

# MythBusters...

Busting the Myths that many followers of Christ may have  
Jude 1:3 & 2 Timothy 3:12-4:4

1. **What is Truth?** (Pilate asked Jesus "what is Truth?")

**John 18:37-38** ESV - Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--**to bear witness to the truth**. Everyone who is **of the truth** listens to my voice." (38) Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."

**That is the great Question → What is Truth?**

**John 14:6** - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except **through Me**. [ESV]

**John 5:39-40** (39) "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; (40) and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. [NASB]

**John 5:44-47** - "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God? (45) "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. (46) "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. (47) "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" [NASB]

**(The LIVING WORD of GOD → Jesus is the TRUTH)**

**John 17:17-19** ESV - Sanctify them in **the truth**; **Your Word is Truth**. (18) As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in **truth**.

**Matt 5:18** "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

**Luke 16:17** "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail."

**Matt. 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away." (see Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33)

**2 Peter 1:16-21** - For **we did not follow cleverly devised myths** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were **eyewitnesses** of His majesty. (17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the Voice spoke to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," [see Matt. 17:5] (18) we ourselves

heard this very voice spoken *to Him* from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain. (19) *Therefore* we have something more sure, the **prophetic word**, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, (20) knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. (21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. [ESV]

**The Written Word of God – OT and NT → is the TRUTH – in written form.**

**What is Truth? → Accurate Reporting of the Actual Facts.**

Reality Reporting, Authentic, Faithful to the facts, Genuine.

**Anything less - would be called “FALSE”**

If someone leaves something out of a report, by accident, **it is still false**, but it may not be considered a LIE.

A **LIE** is withholding or distorting the truth, of the reporting of the facts, with the **INTENT** to Deceive. It is still called **“FALSE”**. **It is NOT Truth.**

**We are NOT to compromise the TRUTH of GOD – His Word...**

**Jude 1:3** Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about **our common salvation**, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to **earnestly contend for the faith that was once for all** delivered to the saints.

No New Doctrines, No New Doctrinal Practices, No New Customs (that one could base on the Biblical Record) – Once FOR ALL... We must therefore look to the Bible – and always ASK – **What does God say in His Word?**

We must evaluate every custom, tradition, way of doing ministry, etc. in the light of Holy Scripture.

## 2. **What does God think of Man's Religious Traditions – the Traditions of MAN?**

**Mark 7:1-13** - The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Him. (2) They observed that some of His disciples were eating their bread with unclean--that is, unwashed--hands. (3) (For the Pharisees, in fact all the Jews, will not eat unless they wash their hands **ritually**, keeping the tradition of the elders. (4) When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they have washed. And there are many other **customs** (i.e. traditions) they have received and keep, like the washing of cups, jugs, copper utensils, and dining couches.) (5) Then the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why don't Your disciples **live according to the tradition of the elders**, instead of eating bread with **ritually** unclean hands?" (6) He answered them, "Isaiah prophesied correctly about you hypocrites, as it is written: **These people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.** (7) **They worship Me in vain, teaching as doctrines the commands of men.** (8) **Disregarding the command of God, you keep the tradition of men.**" (9) He also said to them, "**You completely invalidate God's command in order to maintain your tradition!**

(10) For Moses said: **Honor your father and your mother;** and, **Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.** (11) But you say, 'If a man tells his father or mother: Whatever benefit you might have received from me is Corban'" (that is, a gift *committed to the temple*), (12) "you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. (13) **You revoke (make void – make empty) God's word by your tradition that you have handed down.** And you do many other similar things." [HCSB]

**Jesus RAILED against that – He HATES those kinds of traditions.**  
**WHY? → BECAUSE** – their own man-made – made-up traditions – religious traditions - made God's Word Empty or VOID. It made it of no effect for those who follow those traditions. **Traditions, like those, cause people to be confused and trust in man's traditions over God's Word.** And it makes people think that those traditions are on par with God's Word – or are actually from God's Word – or they are commands/rites/rituals that God wants us to follow. **Yet those traditions/rites/rituals/customs cannot be found in the pages of Holy Scripture.**

Yet, for the most part, people in general, and I would dare say, a majority of those who call themselves Christians, **would rather follow traditions**, without thinking them through, **than they would follow God's Word.** And when confronted with the truth of God's word, regarding those traditions, they would **still** rather follow those man-made religious traditions, anyway. **They in reality could care less about TRUTH or God's Word. They would rather compromise – and usually cave into PEER PRESSURE. They just LOVE those things they are familiar with and those things that are convenient and comfortable.**

**Are WE Biblical Christians or “Traditional Christians”? That is the Question.**

**2 Tim. 3:12-4:4** (12) Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (13) But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (14) You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, (15) and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings** which are **able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** (16) **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; (17) so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

**4:1-4** (1) I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and (*or “even”*) of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, (4) **and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**  
[NASB]

-----  
**Myths** → fairy tales, fables, fabricated stories that are false, old wives tales. This word is **never** used in the New Testament as a vehicle to convey TRUTH in any way. It is always used to convey the meaning of a fable, a tale, a false story full of pretense.

-----  
By contrast – Jesus’ parables are never called “myths”, although they are stories. Those stories convey TRUE – Heavenly – Godly principles. The Greek word for “Myths”, as used by God in the New Testament, conveys the opposite meaning.

-----  
In this passage, **God’s Word**, which is **the Truth** and is **God Breathed**, is contrasted with what some people will eventually start desiring – **nice stories** that make them **feel good** – and they make sure that they will collect & surround themselves with those kinds of teachers → that teach false customs, lies, and myths/fables/tales. Most people, for the most part, like lies, fiction, false-hood, man-made traditions – as long as it feeds selfishness, and makes them **feel comfortable, safe, is enjoyable, and is entertaining.**

**And comfort is the goal with these kinds of people.** They like what they like and they make sure they get it. **They do not want God’s Word to challenge them or to lead them to repentance and transformation.**

-----  
BTW – **God has never called us to be comfortable – but He has called us to be HOLY, Blameless, and Righteous before HIM.** We are called to **serve HIM** and to **LOVE HIM** with all that we are... and **to stand up and earnestly contend for the faith ONCE for all delivered unto the saints.** It sounds more like a military call of service than a ride at an amusement park, doesn’t it? Full devotion to our Holy God, demands all that we are – and being self-centered and wanting to be comfortable is quite the opposite, isn’t it? Yet those folks in that passage **want myths and traditions of man** more than they want God or His Truth.

3. **We are not supposed to Worship God according to pagan traditions or customs.** We are **not** supposed to Worship and/or Follow God based upon traditions and customs of the pagans or the traditions and customs of those who worship or used to worship false gods. We are **not** supposed to base any customs or rituals on their customs or man-made traditions.

#### **Deut. 12:29-32**

When Yahweh your God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, (30) beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?' (31) **You shall not behave thus toward Yahweh your God**, for every abominable act which Yahweh hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. (32) **“Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.”** [NASB]

God did not want the Israelites to learn and understand how those pagan nations (peoples and tribes) worshipped and followed their false gods. God did not want the Israelites to learn their ways and then Worship and Follow Him based upon those pagan ways/customs/rites/rituals. He wanted the Israelites to Worship and Follow Him based on the way He had revealed to them through Moses - as written in God's Word.

The question may come to your mind, "Are we Christians to follow and obey God's Word to Worship and Follow God?" **That is, are we to follow the Bible AS the basis for how we follow, obey and Worship God? Of Course we are!!!** **Can we WORSHIP the Living and TRUE God by using pagan rites, pagan rituals, and/or pagan customs? ANSWER:** There is nothing in the New Testament that would give a hint of supporting that we are allowed to Worship God using pagan ways/customs/rituals. **On the contrary: Jesus said that we are to Worship God in Spirit and Truth (John 4:19-24).** And we are to do this according to His revealed Word – as shown in the Old and New Testaments. **→ No more Worship of God based on the TEMPLE and/or Levitical Priesthood, etc....** Of course we are **not** supposed to sacrifice animals in the Temple in Jerusalem, or follow any of the Temple-based / Levitical Priesthood-based worship practices. These were done away with in Christ → according to the teachings of the Apostles in the New Testament. But we **are** to follow what is revealed in the New Testament **based on the teachings of the apostles.** We are to follow God's Word, His TRUTH and Worship God in **Spirit** and **Truth**. We are Not to Worship God in "**Spirit and Man-made religious traditions**"!!! **NOR fleshly-selfishness and TRUTH.** But surrendered to God's Spirit – Filled with God's Spirit → based upon God's Word – God's Truth. **Genuine, Authentic, Real Worship.** Not prideful pretentious Worship, to be noticed by others... but to true worship of the living and True God.

#### **Examples of those who came out of paganism into Christ:**

**1 Thess. 1:6-10** (6) You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the **Word** in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, (7) so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (8) For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. (9) For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, **and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,** (10) and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. [NASB]

**Acts 19:18-20** (18) Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their *pagan* practices. (19) And many of those who practiced magic (*witchcraft*) brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. (20) So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. [NASB]

There are no examples in the Bible anywhere, where a person who comes out of paganism into following the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the living and true God – that brings his or her pagan practices with him/her to worship God with. **There is always a cutting off and turning away from those pagan practices.**  
-----

### **Authentic Worship and Praise toward God... in Spirit and Truth?**

**Heb 13:15** Through Him (*Jesus Christ*) then, let us continually offer up a **sacrifice** of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give **thanks** to His Name.

**Rom 12:1-2** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. [NASB]

**Genuine, Authentic, Real** – Worship of God in Spirit and Truth is a “Whole Life” type of Sacrifice of Worship unto God – every day of the week, 24/7/365. It is impossible – unless we are **surrendered to God and His Word** and allow Him **to Live His Life in us and Through us**. We must allow God’s Word to transform our Mind which will transform our Lives by His Spirit in Christ Jesus.

#### **4. Closing Questions:**

- a. Can you think of anything in your life that is hindering you from Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth, as revealed in the Bible – the way God wants you to Worship Him with a Thankful heart.  
If there is, come forward and let’s talk, or we can talk at some other time – or you can talk with someone else in this body of believers who loves and cares for you. But you need to confess that sin to God and allow others to pray for you and with you, etc.
- b. Do you love man-made religious traditions more than the revealed Word of God? Do you follow man-made religious traditions that you think are really Christian, but you cannot find those traditions or customs in the God’s Word? If you do not know – examine your life and ways in the light of God’s Word.
- c. Do you worship God the way that pagans worship their false gods? Do you just worship God to get the goodies He might offer? Or are you in love with God, just because He loves you and sent His Son to die on the cross to redeem you?
- d. Do you know God’s redeeming love personally? If not, please come forward, pray this prayer... etc...???