

# *“Discipleship - God’s will be done”*

After being challenged in my “Quiet Time” with God, I commenced a while back seeking answers to a few questions that were bought to my mind.

- Religion & Christianity!
- Do Pharisees exist today in our churches?
- Churches – Needed or just Institutions & Assets?
- What is our primary purpose in life (our Priority)?
- How do I discern the right answers to these questions given all the articles?

God reveals truths to you when you are able to & prepared to receive this truth. Quiet times with our Lord help us to “Know God” and His will for us.

After many days and hours of reading, “Quiet Times” with Our Lord God , discernment over many authors differing views, several re-writes, examination as to whether it was mine or God’s will & concern by my wife that I was off on another quest concluded that **“Obedience to God’s will for us is our purpose in life”**. Obedience, whether it seems strange, difficult to understand, against popular beliefs or common sense and one which may make us an outcast.

A few brief comments that may get you thinking and seeking answers.

## **Who were the Pharisees of Jesus’s time?**

### **Do Pharisees exist today?** (See Comments page 2 below)

The Pharisees did not recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah among them & together with the Sadducees plotted to ensure the Romans crucified Jesus.

Disciples of Jesus Christ (“christianos”) started out with faith and the teachings of Jesus but over the centuries man has altered translations of the original bible, added his own rules, interpretations and religiosity, tainting the purity of our true discipleship of Jesus.

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish Disciples of Jesus Christ in some of our “Christian Churches”.

The word “Christian” was first used by the enemies of Jesus to mock the Disciples by calling them followers of a wicked Christ imposter (“christianos”), thus defaming Jesus. See (1 Peter 4: 14)

**\*\* NOTE \*\***

I do not endorse all the contents of each author; I do not agree entirely with the semantics and the strict adherence to interpretations but, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit I have written this post, whether approved by my church's Facebook group or other Christian! Groups – that is their administrators choice.

The articles listed below provided background reading and are best read with the discernment and the guidance of God's Spirit within. Hopefully you will see God's message for you.

The articles & readings detailed below are just a few that illustrate the importance of making God our priority. The articles are listed on <http://www.imoan.com.au> as .pdf files and can be accessed by clicking on **Links** in the menu & then clicking "**Disciple Articles**".

- **The Pharisees of the Bible**
- **The Myth of the "Church" of the Bible.**
- **The true origin of the word "Christian."**
  - ✓ **Bible Reading 1 Peter 4: 14**
- **Burned Out on Religion.**
- **Is Christianity a Religion or a Relationship?**
  - ✓ **Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 13**
- **Christian Religion versus Real Christianity (L. R. Barnard).**
- **The Overmastering Direction (Oswald Chambers)**
- **Look Again and Think (Oswald Chambers)**
- **Jesus the Priority.**
  - ✓ **Bible Reading Matthew 6: 5 – 13 NIV**

Jesus said in **John 13:34** of the Bible

**"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are MY DISCIPLES, (not Christians & not Church) if you love one another".**

We in the "Christian Churches" of today are in some ways like the Pharisees!

We have tainted and added ceremony and religiosity that was never ever intended by Jesus Christ. We get involved in very worthy secular/community projects for people in need, but our primary purpose is not to run off and serve others, neglecting God in the process. Churches serve a social, psychological, informative and instructive purpose, but membership is not essential to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ.

God wants us to become like Jesus Christ. **It is our personal intimate relationship with God consummated by our “Quiet Time” with God getting to “know Him”, His will for us and our obedience to His will - that is our prime purpose in this life.**

Jesus prayed “Father make them One as We are One” – This prayer has been answered. The Holy Spirit within each of us Disciples is alive when we have accepted this truth and we are One with God our Father and His son Jesus Christ. It is this “Oneness” by **listening patiently to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit within, that enables us to know God and His individual will for us. Knowing and responding in obedience to God’s will, as stated previously, is our purpose and invitation to be with God.**

Any additions we make to our discipleship of Jesus Christ is religion – we become the Pharisees, outwardly alive but internally dead.

### Readings of Re-Enforcement from NIV & Message Bible Versions

- **Matthew Chapter 7 : 21 – 23**

#### NIV Version

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then will I tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers.’ ”

#### Message Version

“Knowing the correct password – saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance – isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience – doing what my Father wills. I can see now – at the Final Judgement thousands strutting up to me and saying, ‘Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.’ And do you know what I am going to say? ‘You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don’t impress me one bit. You’re out of here.’ “

- **Luke Chapter 13: 23 – 27**

#### NIV Version

Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me you evildoers!’ “

## Message Version

A bystander said, “Master, will only a few be saved?”

He said, “Whether few or many is none of your business. Put your mind on your life with God. The way to life – to God! – is vigorous and requires your total attention. A lot of you are going to assume that you’ll sit down to God’s salvation banquet just because you’ve been hanging around the neighbourhood all your lives. Well, one day you’re going to be banging on the door, wanting to get in, but you’ll find the door locked and the Master saying, ‘Sorry, you’re not on my guest list.’

You’ll protest, ‘But we’ve known you all our lives!’ only to be interrupted with his abrupt, ‘Your kind of knowing can hardly be called knowing. You don’t know the first thing about me.’ ”

I thought I had completed this article, prior to going to bed on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020. As I lay in bed before going to sleep, I asked God to speak. I was quiet when the verse “**Lord teach us to Pray**” came into mind. I got out of bed, grabbed my bible and read **Matthew 6: 5 – 13 NIV** and realized that within these verses were the “Our Father” prayer with the words spoken by Jesus “**your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**” and also His advice as to how & where to pray.

This was confirmation & the summation: **Matthew 6: 5 -13.**

*“I want to arrive at God’s door knowing I have a personal relationship with Him & that I am an invited guest “.*

*Do you?*

*Peter N Cooke*