

## 21T11d Secret Agent Christians (Part 4)

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". We have been talking about something I heard a pastor say about "Secret Agent Christians." He said there are 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.

Here is the list of scriptures we identified to study on this subject. And, Last time we looked at several scriptures in the gospel of John. I'm going to summarize all these verses up using the parable of the vine dresser. Jesus says if we are in Him, Christian, we bear fruit are will be pruned. If we don't bear fruit we are cut-off and burned.

Next, I want to look at 1<sup>st</sup> John next just because we have been reading John's gospel. I want to stay with the same author.

1John 2:3-6 (NKJV), ***<sup>3</sup>Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know***

*that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup>He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

John expands on the theme from the gospel of John. We must keep His commandments or we don't know Jesus. We must walk as he walked or we don't know Jesus

1John 5:9-13 (NKJV), *<sup>9</sup>If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. <sup>10</sup>He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

John reminds us that if we believe we have eternal life. But again I have to keep this scripture in context with Chapter 2 which tells me we must keep Jesus commandments if we are true believers.

Let's move to the Gospel of Mark. Mark 16:15-18, *<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup>they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

This is the Great Commission in Mark. This is a call to action but it also says "he who believes is saved. Let's look closer at the Great Commission in the gospel of Matthew

Matthew 28:19-20, *<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy*

*Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

The Great Commission is a call to action. but it hear in Matthew it is stress to “teaching them to observe all things that I have command you” This seems like action is required of the new disciples.

Matthew 25:1-13 the bridesmaid parable, <sup>1</sup>*“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup>Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup>“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

If you are not familiar with the traditions of the Galilean Wedding, I suggest you take some time and learn. Jesus uses many images from the traditional Galilean wedding in His teaching. You will be surprised what knowing this cultural traditional will do for your understanding of the bible. There are many resources but I really like the documentary “before the wrath”. I’ll include a link below this message. The ten virgins or bridesmaids are metaphors for the church the bride of Christ. They are invited to the marriage ceremony but only five have done the work necessary to be prepared for the day of the marriage. Jesus says to the others, “I do not know you”. Seems harsh but it is a close parallel to the vine dresser parable.

Luke 13:24-27, *“And He said to them, <sup>24</sup>“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from.’ <sup>26</sup>then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup>But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’”*

Here in Luke Jesus is talking about relationship again. A relationship with God is specific or “narrow gate”. Many want to enter but only those who have a relationship with the savior will be allowed. Jesus’ says he will answer “I do not know you”. So, according to Jesus its more than just believing.

I’m going to stop here for today. I’ll pick up our discussion next time with verses from the book of Acts, Pauls’ letters and James So join me again, as we explore if there are really “Secret Agent Christians”

**Let me close with a prayer.**

**Lord Jesus, thank you for the Bible. Thank you for the wisdom you grant us to understand your words. Guide our process as we study your word for understanding. I pray that the listener consider the picture you are painting with these scriptures. Help us to see your big picture. Please do not allow us to only concentrate on 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.