

(Written to a contact 8/22/09...but amended in 2020)

Growing up we went to "church" on rare occasions...I remember a vacation Bible school one summer when we lived in Memphis when I was about 10...Always believed in God, believed in Jesus but was not really a Christian, didn't know or understand any teachings at all. About 17 years old got baptized in a local church in Houston, can't remember the name of it - mostly baptized cause some of my friends were and I sort of knew it was a good thing to do, but in no way did I have any understanding or Biblical training - shows you how thorough some "churches" can be before baptizing people!

Went to college north of Houston, met my wife (who had herself come out of Babylon the Great, Catholicism after one service at 20 years old, she just felt no way is God in this thing)...well, she helped me get more serious about God, went to a few Campus Crusade for Christ meetings, etc at the university we were at...Still in no way (I now understand better) did I really walk the talk or understand the Bible, or God or Jesus, just a nominal so called Christian, if that. I even took a couple of Bible classes at the university on Paul's Letters. I did start to ask many, many questions about why this or that to a Campus Crusade lay pastor - he was a nice guy, supported him a few times even, but he couldn't answer many questions I had regarding the Bible, God, life, etc...He did a decent job, just left me still hungering for answers from and about the Bible. I was early 20's this time period.

Time moves on, we get married but in order to get married in the church we wanted to we had to become members - so we were baptized at a major baptist church in Houston. Still in no way was I really serious about God, though I "believed". But I now know I didn't believe in the Biblical sense of "belief", ie, trust, give one's entire life over to God, faith in Christ and God's coming kingdom, etc, and the way of truth.

Moved my family over to London in 1989, periodically would read the Bible, then one day JW's came to the door and I would always talk with ANYbody who wanted to talk about Jesus or the Bible. So after listening and discussing with them at the door for a while, we agreed for a home Bible study once a week.

One thing they did show me was that I did not at all know the Bible....they also made me realize that EVERYBODY out there says they are the TRUTH - JW's even use that phrase...so God allowed me to go on this journey to discover who and what really is TRUTH.... for about 3 years we studied with JW's while at the same time I began to call practically every "church" and denomination in the local south London phone book....I went to a few services or so to baptist, you name it, though NOT Catholic because even then they were SO obvious to me (even with very limited knowledge) that they were not of God at all. My wife even saw two Mormons walking down the center of town and said "My husband wants to speak with you all about a few things." So they came over, and even though like the Catholics, I really knew they weren't going to be of the TRUTH, I still wanted to be objective and gave them 6 weeks, I was on a definite journey to find what God was actually teaching in His word, what is truth....everyone says they have the truth, so let's see who really does, if anyone - that was my desire to find out what God is really teaching from Gen to Rev. I would have the JW's over for hours at a time, asking, discussing, I would go to libraries, bookstores, read the Bible a little...(I'll explain "a little" in a minute.). I went to British museum Bible tours, searching, listening.

One day during our discussion, JW's mentioned that they call on these "funny" people called Christadelphians (whatever that means, right?), and the JW's were stating this in a derogatory manner for various reasons re: Christadelphians.....and the next day we got through our letter box a local newspaper, well, there was an ad for 30 or so FREE pamphlets from these Christadelphians who I just heard about the day before...so I actually sent off for nearly all of the free pamphlets, received them and started to read through them. After wrapping up with the JW's since we couldn't agree on many doctrines and various issues I noticed with their "system" of beliefs and other things, we finally, 3 years after receiving those free pamphlets, started to attend a local Christadelphian meeting near London, where we lived...started to ask them millions of things, read the Bible, writing down all my questions...having them over our house, etc - all the while still calling other churches including having the world-wide church of God come over and discuss things with us...still going to a baptist church once and having the pastor over.

Both the service and the discussion with the pastor was not very Biblical. He didn't seem to have much to offer in the way of Biblical discussion. So I'm still talking to other Christians, met a non-denom, then a Baptist, had them over as well, discussed the Bible - no real understanding or answering of biblical questions, what is God's purpose, how do the Jews fit into this purpose, who is Jesus (both Jesus and Peter say he's the son of God, the Christ)...throughout all this I was looking NOT for a "church" that suited my taste or needs, but anybody who was able to show from the Bible alone (JW's can't do this) what God is teaching overall.

I was searching for ultimate TRUTH of God's word, even though I might not like the answer, ie, small, nobody fellowship or large main stream, didn't matter if they had the truth...so a couple of years pass, still reading the Bible but now more than ever - finally realized, oh yeah, instead of spending tons of time at libraries, book stores reading various things, and history books, read God's word more and more! So I did while I still searched and discussed with various sects/churches/JW's/Christadelphians/baptists, etc.

Christadelphians weren't appealing to my flesh, no great live bands (thanks be to God), no showy orators, though they had great men who could expound the scriptures, they also could answer practically every Bible question I KEPT having...didn't matter if I was talking to an 80 year old sister in Christ or a 20 year old brother in Christ at their meetings...the ENTIRE Bible was consistently harmonized with itself whenever I sought out answers from the Christadelphians using the Bible alone. They could go here then here to show how God uses this passage to explain that Old Testament passage, etc, the Jews are in God's plan and purpose for HIS sake, not theirs, the promises to Abraham, as Paul says, was the gospel preached before hand to Abraham - Gal 3...How Jesus fits into God's purpose (as Paul says in Eph 3:11)...and how the true disciple must fit into Christ - the whole Bible came alive and is in perfect harmony with itself - yet still I thought what if I'm wrong in thinking Christadelphians are pretty close to Biblical truth, what if Christadelphians are wrong and I can't see it. So we kept studying with them as well as searching others, but even against my own wishes, because of various things about them, being a really small community which "nobody ever heard of", couple of doctrinal

concerns on the devil, I kept finding Biblical answers to all my questions by reading God's word and also discussing things with Christadelphians, more than anybody else ever I came across in over 7 years of this journey.

So to make an even LONGER story short, after 3 more years of searching/studying God's word and various churches/Christadelphians/JW's, others, my wife and I were finally baptized into Christ for really the first time with a good understanding of the gospel and what the Bible is really teaching.

And so after a couple decades with the world-wide body of Christ found among the Christadelphians, we've never found any other sect/community that has more diligently searched out the entirety of the Bible so as to discover the harmonious truth of the word of God. Thankful we are among all those world-wide whom God has called to His glory and kingdom.

Matt 7:7,8 and Acts 17:11

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