

Wow!

If This is What God is Like
Then Count Me In!

A spiritual Myth Buster, like no other!

Edward Sager

Rest of the Story - Volume 10

Author's Note

The thief hanging next to Jesus got it, how about the rest of us?

Knowing the **TRUTH** about what God is like should be at the top of our agenda - RIGHT?

Especially after Jesus said **knowing both** him and his Father is life eternal - John 17:3

Why aren't we spending our precious time there instead of all the fuss over gaining forgiveness when knowing God should be the important issue?

Biblical Fact: Lucifer / the devil, was cast down from heaven to this earth in its beginning, it's said he has led the whole world astray. Could we ask, led astray about what? (Revelation 12:9)

What God is like, of course!

Have you ever wondered what the plan of salvation would look like if the story began with the fall of Lucifer instead of the fall of Adam and Eve?

Shouldn't **TRUE** stories begin at their beginnings?

I would have to hang my head in shame if I didn't make an attempt to share what I've been shown throughout "The Rest of the Story Series" about the kind of God Jesus came to reveal! John 17:6

Introduction / Dedication

This little book, along with the entire “Rest of the Story Series” is dedicated to spiritual leaders around the world. No matter what wagon (spiritual group) you are linked to, you are to be commended for being a part of God’s plan to meet people where they are.

If your passion is to enhance the lives of those around you by encouraging them to walk away from the evil that’s sure to harm them – you are to be commended for responding to God’s call - a true ambassador of Heaven.

Warning label: What’s ahead could shock you into total denial, or it could cause you to want to throw the baby out with the bath water, so to speak, by walking away from your spiritual beliefs. But may Ed be bold in saying, don’t get angry as Jonah did, wishing to die because things didn’t turn out the way he thought they should. Instead, feel blessed as part of God’s demo to the universe.

Just be patient, allow God the time to speak for there’s a time for us to laugh, a time to

cry, a time to die, but for now, it's time to think!

It's time to listen & think, because knowledge has increased regarding most everything – why not spiritual knowledge as well? In fact, Jesus did say He had more to tell us – John 16:12.

Question: When we get to Heaven, which one would you want to meet first, Jesus or God the Father?

The answer invariably comes back as Jesus, of course. So, why do you suppose that is?

At any rate, the intent of “The Rest of the Story Series” is to bring an awareness or enlightenment to the fact that Jesus said, “*if you have seen me, you have seen the Father*”

Meaning the Father is like Jesus.

Now, if you're a person that's willing to listen – Ed would like to introduce you to the gospel that Jesus came to give – it's the Gospel from Christ, like no other – it's the good news message that Jesus came to give, (**Luke 4:43**) it's all about his Father!

In fact, Jesus said **this was the reason why he was sent**. It's the same picture that caused the thief, hanging on a cross next to Jesus, to think –

**Wow! “If this is what God is like,
then count me in!”**

PREFACE

The information presented in this book is not meant to draw anyone away from their present following, but to broaden your view about God and how He has gone to great lengths to win us back to a trust relationship.

And if you're open to being challenged with a 'thought provoking' spiritual journey, get set to be amazed at the breath-taking view within

“The Rest of the Story Series.”

It overflows throughout, with a most awesome picture of God – at least, that's been the testimony of a few.

You'll discover the secret behind what changed the heart of the thief hanging next to Jesus to think, ***“Wow! If this is what God is like - then count me in!”***

The shocking info you're about to explore has been referred to by many as a spiritual myth-buster, like no other.

Mainly, because of exposing the many myths about God - that He allowed to run rampantly among every spiritual group on the planet.

You'll discover the reasons why God allowed distortions about Himself, as well as why there are so many different churches.

You'll discover how God can say, with our free will choice intact, that evil will never raise its ugly head again.

You'll also discover why most all students of the Bible have had their attention **diverted from the heavenly issue** of God's character, over to Adam and Eve breaking the rules.

Along with many other shocking realities, you'll discover, in God's method of teaching, the answer to a question that no one, not even biblical scholars, have been able to answer.

The question is, since we know that God will never take away our free-will choice, what's going to secure the universe against evil ever happening again?

I mean, after we've been taken to Heaven. Remember, Lucifer's rebellion began in a

perfect environment, that some of us call Heaven.

By the way, **why is it** that biblical scholars seem to have overlooked the fact that rebellion against God began with Lucifer, in the heavenly control center, and not with Adam and Eve, here on earth?

And another one, why is it that some have the impression that God, will someday, wave a magic wand to do away with evil?

But if God is not going to do some special magic to do away with evil, the ultimate question still remains, what's going to secure the universe against evil for eternity – especially when God will never take away our free will choice?

Just some examples, of many thought provoking questions to be answered within 'The Rest of the Story Series.'

Of course, our enemy, the lord over evil, would have us believe that spiritual things are meant to be mystical and too far above us to understand.

He prefers that we keep on thinking that we were the first to rebel against God, instead of him. You'll soon discover this, as his strategy for a *major cover up* – a cover up that has caused massive confusion concerning spiritual things.

Because of obvious spiritual confusion, would it be reasonable to consider, that God, in His infinite wisdom, has significant reasons for allowing the existence of such a chaotic world?

Well, what do you think? Could it be time to really think, think about the **WHY** of this world - because shouldn't spiritual things have our highest priority in the journey of life?

Just maybe it would be worth the time to dig, I mean to dig like digging for hidden treasure – maybe, even within
'The Rest of the Story Series.'

< ----- >

This little book, alone, is not meant to answer the above questions, but to be a guide in presenting some short sneak-peeks of what

can be found inside “The Rest of the Story Series” - an example.

If anyone has ears to hear and eyes to see, we might look between the biblical lines to see Lucifer conceitedly admiring himself by looking in a mirror to confirm his superiority over others.

This grandeur of pride over himself so clouded his thinking, it caused him to seek a higher level of management within the government of the universe – even to be like the MOST-HIGH.

It wasn't the case of him wanting to take on more responsibility; but instead, it was seeking glory for being known as the highest, not caring about what he had to do to achieve his ambitious goals.

Of course, it became obvious that God had a rebellion problem in the leadership of the **universe**. With a spirit of superiority rising its ugly head, the question we should be concerned about - what is God doing to solve the rebellion problem?

Would it be too far-fetched to consider the concept of God setting up a world to reveal the results of how a superior attitude over others will eventually lead to a downward path of destruction?

With that in mind, let's jump ahead to (Genesis 3) to notice the first lie being presented to Eve in the attempt to deceive her into believing that she would never die, in fact, she was also told that she could even become like God....

With that in mind, would it be reasonable to assume it important to God, that we, His children, become forever “dupe-proofed” against being deceived as Eve was?

For after all, most all students of the Bible know that this world is inhabited by Lucifer, now known as Satan or the Devil, the adversary, or the enemy of both us and God.

This world is his domain, where he and his angels are seeking to deceive and destroy the loving picture of our most gracious God.

You'll soon discover the enemy's strategy with the use of a very unsuspecting camouflage for *disguising his evil intent*.

It's even become a well-known cliché in saying that – 'Love is blind' - especially when accompanied with free gifts.

So, what better strategy for the enemy to attack with, than to infiltrate our places of worship through a blinding disguise with the use of a distorted view of love and free gifts.

To explain fully what is meant by the blinding disguise of love and free gifts would require rewriting 'The Rest of the Story Series.'

Simply understand that the Great Deceiver has gone to great lengths, to distort the character of God – even to include love in a very unsuspecting way.

Of course, the challenge for many is in accepting God's method of training, maybe even the concept of allowing us to be deceived, as part of His methods.

Because, think about it, do we humans ever change direction unless we are faced with the reality of being wrong about something?

Let it be known that the mission of ‘The Rest of the Story Series’ is to break the many myths about the character or picture of God that the Great Deceiver has been allowed to subtly distort.

< Shocking, undeniable evidence, revealing the secret that the enemy doesn’t want us to know! Simply get set for a spiritual reality check, like no other. >

Side note: *The subject matter of this book is very intertwined from chapter to chapter, so expect some repetition for continuity of thought.*

CHAPTER 1

Get set to be Astonished!

It's said that the people were astonished with what came from the mouth of a twelve-year-old boy named Jesus. Why?

Could it be because they were hearing common sense answers to tough questions that went against the spiritual teachings of their day?

Is history now repeating itself? Meaning a time where a message not only goes against the spiritual teachings of our day but is also packed to overflowing with evidence for common sense answers to tough questions.

At any rate, two to three years ago I was reading in the book of John when a text simply jumped out at me that's had me on the edge of my seat ever since. It caused me to dig – dig like digging for hidden treasure.

My findings, without a doubt, put me in a state of excitement! Way beyond a story you may have heard on the news just a few days prior to writing this. (2014)

It was about a couple that were walking through a wooded area on their property and discovering a can poking out of the ground

containing over ten million dollars of old coins.

Exciting as that would have to be, is nowhere close to the value I discovered after reading John 16:12.

This is where Jesus said he had more to tell us, but for whatever reason, we were not ready to bear it yet.

This inspired me to dig – where in my opinion, the discovery is over the top with hidden treasure, like no other!

Simply think about it – most of us should be aware of the world about to flip upside down, with craziness, so to speak – **surely it must be time** for the rest of the story.

The question is, has enough time passed – have we experienced enough evil - is the evidence in against it – could we now be ready to bear whatever it was that Jesus couldn't tell us way back then?

Hum mm – I'm not so sure! For whatever reason, people in general are not usually open

to listening to anything beyond what they grew up with.

It's like the old song about an 'Old Time Religion' that was good enough for me. Or don't confuse me with your facts.

All I'm saying is, maybe it would be good to fasten your seat belt and get ready to listen to my version of the rest of the story.

I'm saying that because I was sharing some with a young pastor that became angry and responded to what he was hearing by slamming his fist on the table and saying, "if this is what's going on – I'm going to join the other side!"

He wouldn't return my calls after that. It probably had more to do with how it was presented, because it was early in my understanding – Ed must not have given him a proper foundation to think on.

It was like feeding him with a fire hose or pouring new wine into old wine skins – which caused him to burst.

But even beyond needing to feed a person slow and easy, which may have been part of the reason why Jesus was holding some back. But looking back on world history, there seems to be something far more significant for why Jesus held back the rest of the story.

Simply consider world history as a lesson book for the entire universe. In other words, how about taking lessons from the evidence of the past? This is why the question was asked. Have we experienced enough evil – is the evidence in, against it?

To fully understand the concepts being presented, there is one thing that needs to be in the equation, because just in case you didn't know, the lord over evil has been allowed by God to work his way of government.

For how else is God going to prove His ways as right, but to allow the enemy's ways to play out?

It's similar to, if you had a young adult living under your roof, saying they had a better way of running the family government, how

would you go about fixing the problem? How about making a world for their supposed, better way, to be experienced?

For you see, God being a master teacher, is in the processes of meeting His children where we are, leading us by way of experience to an upward path, *if* we're willing to listen, that is.

The point being, if we were really paying attention, we might notice that God is allowing each one of us to stub our own toes, so to speak. For how else is God going to get us humble enough to listen?

Do you suppose that getting hit across the head hard enough, so to speak, with undeniable evidence about there being more to learn, could maybe wake us up to listen? Especially when we catch ourselves strutting around in our, alleged, holiness with feelings of superiority over others?

Undeniable evidence could be a hard pill to swallow for many, maybe even put some in a state of denial, because reality is one of the

toughest things to face when it comes to our spiritual belief systems.

Many of us may have found ourselves going down spiritual roads that seemed right at the time, maybe because we grew up from childhood believing in a certain religion.

Or maybe we were convinced of a certain way to believe by someone that was into believing that if the Bible says it – we're to believe it, and that's all there is to it, end of discussion.

Within these settings, just maybe we need to be asking ourselves a painful question. How can those viewpoints really make sense, even if every pastor on the planet is saying that every word in hundreds of translations is God breathed?

As shocking as it must be for some, maybe we should be checking out the original sacred writings; did they really say 'every word' was God breathed?

I'll be the first to agree that the Bible does contain inspired words from God, but with all the many hundreds of different translations,

the reality of the ‘every word’ concept being correct, simply doesn’t meet any level of common sense.

Especially when the original sacred writings have it recorded as – “every scripture inspired of God is....” (Not every word in all those hundreds of different translations)

Is it any wonder that there are now hundreds of different beliefs around the world going in hundreds of different directions with each one claiming to have Bible truth?

Could this be called mass confusion among hundreds of different translators? Could we also ask who the master of confusion is?

Could it also be too hard to imagine that God would be allowing the Master of Confusion to be working right within our most precious places of worship?

Think about it, when each one of the translators put their special twist on words in strategic places, and then change 2nd Timothy 3:16 to read that EVERY word is God breathed – shouldn’t that tell us something?

Wouldn't that suggest that there must be a strong under-current of deception?

If some of the translators have been allowed to twist certain words to fit their agenda – doesn't it make sense, that it just might be part of God's strategy in exposing how subtle the enemy can be with deception?

The reason that's being said is to simply bring your attention to how spiritual groups, the world over, seem to be arguing with their special beliefs in how to be saved.

But you'll soon discover how God's strategy will reveal just how insignificant the need for arguing is.

You'll also discover the reason God is allowing all the different churches. It's described in the early chapters of -

“The Ultimate Rest of the Story”

Something about feeling superior
over others.

The enemy simply has the world in a state of chaos, fighting among each other over

spiritual things with some having the attitude of killing anyone that won't conform to a certain belief.

In chapter 12 of “**An Awakening**” listed, is detailed evidence for certain concepts and words that have been strategically twisted to fit the enemy's agenda.

With certain words being tampered with in promoting certain concepts – fear not, because, if you're listening, you'll discover this, as just said, to be a part of God's way in exposing deception.

The huge lesson, and a hard pill to swallow from God, is that He wants us to be able to decipher truth from error when evil intent has been mixed with love and free gifts.

But simply take notice of how God has placed hidden treasure in the Bible stories about the life of Jesus. You see, God knew it would be too hard for the translators to distort the stories about Jesus.

Have you ever thought about why Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell repeated stories about Jesus? Do you suppose it could be

God's method of security against the translator's distortions?

We need to understand that the enemy is out to distort the truth about what God is really like – and what better way for him to do that than to tamper with certain words – and then calling those words GOD BREATHED.

Wouldn't it make sense to spend more time in the stories about Jesus?

Because, after all, he is the ambassador from Heaven, sent to reveal the character of God in demonstration through the life he lived here on earth.

Now to help bring more validity to the change of 2nd Timothy, we need to put John 5:39 alongside as we hear Jesus revealing or exposing the result of the change.

Notice where Jesus came remarkably close to calling those that were about to have Him nailed to the cross – *fools* - for diligently studying the scriptures, because they were thinking life eternal was in *them*.

Jesus went on to say that the scriptures did testify about him, but they were refusing to come to Him to have life.

The reason behind putting John 5:39 and 2nd Timothy 3:16 together is to have you notice that the scriptures were and are diligently studied as an authoritative premise, or source because every word is thought to be God breathed.

But Jesus pointed out in John 5:39 that their focus of belief was on something that could be distorted to fit the enemy's agenda.

He very clearly pointed out how stubborn human nature is, refusing to listen beyond our established beliefs.

So, the question we must face head-on is - are we refusing to listen to Jesus as he brings attention to how the most spiritual of his day were treating him?

Maybe we should read John 5:39 over and over to the point of understand what Jesus said.

Maybe we should stop, think, and open our minds to the fact that Lucifer, now known as the Devil, has had his time to deceive, not only them, but what about us?

The only thing that may be different, they had their scriptural studies saving them from the Roman ruler's – where our scriptural studies have led us to being saved from the wrath of an offended God.

Are we sure we have it all worked out – are we sure we're not displaying a superior attitude over others – are we sure we know God, the God that Jesus came to reveal?

May it be asked, what authority figure have we put our trust in? Remember, those that were responsible for having Christ nailed to the cross were the most spiritual people of that day – diligently studying the scriptures.

Hopefully, you'll recognize that the way to really get to know the true God of Heaven would be by paying attention to the stories about the life of Jesus.

Mainly, because as you proceed, you'll discover that the gospel *from* Christ is all

about the good news that Jesus came to reveal through how he lived His life – that God the Father is just like Him.

We must not forget that the lord over evil is roaming the earth, seeking to devour all he can under a deceptive disguise of love and free gifts - described in more detail ahead.

What makes this reality painful is when we find evidence proving that the alleged voice of authority we have come to love, trust, and obey has led us down some spiritual roads that make no sense.

Again, if one has ears to hear and eyes to see, could it be possible to recognize that God's method of teaching could be painful? Could it be said, no spiritual pain, no spiritual gain?

For how else is God going to get our attention to recognize a wolf in sheep's clothing, but to allow us to be deceived?

For after all, most of us could be a witness to the fact that evil, most always, comes dressed in the finest of linen.

It's terribly sad that we humans are not usually open to listen until after we've come to the realization that we've been deceived.

But we must remember that God made us and knows what it's going to take to reveal to us the truth about Himself – that He is not as His enemies have made Him out to be.

Yes, but to find out that we have been deceived could anger some of us enough to slam our fist on the table to say, “If that's the way it is, I'm going to join the other side.”

But as any long-time parent could tell you, there is something called, “tough love.”

Just in case you didn't pick up on it, what's being discussed has everything to do with what God is really like and how He is pleading with us to see Him as He really is.

Side note: Biblical scholars will argue the point that because of finding the Dead Sea Scrolls, it was discovered that when comparing these original sacred writings, nothing of any significance had been changed.

But of course, you have just experienced the evidence where, at least, many of the interpreters have significantly changed, not only 2nd Timothy 3:16, but many other things, to fit their agendas.

Again, in chapter 12 of “An Awakening” you’ll discover many of those other things.

But even deeper than that, we should never forget that God’s plan to reveal the evil ways of Lucifer would be to include and recognize that he, ‘Satan or the Devil’ was there in the beginning of this world.

He was there distorting and working his evil strategy against the ways of God any way he could – which is sure to include, even the early biblical writers.

For after all, think about it, if the evidence is there for even one distortion, our only safety is in the stories about the life of Jesus as he reveals the true God of Heaven to us.

Yes, that statement could be shocking to many, but don’t forget the words of Jesus as he was scolding those that were about to have Him crucified – that they were diligently

studying the scriptures – thinking that life eternal was within them – yet refusing to recognize or come to Him.

Just maybe we should be cautioned against worshipping the Bible, instead of the ONE the Bible is about.

CHAPTER 2

God working His plan to repair the breach

Since you had the stamina or courage to get through chapter 1, get set for more shocking differences in our understanding about God.

It's most widely taught that Adam and Eve, falling into sin, are what caused the great problem and the 'why' of such a chaotic world.

Although Adam and Eve have taken the rap for the world's problems, the problem didn't begin with them. But this diversion has surely been a remarkably successful disguise from the enemy, to distort reality.

For you see, rebellion against God began with the enemy, Lucifer, in the heavenly control center, and not with Adam and Eve.

***You'll discover the detailed story in -
"A Reality Check? Or What?"***

But the awesome reality is that God is working a plan to repair the breach, that's totally different than what's being taught.

And as said before, part of God's plan involves permitting what's being taught, for what better way to expose Lucifer's supposed, superior way, than to allow it to run its course.

This is a side to the coin that the Devil doesn't want us to know - he would rather keep us in the dark and confused.

God's enemy would rather that we continue to spend our time trying to stamp sin out of our lives, rather than crowding it out with the *purity* of what God is like.

He'd rather we continue to be afraid of God, a god that would keep those refusing him, alive forever in an erroneous, hot burning place, down-under, called Hell.

But if you're ready to learn more about the true God I've come to know, the place to begin could be to gain more info about the '*why*' of the biblical horror stories.

Horror stories like - the great flood that destroyed all but Noah's family, along with Sodom and Gomorrah, and many others.

In the last twelve books of the Old Testament there is story after story of how people were destroyed because of their bad behavior.

But there's one concept that comes to mind when asking what this means, what was the purpose?

There are a couple of places in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy where God told the people, if someone was to knock out an eye or tooth, they were to do likewise to them. But in the New Testament, Jesus said, no – but to turn the other cheek.

The question that needs to be thought through, did this, along with all the biblical horror stories of destroying the wicked, really change the behavior of the people, **long term?**

Some of them changed for the short term – as in the story of Jonah – but never, long term or we would be in Heaven by now.

In a nutshell, what God is trying to reveal is, that if a government says, “Do it my way, or I’ll smash you like a bug” – simply will not work to change our minds, for the long term.

Did you get that? The scare tactics are only short lived.

In Romans 2:4 we may have part of the long-term solution, where it's stated as a question. "Don't you know that it's only the kindness of God that leads to repentance?"

In other words, forcing anyone into submission to certain ways will not work. To force a person beyond their will, they will be of the same opinion still.

I'm the last person to put anyone down for trying to improve their behavior before God. Good for them! But how about shifting your attention off your behavior and over to God's behavior – what God is like?

Ed thinks this follows remarkably close to Romans 2:4 and what the thief hanging next to Jesus saw.

The thief noticed how Jesus treated even his enemies – "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Obviously, the thief liked what he saw in observing Jesus' behavior, causing him to

think, “Wow! If this is what God is like, then count me in!”

Another way to say it – “By Beholding God – and loving what we see – we can be changed into His likeness.”

Churches around the world would do well to notice the significances of John 17:3.

“To know Jesus and his Father – is life eternal”

What’s being said - recognize and praise Jesus for coming to reveal his Father as being just as kind, just as loving, and forgiving as he!

This message is in John 17 where Jesus is found praying to His Father that we would become ‘at-one’ with them, as they are ‘at-one’ with each other! In other words, to agree and be in harmony with our God.

And just in case you didn’t notice, the issue at the top of our agenda is the universal question, what is God really like - what’s His motive for allowing such a chaotic world?

This question should be especially important to all of us, especially when we notice that John 17:3 states that knowing the true God is life eternal. Because of that, would it be a fair question to ask of ourselves –

“Are You Sure You Know God?”

This is the title of my first book. Much of its content is weighing the evidence, like in a court scene. Weighing the difference between the legal view as opposed to the great controversy view of Calvary.

One must remember that Lucifer campaigned throughout the universe with the success of convincing about 1/3 of the brilliant heavenly angels to follow him. This is why we call it –

“A Great Controversy”

Did you know that Jesus came to reveal God as being just like Himself – instead of what the legal view makes Him out to be? Thus, giving us the way to really know God?

This is being said now – up front, to help you recognize, in the chapters ahead, just how

crafty the enemy has been in distorting the character of our loving heavenly Father – it’s totally shocking!

At this point, I’m excited to invite you to a mountain peak view (my rendition) of God’s method of teaching.

It’s a short fictitious story designed around a family setting that’s sure to have you on the edge of your seat as you experience a spiritual reality check, beyond your expectations.

The audio version of “A Reality Check – Or What?” is about 42 minutes.

Its design is meant to broaden the view of a spiritual horizon beyond our present traditions to hopefully give some answers to the ‘WHY’ of our little planet.

Another one of significances could be
“Is Heaven Really Possible?”

Going to Heaven filthy rags and all after being covered with the blood of Jesus - really?

CHAPTER 3

A hard pill to swallow

A hard pill to swallow could be in accepting or recognizing the road signs of a great detour that God allowed for the entire universe to witness just how far Lucifer, now known as Satan or the Devil, was willing to go to achieve his overly, ambitious goals.

Simply keep in mind that God allowed Lucifer's way of government to be exposed – for we all need to be convinced in our own mind that God's ways are best. Have we seen enough, is the evidence in against evil?

If so, get set for a real shocker after shocker! For it seems as though we have been detoured around something of great significance – something to take our attention away from the real issue within the universe.

By the way, just in case you're wondering what the real issue is – it's a heavenly issue, an issue far more important than the saving of you and me.

For after all, who would want to be saved into a government where the Governor was saying to love and obey him, or be burned and tortured in the red-hot flames of Hell forever and ever?

That would be like a Valentine card that came out a few years ago from Garfield the Cat. On the outside it read; “Please, would you be my Valentine?” While on the inside it read; “Make the wrong choice, and I’ll break your arm.”

And if the truth was really known, with religions around the world teaching these things, many millions of thinking people have run from such a threatening dictator god. I think they’re known as Agnostics, Skeptics, and Atheists.

Us Christians need to come to grips with the fact that these folks are intelligent, they just might be ready to look at a picture of God that makes more sense.

You’ll soon discover within “The Rest of the Story Series” that the true God of Heaven has threatened no one, but instead, has simply

warned us from going outside of how we were made to function.

Again, is it any wonder why there is so much confusion over who is right within the spiritual world, when the issue of God's character was detoured away from who God is - over to all the attention being turned inward, on how to be saved?

If you were God's enemy, what better way to get the attention off the character of God, than to direct us away from the issue, by getting us to focus on ourselves – working hard to overcome sin?

Have you ever thought about or noticed how most all religions have their main focus on this endeavor?

Surely not a bad thing, but the question is, what path are we on to make that happen – and can we say the method has been successful? If so, why are there more out of church than are in?

Is it possible that we have been so busy arguing over which religion is right that

there's been no time left to love our neighbor as ourselves?

In my church, the one Ed grew up in, this is definitely the case. We are so wrapped up in being '*the right one*' along with what we are to be like, there is no time left to focus on what God is like – which would surely reveal the error of our ways.

And again, if Ed understands properly, if we were to focus on what God is like to the place of wanting His ways to become our ways – Ed think that would be called – “By beholding the ways of God, we can be changed into His likeness.”

Now, could the question be asked; wouldn't that line up with John 17:3 which states that knowing God is life eternal?

So why all the fuss about who is right – wouldn't it be better to get together to discuss what God is really like?

By the way, there is a path that leads to life eternal, it's called getting to know God – And the road map is only hidden from those refusing to investigate - and or to develop a

humble willingness to listen to Jesus alone, with a teachable spirit.

How about a little injection of HOW-TO

How do we – from the heart – love or neighbor as ourselves? How do we give our hearts to Jesus – again, from the heart?

Is this done by the Nike Jingle of “JUST-DO IT”

It’s great to make a choice to follow Jesus, but some have only made an emotional decision that does not last. For something as important as life eternal, it would be good to know what happened in the life of the 5 foolish in Matthew 25 where the Gate Keeper told them He didn’t know them?

You could check it out in chapter 4 of
“The Midnight Cry”

All about the parable of the ten pure folks, where all ten **thought** they were heaven bound.

The devil would like nothing more than to keep spiritual driven people on a short-cut concept to heaven by telling them to just BELIEVE without any understanding to

what it means to have the ways of God within, to become a part of them.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus gave us the

HOW-TO

formula to have anything to become a part of us. He said to **seek first** - meaning to begin your day with spiritual food – best from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

To **first** seek the kind of God that Jesus came to reveal – the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Jesus also said this is not a thing or a place – but if you are willing to **daily** drink, it **can** become a part of you.

Take any rotten, stinking pool, (a sinful life) and pour clear, pure water into it to overflowing, and eventually it will become pure enough to drink.

For those of you that think you have it all worked out within the short-cuts to just BELIEVE, may I remind you that Jesus did

not seek out the spiritual scholars of His day – but instead, it was the lowly fishermen.

It shouldn't be rocket science to realize that spiritual scholars have made spiritual things overly complicated, so complicated, that thousands of different religions have sprung up around the world.

Again, who is the lord of confusion? Shouldn't the reality of this, at least, cause us to think?

Ed means to think on - to see the enemy's influence over every spiritual group on the planet – in the making of spiritual things to be mysterious and far too complicated.

The journey to knowing God should be just as accessible to a five-year-old as to a seasoned biblical scholar.

An example to really put your teeth into would be to see a picture of God the Father working side by side with Jesus and the Holy Spirit in an endeavor to have us see and run from any hint of evil.

Another one is to understand that Jesus did die for us – but not to satisfy some legal demand of perfection dictated from the Father, as most Christian religions promote.

But as said before, the obvious influence and deception from the enemy have been a part of God's purpose in His method of revealing how subtle evil can be.

The reason for bringing this up is to stimulate your thinking towards recognizing a need for paying attention to what Jesus couldn't tell us until now. (John 16:12)

Keep in mind that the question still remains; if you had rebellion within your family, what would you do to forever repair the breach? Would you use scare tactics – acts of kindness – or both?

This question brings to mind a time when my oldest daughter was about three years old and a group of us were visiting next to a busy street. And being a highly active little girl, she twisted herself from the hand of her mother and began to run between the parked cars out into the busy street.

As Ed dashed to grab her, Ed was yelling as loud as possible – STOP!!!!

Now without question, my little three-year-old had to be thinking that her daddy was terribly angry with her as Ed expressed extreme emergency action.

Would it be too far-fetched that God has used some extreme emergency measures in meeting us where we are to get our attention?

Some with severe scare tactics as others are moved with the still small voice of loving kindness.

At any rate, **until** we can grow enough to realize that God is meeting each one of us where we are, in whatever tactic it takes to get our attention – it's sure that we humans will continue to follow our traditions in a distorted picture of God as being angry with us for breaking rules.

For you see, we should never forget that this world was set up by God to reveal the ways of evil that began in the management center of the universe, that some of us call Heaven.

And we don't have to go far in the first book of the Bible (Geneses 3:4,5) to find 'Evil' talking to Eve, telling her the first lie - that she would not surely die.

This insinuates that God had lied to her - as the devil explained that her eyes would be opened to be like God in knowing good and evil.

May Ed ask, where is it taught that we will never die? Maybe some of you have heard the question - where would you like to spend eternity, in Heaven or Hell?

Of course, with that type of fear welling up in the mind, many, many millions have tried to overcome the sin in their lives - but have walked away when realizing it was just too hard.

The next thing for many of them is to then deny that God even exists – in fact to go along with that, many others are trying to say that the idea of there being a Satan is another myth.

All I'm saying is, when the attention was shifted away from *the real issue*, the

character of God, over to how to be saved – it turned the focus inward and away from any need to know the true God of Heaven.

It soon became the main issue, a legal issue in how to gain forgiveness for sin.

This could be one of the most important lessons to learn about God’s method of teaching – as He allowed the enemy to turn His warnings into legal consequences for breaking *descriptive* laws.

Another side note here, could be a reminder of what “The Rest of the Story” series is all about – that of revealing the primary reason for Jesus coming was to reveal God to us. (See John 17:6)

And to also bring attention to the fact that Revelation 12 states that the Devil will lead the whole world astray.

Leading the whole world into believing that we are in legal trouble with God, instead of listening to Jesus alone.

For God's laws are descriptive and not legal, describing how we've been made to function.

God has warned us, about going outside of how He made us to function, would be deadly to our health.

It's like putting diesel into the fuel tank of an engine designed for gasoline - the engine would surely die.

It's simply a **scientific consequence**, not a legally imposed death penalty.

For you see, God's method of teaching has been to reveal the need for a little common sense, in viewing the evidence against the Devil's picture of God that has so dominated the earth.

An example:

What would be the better good news, that Jesus came to die in our place because if He hadn't the Father would have tortured us in the burning fires of Hell – Or – would it be *better* good news that Jesus came to reveal the Father as being just like Him – just as loving, just as gracious and forgiving as He?

Therefore, giving us the evidence to know God well enough to have a reason to love His ways – which John 17:3 explains as the qualifying requirement for life eternal.

Another point in some simple common-sense thinking, could be to ask, what kind of God would be demanding that Jesus die in our place **before** He would forgive?

Wouldn't that be a hint of extortion?

Something to really think about in contrast, wouldn't you say, that God the Father is just like Jesus and no one to be afraid of!

< ----- >

In the next two chapters, shocking, undeniable evidence will expose the enemy's strategy in his attempt to make God out to be exacting, arbitrary, vengeful, unforgiving, and severe – right within the now taught plan of salvation or gospel.

But before exposing one of the widest spread spiritual myths of all times, simply know that God the Father loves us, the same as Jesus does.

In fact, all heaven, including God the Father, is pleading with everyone to come away from the evil that is sure to destroy us.

However, to be afraid of God the Father could be a natural result from what we may have heard from childhood, to love and obey God or be tortured in a hot down-under place, called Hell - which just might be one of the greatest myths of all time.

But at the same time, most of us know that a certain amount of fear is not a bad thing, for sometimes it could be necessary, especially to get the attention of those refusing to listen.

CHAPTER 4

Stripping away the camouflage

Seeing with new eyes?

Most of the Christian world teaches the good news of the gospel as having Jesus saving us from the wrath of an offended God, by taking our place in the death that we somehow deserve – praise, praise, and more praise for the person - Jesus!

But if we were to flip the coin, the other side might picture Jesus as coming to reveal the awesome good news as being all about the ways of the King!

But somehow, we humans have been diverted into believing that the King is angry over us breaking rules, so angry He's going to burn us in Hell if we don't repent.

While at the same time the King's attitude is deemed to be Okay because the King is said to love us so much that He sent His only Son to die in our place.

The question could be asked, has a deceptive smoke screen of love and free gifts

camouflaged a **wrongful** attitude of vengeance from the King?

Again, we might even hear a hint of extortion in that it's said there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood – therefore picturing the King as unforgiving.

The devils' picture of God

Doesn't there have to be something wrong with these pictures?

As for me, I know that my earthly Dad loved me and was more than ready to pick me up and dust me off when I needed it. A total opposite picture than burning me in Hell if I missed the mark!

Is this really God or the devil's view of God?

With God being in ultimate control, there must be a sound reason for this in God's method of teaching that has something to do with us becoming dupe proofed. For remember, as the story goes, Eve was deceived into believing the first lie.

It shouldn't be hard to realize that God's enemy is still alive and well. With that being reality, is it any wonder that he has tampered with the most widely taught plan of salvation?

But may Ed caution you to not get angry as Jonah did – because if you can be patient enough to evaluate the whole picture, you just might become pleasantly surprised.

< ----- >

Within my writings there are many mentions about God being accused of being
**#1 - *Exacting*, #2 - *Arbitrary*, #3 – *Vengeful*,
#4 - *Unforgiving*, and #5 - *Severe*.**

In past writings, it was explained that these accusations came from God's enemy but was never explained on what stage it was proclaimed from. Simply notice how the current plan of salvation or gospel now taught throughout churches around the world reflects these exact accusations.

Which could be a real shocker for some. It could, again, put many in a state of denial.

But if these concepts could be closely examined an enlightenment just might shine through that these accusations are being trumpeted from most every spiritual group on the planet under the camouflage or distorted view of love and free gifts.

Ahead notice how the camouflage is being stripped away from the currently taught 'PLAN OF SALVATION' as its being associated alongside of the devil's accusations against God.

But again, don't get angry as Jonah did – for it's all a part of God's plan in growing us up to recognize a wolf in sheep's clothing.

If you've been paying attention, you may have noticed that the currently taught gospel, states that Jesus is to be praised and loved as our Savior because of taking our place in the death we somehow deserve - saving us from the alleged, wrath of an offended God that was supposedly caused by us missing the mark of being

#1 - Exactly perfect.

The concept coming through the now taught gospel is that Jesus is perfect for us, before God, that God can only see us through his perfect life. **But who says that God demands perfection?**

Have we forgotten the prodigal son story where the FATHER, **in tears of joy**, ran out to meet His son coming back home in his filthy rags.

< ----- >

It's said we must believe every word of Scripture is God breathed because when it's assumed that God said it, it doesn't have to make sense, just believe it! Therefore, making God out to be

#2 - Arbitrary

Just believe - it doesn't matter if it makes sense or not – just believe, again, maybe even in the tooth fairy.

(In no way does Ed want to sound disrespectful – for these terms are only used to hopefully, get you to – THINK.)

It's stated that God is love but is also *just*. So, what is that assumed to mean?

Is it really – just or right - for God to take vengeance on those that refuse to love Him by casting them into a torturing burning Hell? Wouldn't that make God out to be both

#3 - Vengeful and #5 - Severe

the very accusations of the devil?

Last, but not least, it's said that God the Father will not grant forgiveness without the shedding of blood (Heb.9:22 – NIV).

Therefore, making God out to be

#4 - Unforgiving

Again, the very thing we hear from the pulpit – that God's ways are too hard for us, that's why Jesus must be righteous for us.

It's said that the Father only sees us through the perfect righteousness of Jesus.

How can that be, after Jesus said, "that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father – He is just like me?"

Shouldn't we be asking what these concepts make the Father look like – but, but, but it sounds so spiritual, especially, when we hear that God so loved the world that he gave us His only begotten Son.

To bring us the truth about his Father
– or – to die in our place?

Yes, this is why we need to understand the craftiness of the enemy in his ability to mix a lot of truth with error.

< ----- >

This concept can't be over emphasized as the apostle Paul seems to be the one introducing the concept of the substitutionary death of Jesus beginning at the end of the book of Acts after Jesus went back to heaven.

Paul's writing is jammed packed with a lot of great advice in what to do and not to do in order to be or look Christian, but very little if anything about the HOW-TO.

'JUST-DO-IT'

Far more detail listed in both

“The PURPOSE”
and
“TRUTH - A Hard Pill to Swallow”

But must give U-All a little hint of what’s
there, with an excerpt from...

“To say we have to do a little work for our
own salvation is to see Ezekiel 14:20 –
Genesis 15:6 – Romans 4. These 3 texts,
along with Matthew 25:7-9 seem to indicate
that no one can feed spiritually or physically
for another.

Are small lights of enlightenment beginning
to show through – at least enough to see
through some of the disguise?

Remember that God’s enemy is roaming the
earth to distort the ways of God any way he
can.

With that being said, is it any wonder that a
fake or distorted use of love and free gifts
would be among his deceiving arsenals?

**The distorted, unsuspecting use of
Love and Free Gifts -**

Now since God the Father really does love us, doesn't it make sense that one of His main concerns would be to put us through experiences to prevent us from ever being deceived again?

Question: *How does any good teacher teach, if not by the demo of experience?*

We can tell our young children not to touch the hot stove, but how well do they really listen?

The point being, were the spiritual people, in Bible times, willing to listen to Jesus?

Most of us know it was the most spiritual people of his day that had Him nailed to the cross – which should bring up a sobering thought of not being caught in the same frame of mind as they.

The point of bringing that up is to prepare you to handle more shocking info – are you willing to listen?

It's all about how the currently taught gospel is made believable under a distorted, upfront show of love and free gifts.

Again, may Ed be so bold as to suggest that every spiritual body on this planet has been *deceived for a Godly purpose*?

Of course, it goes without saying that no one likes the thought of being deceived, especially when it concerns our spiritual beliefs.

For after all, our spiritual beliefs have, most likely, become very precious and sacred to us. But wasn't it said to get ready to be shocked or astonished?

The general picture among Christian religions has God either torturing the wicked forever and ever or not one iota more than they deserve. A scare tactic or what?

One way or the other, I totally *disagree*, but these theories seem to be accepted around the world, but when it's revealed that God would allow us to be deceived for a *Godly purpose*, it's thought to be, too much to swallow.

As far as the torturing of the wicked concept, you'll discover outstanding details, and even more good news in chapter 13 of

“An Awakening”

And with the *Godly purpose* concept, simply allow the content of this little book to soak in, and you may have enlightenment leading to an *epiphany*! (A light-bulb moment)

Side Note: It could be especially important to view more about why it was necessary for God to allow us to go down many spiritual roads of *superiority* over others, which is described in far more detail in the early chapters of BOTH

“The Ultimate Rest of the Story”

As well as “THE PURPOSE”

But for now, let’s take some time to investigate how the seemingly positive side of love and free gifts has been turned into a very unsuspecting deadly tool of spiritual warfare.

History has given us tons of evidence, which under a good enough camouflage or disguise, the masses will follow after free gifts, with no thought of where they are going.

If the facts of German history were known, it was the promise of free gifts from the government, under the leadership of Hitler, which preceded the holocaust of millions being led to slaughter.

Would it be too far reaching to compare the holocaust in German history with how the masses can be blindsided or deceived with the promise of free gifts from the government – even when coming from the portrayed government of Heaven?

As said before, most of us could testify to the fact that evil, most always comes dressed in the finest of linen.

It's similar to how a child rapist works, by luring his victim with free gift promises of candy and ice cream.

There's mention in the Bible book of Revelation 12 & 13 that the whole world is led astray to follow after a person that speaks with authority instead of principle.

When the alleged voice of authority uses heavy spiritual sounding words, the masses of people can perceive them to be very

precious and holy; having them in a state of following their hero anywhere he may lead.

But if examined closely, the supposed spiritual sounding words make God out to be exacting, vengeful, unforgiving, and severe.

Is anyone listening?

CHAPTER 5

A deception of the highest level

Unmasked

Because of what you're about to view, it needs to be said repeatedly, that "The Rest of the Story Series" is a discussion about God's character, the kind of God He is.

For with all the religions of the world, going in every direction, this really is the hidden agenda the enemy doesn't want us to know.

To make a hard pill to swallow, more palatable, Ed should first reveal more on an important reason for why God is allowing every spiritual group on the planet to go through the experience of being deceived.

We've been deceived into believing that we need to be rescued from the divine wrath of an offended God.

But "The Rest of the Story Series" is here to inform you that the only one we need to be rescued from is Lucifer, now known as the Devil.

Could it be that being deceived is meant to fortify those that are willing to listen, so as to never be deceived again?

Could it be God's dupe-proofing method for a greater deception to come?

Remember the Genesis story of how Eve was deceived into believing that God may have lied to her?

Doesn't it make sense that God's main concern is to have us so AT-ONE with His ways that we could never be moved or deceived again?

Again, what better way for God to forever convince us that His ways are best, than to allow the enemy's deceiving ways, to run their course?

Back in chapter 1, evidence for the soundness of the *'every word'* God breathed concept in the Bible, should have been discovered as false.

But hopefully, faith in, what is **God breathed**, was not lost.

In other words, all being well, you didn't throw the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak.

The caution is to be aware of worshipping the Bible, instead of the One the Bible is about.

Warning: The strategies against God, being unmasked, could be very upsetting to many. But take courage in the fact that Jesus came to reveal His Father as no one to be afraid of, because He is just as loving, just as gracious, and forgiving as He. (John 14)

Now the **first stage** of the enemy's strategy was to paint a picture to the entire universe that the King is exacting, vengeful, unforgiving, and severe. His campaign speech was saying that God's ways were too hard - going on to say that *he* had a better way of government.

The enemy's purpose was to first discredit God's character throughout the universe – but looking far into the future he also began to set the stage for a distorted picture of God,

in that God was angry with us. Angry enough to have made a place of torture, we allegedly call Hell.

He has painted a picture of God within this concept that would make Hitler jealous, because Hitler couldn't keep us alive to be tortured forever and ever.

The camouflage of this distorted concept of love and free gifts is so thick that no one seems to notice what the, now taught, plan of salvation really makes the Father out to be.

The craftiness of the enemy to deceive should never be underestimated.

The question must be asked; why is it that all praise and worship is on the person of Jesus for getting us past the alleged taught, divine wrath or anger of the Father, a Father that is said to burn and torture anyone that refuses him in some down-under place, known as Hell.

It appears the horror of such a picture of God is totally overlooked when it's said that God is loving, but He is also just.

Is this an insane type of justice or what? Since when does real love ‘*get even*’ by being vengeful, unforgiving, and severe?

This must be one of the most unbelievable charades of all time – incomprehensible!

How can this be? How is it possible that the loving ways of God have been turned into the deepest darkest black hole of torturing pain and suffering, and call it *just*?

Remember the heading on the front cover of this book “A spiritual Myth Buster, like no other!”

Well, just in case you haven’t picked up on it so far, one of the largest myths of all times is the concept of there being a forever burning down under place, popularly known as Hell.

Remember the first lie to Eve was that she would not die, insinuating that there is no death?

Has anyone noticed that this same lie has been supported through the interpretations of most all biblical scholars?

And to put with that, these same biblical scholars have interpreted that there is not only no death, but also that there is a mystical down under place of torture, going on forever.

Now, may Ed ask, Isn't God the Creator of heaven and earth?

With that in mind, have you ever thought about what it would make God out to be if He had made a down under place of torture?

Remember, it was the devil accusing God of being exacting, vengeful, unforgiving, and severe – do you really want to be saying the same thing and calling it divine justice?

It wouldn't matter if the torture were forever and ever or only as long as thought to be just.

What possible cause is being served, if when a person doesn't meet the requirements for Heaven, they're to be tortured?

Within the concept of a down-under place of torture – the enemy has pulled off another huge distortion.

He wasn't only successful in convincing Eve (Genesis 3:4) that there is no real death, for the lie has now spread to most every spiritual group on the planet.

Oh, there is a Hell alright, but it's not any mystical down under place – but instead, we are living and experiencing it here and now. If that's a shocker, so be it. But understand there is **an end** to the Hell we are living in.

And it just might be up to us getting the picture that this world was made by God to reveal the goodness of Heaven as well as what evil is.

As said before, the allowed deception we've had to experience has been for a ***Godly purpose***.

As said before, with the '*every word*' concept suggested in 2nd Timothy 3:16 – along with inserting and twisting certain words in very strategic places – if one is not careful, we just might be persuaded to believe in fairytales.

If any part of this is making sense – there is far more biblical detail that should answer the question of –

“Is There Life After Death?”

It's chapter 13 in “An Awakening”

Of course, with God involved, there is life after death. But how this is understood has everything to do with the picture we have of God!

< ----- >

In the **second stage** of the enemy's strategy, it's portrayed as Jesus saving us from the alleged, exacting righteous wrath of God.

But notice how it's been depicted as loving by the King, because He supplied His only son to take our place in death – an imposed death sentence that we supposedly, deserve as rule breakers.

Therefore, creating a huge camouflage of distorted love that's been remarkably successful in its disguise in having the masses following, without any thought of its implications **against** God – or - in other words, a distorted picture of the Father.

< ----- >

The **third stage** of strategy was to create a huge dependency and obligation from us, because of what Jesus has done and is doing for us, as we speak.

In other words, Jesus, of course, died for us, but is also portrayed as pleading for legal forgiveness in our behalf - before God.

As far as Jesus dying for us – He surely did, but for a different reason than is being trumpeted around the world.

“The Rest of the Story Series” is packed with the real reason for the cross – and is also stated clear, ahead in this book - the last part of chapter 6.

Now, as far as Jesus pleading in our behalf – John 16:26 states Jesus as saying that he does **NOT** have to plead for us, because the Father loves us the same as He does.

Many have tried leaving the NOT out of the text, because with it in, it doesn't fit the legal view of theology that does portray Jesus as pleading in our behalf.

Maybe the biblical scholars need to use **New Eyes** because it's obvious they have, so far, ignored or overlooked this text.

Another one is in Hebrews 9:22 (NIV) where words have been twisted to indicate that without the shedding of Christ's blood, the Father would have never granted forgiveness. Therefore, making God out to be unforgiving.

The purpose for revealing these things is to hopefully encourage people to think, think about spiritual things having to make sense.

< ----- >

These different strategies are, somewhat, intertwined, but the **fourth stage** of the enemy's strategy could be in creating the image of God requiring or demanding an impossible level of **behavioral perfection**.

And since Jesus is the only one that has never sinned, it seemed a reasonable concept to have the righteousness of Jesus to be in our place before God.

Again, it's said that God only sees us through the perfect righteousness of Jesus.

Within this concept lays another shocker of all times. Biblical scholars have deemed it necessary for Jesus to die as our substitute.

It's said that God loves us so much that He gave His only Son to take our place in the death that we somehow, deserve.

A concept that Jesus does NOT support.

Did the Father really punish Jesus in our place by having Him whipped, tortured, and nailed to the cross?

This simply makes no sense when looking up a little history that states that the most spiritual folk of the day refused to listen to Jesus – the message Jesus came to give – and in their stubbornness they were the ones that crucified him.

Maybe we should be asking, have we been repeating history by refusing to listen to the words from **Jesus alone?**

Is there something that we are missing, is there more to the story?

And one more thing, if we were to look a little closer at John 3:16 it says nothing about Jesus dying in our place, but instead it's all about trusting in the ways of God.

And going on to verse 19 – 21, it states that Jesus came as the light to enlighten the world about the ways of God.

Also, see John 17:6 where Jesus states that he had completed the work he was given to do – that of **revealing God to us**.

Here is where the question could be asked, why is it that world religions have the death of Jesus satisfying legal demands or paying our sin debit, before the Father is willing to forgive?

Especially after the undeniable truth, away from the devil's schemes, is that Jesus died for us with the intent of us realizing that His blood is on our hands, which is meant to ***change our minds*** (not the Fathers) to have us running from anything that has any hint of evil.

Surely, this should come as the truth after Jesus said in John 14 that the Father is just like him, just as loving and forgiving as he.

The enemy's purpose in this strategy is to set up a total dependence on a special person as our hero to be followed regardless of what road is being taken.

This type of loyalty usually stems from a fear of what will happen if certain things are not conformed to, or an obligation to love from the motivation of past and future gifts.

This type of loyalty says nothing about the rightness of proper principles.

The danger in this type of loyalty has so misinformed some that they are determined to kill anyone that won't conform to their special beliefs.

This is the same as in the Bible story about the stoning of Steven - found in Acts 22.

Yes, the master of spiritual confusion is alive and well when all we need for proof is to notice that most world wars are fought over spiritual things.

What do you think, could it be important to question a concept of a god that can only accept the perfect righteousness of a proxy substitute?

Wouldn't that be assuming that God the Father's ways really must be too hard or impossible – **the very accusations of the enemy?**

Another one to go with that would be to establish that God must **not** have 20/20 vision, because it's said that He only sees us through the perfect life of Jesus.

Would that mean that the Father really isn't like Jesus? For some reason, something isn't adding up, because Jesus said, "if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father."

As for me, I know that my earthly Dad loved and cared for me as a reflection of my heavenly Father. The evidence for this was experienced repeatedly!

"But, but, but they make this other concept sound so spiritual." They also say, if questioned - that we are not to plow too deep, but to only believe.

Well, whatever, but it wasn't hard for me to understand that in the prodigal son story (Luke 15) that it was God the Father represented as running out to meet me in my filthy rags, with no one in between to be perfect for me – Ed was welcomed back to the family, rags, and all.

If this picture could be seen – we might even see the good news of the gospel as God the Father being just like Jesus – “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father!”

< ----- >

Would it really be too far reaching to align these strategies behind hero worship – praising the *person* of Jesus because of what He has done for us.

For you see, part of the enemy's strategy is to create a huge feeling of obligation because of what was done for us.

This obviously has caused much excitement and praise for Jesus – therefore guiding the masses of people to follow their emotions instead of principle.

Not that we shouldn't have much praise for Jesus but simply understand that the real reason for the praise has been diverted, to an emotional package of following the charisma of a person, instead of sound principles.

Better to serve God from the love of His ways, instead of obligation.

Then the **last stage** of the enemy's strategy is to guide the masses to focus on behavior or how to avoid sinning.

Of course, that's such a full-time battle, that no one will ever have the time *to look up* from diligently studying the scriptures to learn all the rules, so as to please the King. Maybe even trying to please a God we may not know. (See John 5:39)

Of course, learning the rules is not a bad thing; at least it may keep some from doing great harm to themselves.

But if learning the rules is nothing more than trying to please the King, there's a big ditch that most of us can fall into.

Our human nature of pride usually takes over as we view ourselves as having superior behavior over others – maybe even walking two feet off the ground in our pious haughty attitude of holiness.

This also can include our, supposed, superior belief system – a more perfect way to Heaven.

If we were to simply observe the spiritual scholars in Bible times, those that were responsible for having Jesus nailed to the cross, we might see them strutting through the streets to bring attention to their assumed, superior holy behavior.

We should also understand that God has allowed the lord of evil, the run of our little planet, to work his, alleged, better way of government.

Will we recognize him in doing that, or will we blindly follow the pretended voice of authority within our emotions, after being promised free gifts?

Or have we focused on the ways of Jesus enough to love and want his ways for ourselves?

Ed means his ways of right principles that he displayed through his life to the point of never being moved from them.

Shouldn't we be more interested in the principles of what Jesus stands for, rather than being caught up in what we think he has done for us?

Are we sure the plan of salvation, currently taught – really speaks well of the Father?

Is it really all about Jesus – the person, and how he was able to satisfy the supposed demands of his Father for us?

What happened to the good news message Jesus came to give – that if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father?

Has this, somehow, been mysteriously overlooked or covered up?

Keep in mind that the concept you're hearing is intended to bring awareness to how subtle

God's enemy has worked his strategy right within our most precious places of worship.

Ed knows it could be a hard pill to swallow for many, but don't throw the baby out with the bathwater, so to speak – it's not meant as an attack on anyone or their faith.

Simply understand that God's enemy is alive and well, roaming the earth seeking to destroy the character of God anyway he can.

If you were God's enemy (perish the thought) what better way to prove your accusations against God than to set up a plan of rescue/ransom from an alleged imposed death penalty for breaking the, supposed, legal rules?

The wages of sin is death –
a death sentence, or a warning?

It's said that Jesus has ransomed us by taking our place, which, without a doubt, has caused an overwhelming obligation of love and emotions for following Jesus.

*Who demanded a ransom? If we were
ransomed from the devil – are you sure we
could trust the devil with any deal?*

OR

*Did Jesus come to rescue us from
the lies of the devil?*

The question must be asked, is the intent of this picture (the free gifts) to get the masses to follow only their emotions, so as not to notice what these accusations **make God out to be?**

Don't forget, the devil is out to make God look bad.

For you see, when we allow our emotions to govern us, void of evidence and common sense, we may even be led to believe in fairy tales.

But God will spare us from that if we only pay attention to the evidence - evidence of past history - which brings to mind a statement from Hitler at the time of the holocaust in Germany.

It's been told that Hitler's statement to his staff was – “that they, in leadership, were

blessed by the fact that the masses of people simply **don't think.**"

Therefore, the masses were led to slaughter on the promises of free gifts.

By the way, there's one more especially important side to this. History has revealed that only about one third of the people followed after Hitler's ways – the rest of them raised their hands to Hitler (hail Hitler) because those that didn't were tortured and killed.

A horrible concept to think about, but how many of us are serving God because we have some erroneous idea that He will torture and burn us in Hell if we don't?

God is not as His enemies have made Him out to be!

For this presentation to really soak in – forever keep in mind that God will never take away our free will choice.

I sincerely believe His purpose for putting us through all this is again to have us forever dupe-proofed against being hoodwinked or

deceived again as many million were in the past.

Side note: Now after an adventurous spiritual journey as this, Ed must sympathize with those of you that have been grounded in the ‘every word’ concept of the Bible.

For Ed too had huge struggles with the Bible, seemingly having a legal picture within the plan of salvation, as well as the substitutionary death of Jesus concept.

Ed knew of this struggle because of listening to many Bible teachers and evangelist for years saying that every word was God breathed - as well as my own studies.

But things changed as the **purity** of God’s character began to stream through to reveal the reasons why God has allowed such distortions.

For you see, God knew that we would glory in our own spiritual superiority over others. This is why it was written here that we have all been deceived for a **Godly purpose**.

This concept will come when it's realized that the real good news came **FROM** Jesus – his message wasn't about himself, but instead, it was all about his Father.

Think about it, doesn't it say in Revelation 12 and 13 that the whole world will be led astray? What is more widely spread around the world than an assumed legal plan of salvation or gospel?

The final, no turning back for me, came as I was directed to Jesus saying He had more to tell us in John 16:12.

This very quickly made sense of why God allowed the many biblical distortions as being the **ultimate demonstration** of the devil's ways **against God**.

Again, this is why it has been shown that everyone on the planet has been deceived for, again, a **Godly purpose**.

For how else is God going to get us humble enough to listen?

If you're one needing to see more evidence on several biblical changes,

see chapter 12 in “An Awakening”

CHAPTER 6

Do spiritual concepts have to make sense?

What’s currently being taught as the gospel in (2014), again, is that Jesus met the legal requirements of the law, therefore, saving us from having to die the death that we, somehow, legally deserve.

For starters, ***we are not in legal trouble with God***, but we are in cause-and-effect trouble within the way we’ve been made to function.

We’ve been given a warning (Romans 6:23) by saying, if we go outside of how we’ve been made, we will surely die from *a cause-and-effect situation*, not from an imposed legal death penalty. (But a warning against it)

For you see, cause-and-effect are like the law of gravity, jump off a tall building and most likely death will be waiting at the end of the fall.

That's the reality of what is real. But somehow, within the Bible story of Adam and Eve, it's been determined that we are in legal trouble for breaking some allegedly taught, legal rules.

Breaking the rules, or sinning, is supposedly the issue against God - praise Jesus for paying our fine.

But the question must be asked, how does someone paying my speeding ticket keep me from speeding again?

Another one, at the risk of being too repetitious - when it comes to being led down spiritual paths that make no sense; does it really make sense for our loving Creator to have *made* a down-under place of torture for those that refuse to love Him, all in the name of some insane type of justice?

That concept only came after some biblical scholars got sucked into believing the lies of the serpent listed in Genesis 3:4 of telling Eve that she would **not** surely die.

But since people do die, they reasoned that it had to be the second death being talked

about. So, going along with the devil-filled serpent, again, they reasoned that God must have made a place of torture called Hell for those refusing Him.

But what makes sense is, with the devil being alive and well with his ability to deceive, they fell for what God is NOT.

This is where we must spend time in getting to know God to the point of becoming AT-ONE with Him to the point of knowing His ways so as to never being deceived with any of the devil's lies/ways.

Again, this picture is in John 17:3 where it states that knowing BOTH Jesus and his Father is life eternal.

Going on to say in verse 6 that Jesus had completed his work by revealing the ways of God to us.

And going on further to verse 21, you'll discover Jesus praying that we all become 'at-one' with them as they are 'at-one' with each other. (Jesus the Son, with his Father)

Maybe this could be seen as developing a humble willingness to listen with a teachable spirit, sometimes called, being **born again**.

This is an entirely different picture of God's requirements for being saved than just believing in what Jesus did for us and following Him from a sense of obligation.

The concept of the Father requiring a blood sacrifice before He can grant forgiveness is the Devil's picture of God.

Christ death was designed to change our minds, not the Father's.

To fully understand the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, it's an absolute ***must read*** for all spiritual leaders to immerse yourself in

‘The Purpose of Sacrifice’ chapter 8 in -

“Are You Sure You Know God?”

Also, in chapter 2 of

“The PURPOSE”

Doesn't it make more sense to understand that the blood of Christ is on our hands, that

we, symbolically, nailed Him to the cross when in rebellion against His ways?

This is meant to change us, to sicken us against the evil of causing pain, suffering, and death.

This is also described on page 96 in –

“The Ultimate Rest of the Story”

We can be healed after we realize that it’s us, symbolically, whipping our Creator every time we knowingly go against the way we have been made to function.

That’s the meaning behind ‘with His stripes, we are healed.’ Isaiah 53:5

One needs to understand that if God the Father would have come instead of Jesus, it would have made no difference – for both sing off the same page – they are both At-One with each other, pulling for us to run from evil. Referenced in John 17:21

In other words, ALL heaven – the angels, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and yes, even God the

Father, are pleading with us to come away from evil or harm's way.

By the way, again, in chapter 9 of
“Are You Sure You Know God?”

has far more detail on the purpose and reason for why Christ came.

The difference that's being presented
is the *motive* for our love for God.

Our past spiritual journey may have had us on the road of loving from the *motivation* of receiving awesome benefits in gaining heaven or loving from a stance of obligation because of what Jesus has done for us in paying our sin penalty.

What's wrong with that picture is that it's been portrayed that God the Father can only *now* forgive our sins because of what Jesus did in our behalf.

In other words - **question**, does this mean that the Father was not forgiving, until after a legal penalty or ransom was paid?

Surely, something must be wrong with that picture, wouldn't this concept establish the Father as unforgiving, even an extortionist!

What needs to be understood is that God is forgiveness personified, the same as He is love, He is forgiveness. In other words, God is not as His enemies have made Him out to be – His forgiveness has always been there, it's up to us to receive it.

John 6:37 – “Him that cometh to me, I will not cast out.”

Wouldn't it be better to love, even if there was no offer or promise of a better place?

Better to love from a platform of rightness – simply better to do right because it is right.

Jesus came to reveal the rightness of God's ways within the life he lived as one of us. But it's been the work of the enemy to distort this picture.

Christ came to reveal proper motivation for loving. It first came to us in a command not to harm another person or to go against the way we've been made.

It's all within the famous Ten. The Ten Commandments reflect God's character – God made us in His own image to function within the same boundaries as He.

If we choose to do otherwise, again, it's like putting diesel into the fuel tank of an engine designed for gasoline - the engine would surely die.

It's simply a **scientific consequence**, not a legally imposed death penalty.

Better to understand that God the Father sent His only begotten Son to reveal His ways, which, in the process, has exposed the evil ways of the devil.

But if the fear message of being tortured in Hell has caused you to allow God into your life – so, be it – God must have met you where you were - Outstanding!

But now it's time to think, to think past that - to realize that Christ dying on the cross was designed to change us and not to satisfy the alleged, legal demands of justice from God the Father.

Many of us may have viewed “The Passion of the Christ” movie – can you visualize yourself being the one whipping Jesus and nailing Him to the cross?

If the effect of that doesn’t simply tear you up inside, I don’t know what else would.

Again, the demonstration was designed to cause a sickening within us that was meant to have us running from the results of evil.

Surely, we have all sinned and come up short of God’s desire for us – that’s why it’s a must for us to see the evils of sinning.

The evidence is in against it – it’s time to walk away or run from what will harm us.

But as this picture comes into view, and we allow ourselves to listen and grow, we might hear a message coming from Jesus, a message we’ll call -

“The Gospel from Christ.”

It’s the good news that Jesus came to deliver - not about himself, but about his Father, the *ONE* that sent him.

Just in case you may have missed it – it was God the Father represented through Jesus healing the blind to see, healing the deaf to hear, healing the lame to walk, healing the sick from their ills, raising the dead to life & on and on we could go.

With that in mind, I'm hearing that the good news in the gospel is the truth about the kind of person God is, the God Jesus came to reveal.

< ----- >

This original writing was done in 2014 – but now in 2025 I felt the need to share more of what I've learned in my efforts to spread the same good news that Jesus came to tell us.

To see the big picture in the 'WHY' of this world, the fall of Lucifer from heaven must be put ahead of the fall of Adam and Eve – in other words, to begin at the **beginning** of the STORY.

God providing a place for the ways of a devil to play out for thousands of years – then sending Jesus down

in the mess to straighten it out, has everything to do with the WHOLE of the story. If this part of the story is by-passed or left out, one could miss the whole plot of the story.

For Jesus was sent with a GOOD NEWS message about his Father that the spiritual folk of his day wasn't going to stan for – they crucified him.

Now, I'd have to hang my head in shame if I didn't make an attempt to share what I've been shown about what happened to change the good news gospel that Jesus came to reveal.

It's the real good news of the gospel – for the real gospel is what Jesus came to reveal.

In fact, Jesus said it was the **reason** why he was sent.

It's found in Luke 4:43 – Jesus also said he had completed the work he was given to do – before Calvary. That's found in John 17:6.

His mission and message were to reveal his Father to us – the kind of person He is, and what His government or kingdom is all about.

Again, the spiritual people of the day refused to listen - in fact, they were the very ones that crucified him.

But the common thief hanging next to Jesus saw what most didn't. For in his mind, anyone praying to have his enemies forgiven, because they didn't know what they were doing, had to be what he needed to hear.

And just in case you haven't noticed – his thoughts are found on the front cover of this little book.

Wow! If this is what God is like, then count me in!

Did you catch it, are you listening? The thief saw it all, as he witnessed what all of us need to see.

Again, Revelation 12 states that the whole world will be led astray, led astray in a false

gospel that's all about our behavior and how to gain forgiveness for our wrongdoing.

When in reality, he, the prodigal son was forgiven before he left home, for when his Father saw him, with tears of joy – He ran to meet him, on his way back home!

The devil has gone to great lengths to convince the 'world of religions' to believe that sin needs to be punished. They even have Romans 6:23 as a death sentence.

Without question, the wages of sin is death, but it's a warning, not a death sentence, a warning against going outside of the way we've been made.

If we choose to continue down the road to evil, God is saying that the cancer of sin will kill us – for sin pays its own wage.

Then there is something more to think on - if punishment for sin is an issue, then why didn't the Father punish his returning son?

< ----- >

And if you're still not convinced, simply listen to the words of Jesus that's been recorded and dominate throughout -

“The Rest of the Story Series”

His words are found in Luke 4:43, John 14, John 17:3, John 17:6, John 17:21, Revelation 12 – and last, but not least, Matthew 24:14.

Which reveals our marching orders – that the forever good news within the gospel is

THIS GOOD NEWS

“When the good news of God’s kingdom – the kind of person He is – The message Jesus came to give, is taken to the world –

THEN THE END WILL COME

Just in case you may have missed it, when the real good news gospel that Jesus came to give, is taken to the world –

THEN THE END WILL COME!!!

It's time to think – don't you think?

The intent of this little book is not meant to be a put-down to any religion. But to the

contrary – for Ed believes all pastor’s and teacher’s need to be commended for their influence in getting people to walk away from evil – directing them towards knowing God.

At any rate, you’re all invited to check the message within “**The Midnight Cry**” where shocking info is taken from Matthew 25, picturing some spiritual leaders being asleep.

All I’m saying - it just might be time to wake up – time to develop a teachable spirit and a **humble willingness to listen.**

The question is, is that done by the Nike Jingle of “Just-Do-It” or something different?

We all know of many things that would be good for our well-being – but many of us are well acquainted with the big word,
procrastination.

We should know that to have a teachable spirit and a humble willingness to listen needs to become a part of us.

If one is forever focusing on what we need to be like, to call ourselves a Christian, one will never enter into the joy of obedience.

AGAIN, from page 43

The formula for success is to forever **DAILY** be feeding / focusing on the ways of God that Jesus came to reveal. (His life and parables)

Take any rotten, stinking pool, (a sinful life) and pour clear, pure water into it to overflowing, and eventually it will become pure enough to drink.

John 4:13 – Whoever listens to me, whoever drinks in the water I give, will become in them a spring of water, welling up to eternal life.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus gave us the **HOW-TO** formula to have anything to become a part of us. He said to **seek first** - meaning to begin **EVERY** day with spiritual food – best from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

To **first** seek the kind of God that Jesus came to reveal – the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Jesus said this is not a thing or a place – but if you are willing to daily drink, it **can** become a part of you.

The **HOW-TO** is to put it into your mouth/mind chew it, swallow it, so it can be digested – only then – can it become

A PART OF YOU.

Hopefully, this little book has caused you, to at least, be curious enough to dig, dig like digging for hidden treasure – to discover an awesome view of God - to where even you could say,

***“Wow! If this is what God is like,
then count me in!”***

The center of ALL joy can be experienced upon realizing that God the Father is just like JESUS. (John 14:9)

The Substitutionary death of Jesus concept suggests that the ways of God are too hard – that the righteousness of Jesus, in our place, is the only thing that satisfies the wrath of an offended God.

Words from the DEVIL

This goes against what Jesus said about God being just like him, just as loving and forgiving as he.

It must be said that the DEVIL has had a GREAT VICTORY in deceiving the whole world into believing that God the Father needed to be appeased with the precious blood of Jesus before He would grant forgiveness for sin!

Find other books by

Edward R Sager

On the website – “TimeToThink.us”

Click on “View Books”