Scriptural ideas without addition or subtraction is the key to survival both on the planet and into the next world. There are only two choices, Imposed Order, or affirmation of the universal authority of God and his Word. Christianity cannot be viewed as just another means to an end. It must be treated as the only way because God is absolute.

Mark O'Brien

"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. "

GOD through Paul. Colossians 2:8,9

Here are the book chapters in summary.

Chapter One—Ancient Rome. The finite Graeco-Roman gods were not a sufficient inward base for the Roman society: Rome crumbled from within, and the invasions of the barbarians only completed the break- down. The answers the Roman government were looking for were right under their noses, in the newly established church of Christ. The church of Christ leaned fully on the Bible's truths for living life successfully.

Chapter Two—The Middle Ages. "The greatness of me". The Middle Ages were the post-Roman age: a time of uncertainty in which there were great advances of the Catholic State-church political system but also great distortions of Biblical truth, eventually leading to the Renaissance and the Reformation. Around 450 AD the Roman government incorporated some Christian principles and created the Catholic State-church political system. In this system, the church became the substitute for Christ. Men like Thomas Aquinas taught that man can reach truth without the Bible. Therefore, the Catholic State-church political system became equivalent to Biblical truth and the Bible was set aside. If a man wanted to get close to God, he had to go through a Catholic Priest.

Chapter Three—The Renaissance (Rebirth). Although the Renaissance revived the realization that man and nature are important, it went overboard by making man the measure of all things—and by that

destroyed the importance of man in the eyes of God. God and Biblical truth was even further displaced with humanism which is man's reasoning. Humanism through the Catholic State-church political system led to growing pessimism since no absolute truth can come through human reasoning.

Chapter Four—The Reformation. The Reformers sought to bring freedom *from* the Catholic State-church system's distorted view of Biblical truth. The main goal of the Reformation was to "reform" the Catholic State-church system back to an earlier system that did **not**:

1. Make the Catholic State-church system the universal authority.
2. Use the "added work" salvation of the Catholic State-church system.
3. Mix Biblical truth and thinking with pagan thought.

The main problem of the Reformers was that it is impossible to "reform" or fix something that was broken when it was created in AD 450. The Catholic State-church system is not based on the infinite Scriptural pattern as laid out in the Bible. Therefore, to reform the mangled and corrupted Catholic State-church system is useless. The only worthwhile goal is restoration- restoring the original teachings of Christ

Chapter Five—The Reformation, Continued. The impact of the Reformation on society at large was the opportunity of freedom from arbitrary absolutes without chaos in society.

Chapter Six—The Enlightenment (The Revolutionary Age). The Enlightenment believed in the perfectibility of society through science and Revolution. The Enlightenment further developed the Renaissance themes of autonomy from received religious authority and gave anchorage to a more secular worldview. But this led to civil wars and revolutionary wars for many countries. Some countries adopted the Biblical basis for law and some did not. The countries that did not adopt Christian governing principles were unstable and saw much war. They were then governed by Communism, Authoritarianism, Despotism, and Totalitarianism. Communism and Authoritarianism only produced internal oppression which is enslavement. Countries that did adopt Christian governing principles were the ones who realized that man is fallen – even the leaders. Therefore all men need to be checked by the Word of God. These societies were then free from arbitrary absolute decisions made by despotic rulers.

Chapter Seven—The Rise of Modern Science (The Scientific Age). Modern science could only have arisen from a Christian foundation: namely, that man is not part of a closed system but can observe and act into the system. The main problem during this age were that science left no place for morals, significance of life, and meaning of life. Christian principles were removed from science. Science forgot that scientific method and theory were only possible because God is a reasonable God and He created a consistent and orderly universe. Science forgot that science is possible only because of an ordered universe. The "cause and effect" thinking was abandoned for a random universe. The idea that nobody really knows the cause behind the universe developed. Anti Christian Societies like China never matured scientifically because they did not retain a sufficient and infinite base.

Chapter Eight—The Breakdown of Philosophy and Science. The foundation in Philosophy and Science was changed from antithetical thinking to dialectical thinking—and because of it reason became more and more pessimistic.

Chapter Nine—Modern Philosophy and Modern Theology. Due to the pessimistic view of reason, Philosophy and Theology started to seek meaning in the *irrational*. The thinking developed that man was born free, but is chained all around. This led to the Bohemian ideology.

- The Age of Non-Reason, or the denial of reason. Humanistic man gave up hope in modern science and became pessimistic because humanism did not answer any questions. No unifying answers were in science. This left a vacuum that filled by Eastern religions because the heart of Eastern religions is the denial of reason. Liberal church theology was born. Humanistic man developed the idea of Existentialism which meant that there is no right or wrong and that humanity must learn to get along even though we all live our own way. Little or no thought was given to reasons or thoughts. Man hoped to find non-rational meaning and values. The idea of one-sided “**tolerance**” was beginning to develop. The new tolerance was defined by the idea that everyone must agree and support the ones who define tolerance. The “intolerant” were not to be tolerated – those who believe in absolute truth.
- A mechanical view of man developed. Thinking: there’s no difference between cruelty and non-cruelty, no place for love and freedom. (See John Paul Sar, Swietzer, Kirkegaard, Gauguin, Carl Barth, Russo, etc.)
- Darwin’s idea of survival of the fittest was popular since that is the base of humanist philosophy.
- Humanism “kills” God and leaves us with a type of spirituality that does not have a context. Everything God has given to humankind is also dead.

Chapter Ten—Modern Art, Music, Literature, and Films. What began in Philosophy now made itself felt in the Arts: the abandonment of reason and increased **fragmentation**.

- The Age of Fragmentation. Use of the term “fragmentation” refers to the process modern artists and thinkers of fracturing truth and reality into its constituent parts like a mirror smashed on the ground. The opposite of fragmentation is unity. In music and art, man is depicted as less human as in Cubism where the human figure in the painting disappears completely. In music, the term “perpetual variation, but never resolution” is used to describe this period. Cadenzas had no termination as in John Cage’s work. This 20th century music turned out to be “sheer noise” according to Schaeffer.
- Biblically, man is not spoken of in a romantic manner because man is fallen. But notice that the Bible is not pessimistic like humanistic writings since history moves on to a *resolution* for Christians.
- To combat fragmentation, unity must be achieved, but it can only be achieved through agreeing that the Bible is perfect Truth.
- See also: TS Elliot “Waste Land”, Renoir after 1885, Cézanne, Antinoni, Felini, Bergman, etc.
 - It is interesting to note that Bergman uses one of the world’s greatest and most highly structured & ordered musical masterpieces Bach’s “The Goldberg Variations” in his film,

“The Silence” to show fragmentation. This is common in 20th century art and shows a glaring contradiction and absurdity in this era’s thinking style.

- Man is again left with no hope since fragmentation answers none of our questions about right and wrong. Fragmentation was abandoned therefore and even more pessimism and apathy resulted.

Chapter Eleven—Our Society. We have come full circle: our society has become like the declining Roman Empire of old, but in less time.

Chapter Twelve—Manipulation and the New Elite. Because our society stands on the verge of chaos, we are in danger of coming under an authoritarian elite which will increasingly manipulate our lives.

- The Age of Personal Peace and Affluence. Our society’s current mindset is typified by the phrase, “I just want to be left alone”. The radical left and drugs of the 1960’s failed to answer any questions and men do not want to turn to God’s answers, therefore a greater apathy is left and more pessimism. Philosophies like Marxism and Leninism, Holmes’ “Variable Law”, Altima, and the like, resulted.
- If there is no absolute (The Bible) to judge society, then society becomes the absolute.
- Arbitrary law develops. Consider the 1973 ruling on abortion, and Obamacare in 2010. Both these rulings were voted against by the majority of Americans (72% against, 70% against). So how did these laws pass? By an arbitrary decision made by the minority!

Chapter Thirteen—The Alternatives. The only plausible alternative to authoritarianism is to align ourselves to a Biblical worldview—a worldview which produces freedom without arbitrary absolutes.

- Final choices. Those who do not recognize God as the only Authority become the “Manipulative Authoritarian Elite”. A few will determine what kind of people we want genetically through genetic engineering. We will vote for those who promise us personal peace and affluence. This will happen very subtly through media like Television since the media can show whatever they want to show. These are the people who do not understand the uniqueness of mankind in the universe. They will continue to reject the answers that actually give answers. See also: Imperial Judiciary, and Technocracy.
- There are only two choices, Imposed Order, or Affirmation of the Universal Authority of God and His Word. Christianity cannot be viewed as just another means to an end. It has to be treated as the only way because God is absolute.

LINKS

[“Why I left the Catholic church” by Joseph Colby Malone.](#)

The Interactive Bible. <http://www.bible.ca/>

<http://www.rationalpi.com/theshelter/disaster.html>

[Roman Gods](http://www.allabouthistory.org/roman-gods.htm) - Early Pantheism continued. (<http://www.allabouthistory.org/roman-gods.htm>)

Roman Gods - Later Expansion

Roman gods began taking on the forms that we would recognize today during the dynasty of the Etruscan kings that ruled the city of Rome in the 6th century BC. During this period, the Romans adapted a group of **three Etruscan gods** as the focus of state worship. These gods were worshiped at the **grand temple on the Capitoline Hill**, and, as such, became known as the Capitoline triad. The triad consisted of **Jupiter (Zeus), Juno (Hera), and Minerva (Athena)**. Once the rule of the Etruscan dynasty ended in 509 BC, Rome became a republic. The Roman Republic was ruled by two chief magistrates, each of whom was elected to a one-year term. During this period, the Capitoline temple became the focus of public worship.

As Rome's power grew and its sphere of influence expanded, the Roman Empire encountered the older and richer religious beliefs of the Greeks. The Romans also came into contact with the beliefs of other eastern Mediterranean Sea cultures. As a result, **Romans began to adopt various foreign gods** and religious customs. In many cases, gods and heroes from foreign cultures were given temples in Rome. The acceptance of Greek gods had the biggest influence on Roman religion. The earliest Greek gods adopted by the Romans were Castor and Polydeuces in 484 BC. Later in the 5th century BC, the Greek god Apollo was introduced. Apollo would eventually symbolize Roman virtue and austerity. Other Roman gods that took on Greek characteristics included Diana (Artemis), Mercury (Hermes), Neptune (Poseidon), Venus (Aphrodite), and Vulcan (Hephaestus).

As Rome continued to expand its political and geographic influence, Rome continued to assimilate a wider variety of religious beliefs and customs. In some cases, the assimilation of a foreign god was done to fit a particular role in Rome's expansion. This was the case for the goddess Cybele, whose worship was the direct result of the threat that Hannibal posed towards Rome. Even though Hannibal was eventually defeated, the worship of Cybele continued. The Romans also began to assimilate the belief in **savior-gods from so called "mystery" religions**. One of these was the Persian religion of Mithrasism. The Persian god **Mithra** (god of light and wisdom) **offered salvation through the belief in an immortal soul**. These religions became popular since they offered a greater sense of community than strict pantheism.

Roman Gods - Divine Emperors

The nature of Roman gods expanded again as the Roman Empire came into contact with the belief of divine kingship. At first, the Romans rejected the idea that a human ruler should be worshiped as a god. **In 44 BC, Julius Caesar permitted a statue of himself with the inscription, "The unvanquished god," and declared himself dictator for life.** That same year, Julius Caesar was killed by citizens who wanted to see Rome return to its earlier republican ideas. Caesar's heir, **Octavian (Augustus), made himself the first emperor of Rome**. However, he avoided any claim to being divine. In fact, the notion that the emperor was divine was ridiculed throughout much of the 1st century AD.

However, as the government of the Roman Empire became more autocratic and gave rulers almost unlimited power, **emperors eventually accepted divine honors. This belief in the emperor's divine authority eventually led to the requirement of a sacrifice to the emperor as a sign of loyalty. The requirement of a sacrifice to the emperor became a significant source of conflict with early Christians. Christians refused to worship the emperor as god, and therefore, would not sacrifice to him. This led to persecution of the Christians by the Roman political authorities that enforced the practice.** The period of worshiping Roman emperors as gods continued until the 4th century AD, when Emperor Constantine the Great became the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. In 392 AD, Emperor Theodosius I banned the practice of pagan religions in Rome altogether.

Accolades: (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/How_Should_We_Then_Live%3F)

In 1954, Schaeffer was awarded the [honorary Doctor of Divinity](#) degree from Highland College in [Long Beach, California](#).^[5]

In 1971, Schaeffer received the honorary [Doctor of Letters](#) degree from [Gordon College](#) in [Wenham, Massachusetts](#).

In 1982, [John Warwick Montgomery](#) nominated Schaeffer for an honorary [Doctor of Laws](#) degree, which was conferred in 1983 by the [Simon Greenleaf School of Law](#), [Anaheim, California](#) in recognition of his apologetic writings and ministry.^[6]

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- Chapter 2: The Middle Ages - **Had many positive elements of a Christian society, but allowed humanistic concepts to begin to blend with the earlier Bible based Christianity. These elements would begin to polarize in the Renaissance.**
- Chapter 3: The Renaissance - The rebirth of classical thought. The humanistic ideal, man beginning only from himself, becomes dominant and will continue to grow to its logical conclusion through the further periods.
- Chapter 4: The Reformation - The philosophic reasons the reformers wanted to break away from the Church of Rome. The reformers attitudes toward art and culture.
- Chapter 5: The Reformation – Continued - The effects the Reformation had on society, affecting thinkers who even themselves may not have been Christian by the traditional definition.
- Chapter 6: The Enlightenment - How optimism at human potential became divorced from religion. How the French Revolution showed the logical conclusion of this.
- Chapter 7: The Rise of Modern Science - Science's foundation came from confidence that God had created an orderly world that we could understand.
- Chapter 8: The Breakdown in Philosophy and Science - The shift from the concept of the uniformity in an *open* system to the concept of natural causes in a *closed* system^[12] begins the descent to despair and the conclusion that man is merely a machine.^[13]
- Chapter 9: Modern Philosophy and Modern Theology - Further steps down the line of despair. How the theologians follow the philosophers.
- Chapter 10: Modern Art, Music, Literature, and Films - Numerous examples of despair and alienation in modern productions.
- Chapter 11: Our Society - How the values of *personal peace* and *affluence* permeate our society.
- Chapter 12: Manipulation and the New Elite - How our society has opened itself up to the coming of an elite authoritarian state.
- Chapter 13: The Alternatives - Return to the Christian foundation of our society^[14] or face increasing economic breakdown, war, the chaos of violence, radical redistribution of wealth, and growing shortage of food and natural resources.^[15]
- *A Special Note* - Christians have special responsibilities
- *Chronological Index* - A detailed time line, intended to be used like an index, with page number references tied to the text.
- *Topical Index* - A more traditional index
- *Select Bibliography*

The film series

The film series *How Should We Then Live?* was a 1977 Gospel Films Production, written and narrated by [Francis A. Schaeffer](#), executive producer [Billy Zeoli](#), created and produced by [Franky Schaeffer V](#), directed by [John Gonser](#) (some scenes by Franky Schaeffer V), post production directed by [Mel White](#). Each episode is just under half an hour.

These are links to the actual videos. Only the first one is a full length video. The rest are the first 10 minutes of the video.

- [Episode I - The Roman Age](#) [Full text at http://cmunki.net/articles/how_shall_we_then_live.htm]
- [Episode II - The Middle Ages](#)
- [Episode III - The Renaissance](#)
- [Episode IV - The Reformation](#)
- [Episode V - The Revolutionary Age](#)
- [Episode VI - The Scientific Age](#)
- [Episode VII - The Age of Non Reason](#)
- [Episode VIII - The Age of Fragmentation](#)
- [Episode IX - The Age of Personal Peace & Affluence](#)
- [Episode X - Final Choices](#)

INTERESTING QUOTES....

"Christianity, Schaeffer explained, is not merely something that is personally meaningful and instructive for individual behavior. Christianity is, rather, "true to what is." It speaks credibly to all the things that matter most. Nothing should be shunted aside as merely "secular," since Jesus Christ is Lord of all. The Christian has nothing to fear from the world of ideas because the Christian worldview is sufficient to meet the intellectual challenges posed by secular philosophy or by other religions. Moreover, Christianity offers the world "true truth" (as Schaeffer put it) that cannot be found by any other means. Without this revelation, men and women are lost, both philosophically (they do not know who they are) and morally (they do not know how to live)." ...**I was impressed by its clarity, insights, and its qualifications and lack of grandiosity.** (<http://theconstructivecurmudgeon.blogspot.com/2005/07/book-review-how-shall-we-then-live.html>)
— Douglas Groothuis Ph.D.

Salvation is:

being "[Born Again](#)", and also called "[Obeying The Gospel](#)"

It is a [pattern](#) found eight times in Acts. He left us a [pattern](#) in Acts so that we can be assured we've "obeyed" correctly in all things!

YOU CAN IMITATE THIS [PATTERN](#) TODAY!

1. One must be taught correctly (Romans 10:17, Matt 7:24-27)
2. One must then believe correctly based on what he's been taught (Heb 11:6, Mark 16:15-16)
3. One must develop correct faith from the believing (Heb 11:6)
4. One must repent (develop **Godly sorrow** for his sin, and promise to fight sin for the rest of his life) (2 Corinthians 7:10, Acts 2:38, 17:30, Luke 13:3)
5. One must confess, also called making your good confession right before being immersed. (Matt 10:32-33, Acts 8:36-37, Romans 10:9)
6. One must be Baptized (Immersed)- as an adult - for **EXACTLY** what the Bible says to be Baptized for, which is for remission of sin, to receive the **Holy Spirit**, required to be saved. That's right! Only baptism (Immersion) in Jesus' name forgives sin. ***There is no forgiveness outside baptism for the exactly correct reason! If you've only believed, or been baptized as an outward sign of an inward change, or just because Christ did it, or 'sprinkled' as a baby, then sadly you are not scripturally "Born Again". Statements you may have heard from the pulpit at your church regarding "Jesus died for you and me", ""Jesus loves you!", and "God shed his blood that all can be saved", and the like are INCOMPLETE SCRIPTURAL IDEAS and are meaningless unless you understand the rest of the section you are reading!! (**Acts 2:38, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 22:16, 1 Peter 3:20-21, Acts 10:48, John 3:5, Luke 7:30, Read 2 Cor. 5:17 along with Gal. 3:27. Romans 6:3-5, Acts 8:36-38, Mark 1:9-10, John 3:23. Matt 28:19, Isaiah 28:9, not for infants: Matt 18:3, Mark 10:13-15, Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 14:12).**

One must live the rest of his life a Christian and cannot "fall away" like Demas did. (Demas listed as Fellow Worker with Paul - Philemon 24, listed with the Christians in Col. 4:14, but then leaves the faith in 2 Tim. 4:10. **Must remain faithful:** Rev. 2:10) Also see Galatians 5:4, Romans 11. That also means obeying Hebrews 10:25 which states we must be in good standing at the Lord's church - the church of Christ and be in attendance at all times. The Head (Jesus) cannot be separated from the Body (the church which is YOU!) and survive! If you love Him, you will always desire to be near His Flock! Do NOT forsake the assembling of yourselves! **Do NOT** distort the Gospel message in any way. It is the only hope the world has.