

# A Study in Self Denial: Diligently Seeking

Cinnamon Studies #302



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Before I became a disciple of Christ, (disciple is just another word for ‘learner’) I, just like everyone else, had my own opinions about the Bible. Most of them were negative. A lot of the information I thought I had about the Bible was passed down from hearing what others were saying, watching people talk about God on TV or the radio - or even worse- watching “Christians” I knew behaving like hypocrites. I thought to myself, “wow, you say you believe and follow God, yet you are behaving uncomely and don’t even know how to answer basic questions I have about God.” I thought to myself, do these people just twiddle their thumbs in church, all the while learning nothing?

It wasn’t until I became a believer when I realized God’s name has become the largest scandal in all of history. What I mean by this is that God’s name has been dragged through the mud relentlessly, and what is truly in the Bible is seldomly taught, or **known**, in most churches today.

When a person becomes born again, risen up in Christ, a true believer puts away their old thoughts, the “thoughts of the old man” - the “old man” representing who you were before your conversion.

“ That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

-Ephesians 4:22-24 KJV

With that being said, our dogmas, our own opinions, are not to be placed on a pedestal above the truth of the Bible. Ask yourself when you read the Bible, are you seeking only what aligns with your personal opinions, or are you genuinely seeking to know the Lord, even if that means leaving all your old opinions behind?

Scripture has much to say about self seeking. Unfortunately, however, these scriptures are not highlighted in most churches. Ironically, most churches each have their own set of dogmas, or traditions, none of which are a requirement to have fellowship with The Truth.

In Mark 7, the Pharisees, who were the “proper religious church goers” that we know today, asked Jesus why He doesn’t follow certain dogmas, certain religious rituals that were practiced in their churches, i.e their synagogues, which were passed down from generation to generation.

“ Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me,  
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the  
commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!”

-Mark 7:1-9 KJV

Jesus tells the Pharisees that all of these are the commandments of men, (V.9) disguising these things as ‘an angel of light’, leading the flock astray from worshipping the real Jesus in Truth.

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

-2 Corinthians 11:13-14 KJV

What we, as Believers, must do instead is **diligently seek Him.**

“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.”

- Proverbs 2:1-11 KJV

A believer delights in the Law of the Lord, (Psalms 1:2-3). They rise early and seek rest late at night because of the diligent study to seek and find Truth. A truth which cannot appear in the Churches of Men. This is no easy thing. His saints are devoted to His Honor.

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

- Acts 17:24-25 KJV

When we seek the Lord, we must abandon our own thoughts. We must become humble and lowly, God-dependent, rather than self-dependent.

“Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

- Isaiah 55:6-7 KJV

The problem of today, is that although you may be attending church, I beg you to truly ask yourself: are you seeking to know who God actually is, shedding all prior thoughts and rumors you may have heard about Him? There is a reason the Bible repeatedly says "Seek!" This is not an easy task, nor a quick task. It requires consistent effort, attack, and tremendous time that most followers today refuse to sacrifice. **The only way to worship God, is to Know Him.** Get ready to roll your sleeves up, because it will be a tremendous amount of work to sift through the flood of lies in order to find the hidden treasures of the heart, the mysteries of God.

“ Stretch out Your hand from above;  
Rescue me and deliver me out of **great waters**,  
From the hand of foreigners,  
Whose mouth speaks **lying words**,  
And whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.”  
-Psalms 144:7-8 KJV

Of course, God has chosen us as a specific people because prior to our regeneration, none of us would seek God.

“ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known:”  
Romans 3:10-17 KJV

Only until God rebirths us, and gives us ears to hear and eyes to see, do we begin to truly seek out the Lord.

“ Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”  
- John 15:16 KJV

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and **do not lean on your own understanding.** Proverbs 3:5