

21T11c Secret Agent Christians (Part 3)

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get your coffee or tea. Get comfortable and let's talk. If what I say is nonsense, then it's definitely from me. If anything I say brings you wisdom, then that's just God using me.

We are continuing the series I've titled "Secret Agent Christians". I've told you, I heard a pastor talking about "Secret Agent Christians" recently. He was talking about two groups of Christians; Disciples and Secret Agents. He described the "Secret Agent Christians, as Saved Christians but not disciples of Christ. Those who have done the minimum required for entry to heaven. This really confused me.

So I set out to figure this out and I'm sharing my process with you. First I pray for guidance and allow God to seed my mind. Second, I use the internet and tools to scour the bible for the topic. Then I read and let God guide me. God will guide the process.

Last time we talked about how I use the internet and its many tools to identify bible verses for further study on a topic. Remember, I warned you there is a lot of junk on the internet. You have to discern what is good and reliable for yourself. I showed how I used some particular resources to develop a list of bible verses.

So let's look at the gospel of John first. Probably the most famous and well know scripture. John 3:16. Let's read.

John 3:16-21 (NKJV), ***16For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18He who***

believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

So Jesus says “whoever believes is saved” but then follows it up with “he who does”, “that his deeds”, “have been done in God”. So, salvation only or salvation leading to deeds.?

John 5:24 (NKJV), ²⁴*“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*”

This is more support for Believing equals everlasting life. No mentions of works.

John 8:12 (NKJV), ¹²*Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. **He who follows Me** shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

He who follows Me. Follow is an action word which requires something to be evident.

John 12:23-26 (NKJV), ²³*But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.*”

Follow Me, serves Me. If we love our life we lose it, if we hate life in this world we gain eternal life. Hate is used by Jesus to say

we comparatively value. Love is high value, Hate is not valued in comparison. We value eternal life above this world.

John 15:1-8 (NKJV), ¹*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

Now this is very graphic. If you abide in Christ, you bear fruit. If you don't bear fruit, you are cast out or in other translations cut off. Bearing fruit is essential to staying in a relationship with Christ according to Jesus. I don't think the branches that are cut off are getting into heaven after they are burned.

John 21:15-17 (NKJV), ¹⁵*So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."*

Jesus is calling Peter but also us, to take care of His people. This requires actions to do this commandment. Jesus says very plainly, "if you love me, you will take care of His sheep"

I'm going to stop here for today. I'll pick up our discussion next time with 1st John since we just discussed verses from the gospel of John. I want to stay with the same author. As we explore if there are really "Secret Agent Christians"

Let me close with a prayer.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your words in the gospel of John. Help us to read and understand your intended message. Give us the wisdom we need as we dig deeper into your words in the Bible. I pray that the listener consider your big picture, the one you are painting with all the words in the bible. Help us to see your full picture, not just a single brush stroke.

I pray these things in your name Jesus. Amen

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or email me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think

Until next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.