



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 28 - Search the Scriptures: Finding Life in Christ, Not in Rules

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Vodcast Website: www.scottdtgrev.podbean.com

Podcast Revelation: www.scottstanleyx.podbean.com

Website: www.theLambsLove.org

Scott Stanley challenges believers to go deeper than rituals and doctrines, arguing that eternal life is not in rules or church systems but in knowing the Father through Jesus. He explains the cross as a portrayal of our inner brokenness and iniquity and presents the Holy Spirit as the Father's understanding that sets us free.

Stanley warns against relying on institutional religion or misapplied doctrines, urging listeners to seek truth, work out their salvation, and be freed from guilt, anger, and false teachings so they can truly know God.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley, continuing the video cast concerning understanding the Christ. When I began this video cast, in my mind, I wanted to address people who already believe in Jesus. I'm not creating something here to convince you that Jesus came, died, and rose again. What I want to do is talk to people who already believe, but I want to help them have a deeper understanding concerning him. That's imperative.

The deeper you go in understanding him, he said, *"The truth will set you free,"* and I can show you in John 8 when he makes that statement, he's talking about iniquity (Jhn 8:32). Iniquity is your enemy. Iniquity is twisted thinking. God's thinking, his understanding, we call it truth... You could even say righteousness. But I've been realizing righteousness is actually an act of love. Love is not a feeling; love is an action.

So God is trying to bring us to the place where we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we learn to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Mat 22:37-40). Understanding Christ will make that become more of a reality to you.

Now, there is a scripture in the Gospel of John, chapter 5, where Jesus makes a statement concerning himself. This is in John 5, verse 39.

Jhn 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Jhn 5:40 And you won't come to me, that you might have life.

Now, I know he's talking to the Pharisees, but that applies to us too. I realized for a long time, and because we don't know any better, we search the Bible, thinking there's life in that Bible. What do I mean by that? The fact that we'll read the Bible and conclude things like the Ten Commandments and getting baptized and speaking in tongues, and what day to go to church on. See, we think life is in those things, but he says, *"No. Search the scriptures, for in them you think you have life. But the scriptures,"* he says, *"are telling you to come to me that you might have life. And you're not coming to me."*

What does he mean, *"You're not coming to me"*? We believe he's the Christ. So what does it mean that there is life in him? What does he mean by that? Does he mean that if you believe in him and ask God to forgive you, that God will wipe away the penalty for your sin, so therefore you found life in Jesus? It's interesting that in John 17:3, he says,

Jhn 17:3 For this is life eternal, that they might know you, the only true God, and Jesus, whom you've sent.

Jesus Christ is telling you that in him is life. He has the ability to point you to the Father. *"For this is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God."* How does that fit into a trinitarian message? See, it doesn't fit. How does Jesus have life in himself?

His whole point is to reveal his Father because that's where you're going to find life, in the Father. How does Jesus point to his Father to give us life? Again, we're not saying that you simply believe in God... *"Well, now you have eternal life. Well, we believe in Jesus, so now we have eternal life."* Again, *"You'll search the scriptures, for in them you think you have life and they are testifying of me, and you're not coming to me for life."*

When I was in the Universal Church... I think I'm about ready to refer to the Universal Church as the beast system. I've done studies on that. I've got a Revelation podcast, DTGm Revelation Studies, on Podbean.com-- it's revealing. It is revealing to understand the beast, this beast that we see in Revelation 17 and in Revelation 13.

It is the beast system we are facing today. Today, in our day, it's the false Christian church. I have just realized that he is talking about a beast, the head of a beast that was slain with a sword and came back (Rev 13:3). That's Catholicism. It was the Protestant Reformation that took the Bible, the sword, and slew it. But it was healed; it came back, and it's powerful again today. That is the system of the beast.

What's interesting is, people don't realize that. They don't realize, listen again, 1 John 2:18-22, there was an apostasy that began in the days of the apostles. There was an apostasy. Paul says that we already see this man of sin, this son of perdition. It's already happening. We see it going on (2Th 2:7-8). But when he comes, he's going to continue until the second coming. Jesus will stop this.

What are we saying? That for two thousand years there has been an apostasy in the church. The reason people can't see it is because they're in it. We have to realize, if the man of sin is the papacy, if that's who it is, and Paul says, *"We already see it happening,"*

we see it happening with Caesar. Caesar claimed to be God. Caesar claimed to be in charge of everything, so that was what restrained the man of sin from coming to be.

If the man of sin had stood up and said, "Well, I am, I'm divine, I am God. I replace Jesus..." he would have never survived, because Caesar wouldn't have let him exist. Caesar is who restrained him. But Caesar became a Christian. So now we see this apostasy has been going on for two thousand years.

Whether you think I'm right about Catholicism is beside the point. You show me another religion that's been going all this time for two thousand years, since the days of the apostles to the end of the world. Where is it? If it isn't Catholicism, then where is it? He would say to them, *"Search the scriptures, for in them you think you have life and they're testifying of me and you're not coming to me that you might have life."*

How does Jesus give you life? Because he came to reveal the Father. He came to testify to the truth. *"For this reason was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I might bear witness to the truth (Jhn 1:18, 18:37).* The truth is the truth about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You could look at that and say, "Well, that sounds like a trinitarian concept. It is. It is a trinitarian concept because there's a Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But it isn't the Trinity.

For some reason, people seem to think that if I can show you a verse that says Father, Son, Holy Spirit, that that's the Trinity. But their definition of the Trinity is that they're co-eternal and coequal. How can you have a co-eternal father and son? That's impossible. It is impossible to have a father and son to be the same age. I'm using the word age because that's what co-eternal basically is. There was never a time one was without the other. Well, how could one be a father and one be a son? That's another argument.

Jesus is the Son of God. He's the only begotten Son of God. Again, what did he say to his Father? *"For this is life eternal, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus, whom you have sent."* Jesus came to bear witness of his Father. What did he witness of his Father? Why does he say the scriptures are telling you to come to me if you want life? You're not going to find life reading the Bible, trying to keep what's in there, and figure out "which day I go to church on? Do I keep the Ten Commandments? Is this one valid? Is that one valid? What do I do?"

That isn't life. *Eternal life is to know the only true God*, John 17:3. So, how does that work? What does that mean? It is Jesus who points you to the Father. How? How does he do that? Because on the cross, the Son of God portrayed God's understanding of humanity... God's understanding of our problem of iniquity and how to overcome it. Again, the cross is a portrayal of God's understanding and how we overcome iniquity.

If all you're getting out of the cross is that he paid my penalty, he paid my debt, that almost drives me crazy because I can't find that in the Bible anywhere, and yet everybody believes it. They believe that because they've never been told the truth. If I look at Jesus (and we know Paul made the statement that he became sin) ... *He who knew no sin became sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God* (2Co 5:21). He was in the similitude of sinful flesh (Rom 8:3). How? On the cross, God, through his Son, depicted an outward picture of our inward truth.

What is our inward truth? Guilt. Can't forgive other people. Some people, we can't let it go. Nakedness, we act without an understanding of God, and darkness. Remember, the land was dark. When Jesus was on the cross, he was portraying us. How did he find death?

"Father, I feel forsaken. I thirst for truth. I'm finished trying to do this myself. So into your hands, I commit my spirit." That is humanity. That is the soul of humanity and how you find death to self. It's all right there on the cross. So that is God's understanding as portrayed by Jesus of humanity... What's our problem? How do we fix it?

That understanding is what is referred to as the Holy Spirit. Yeah, there's a Father, there's a Son, and there is the Father's understanding of humanity as portrayed by the Son. This is the message that should go to all the world. *"Go baptize them..."* It doesn't mean go dunk them in water. It's the water of the word. It's the water that comes out of your mouth. *"Out of your belly will flow rivers of living water, this spake he of the spirit."* The belly is a symbol of the mind. *"Out of your belly flows rivers of living water. This spake he of the spirit which was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified"* (Jhn 7:38-39).

To go out and tell people about their iniquity, to go out and tell people about not being able to forgive others, and say, "This is how God sees us... this is a picture of how God

sees us." You know, it's interesting when you consider that, because the stripes on Jesus' back represent what has been done to us all of our lives. Throughout our lives, we have had people inflict pain on us, whether it's your ex-husband or wife, your children, your parents, things they've said, things they've done... and maybe we just can't let that go. So that was portrayed, the outward picture of the inward truth. That was portrayed by the stripes on Jesus' back.

It's funny how the beast system will tell you that that's what you deserve. Jesus was taking your punishment and paying the price. He's going to pay that penalty for you. But no. What God is saying to you is that throughout your life, you have been making a record in your mind concerning what's been happening to you. So you have guilt. That's a record of what you've done to people. So you have stripes. Well, that's a record of what people have done to you.

Now, it's interesting, the beast system doesn't have any answers for that. So they will tell you, "Well, he paid the penalty." But again, that isn't in the Bible. I'm discovering that when I share the truth with people, when I share the truth, I see people turn to the beast system and credit them with the abilities that they have in their life toward God. They give them the credit.

They will say that this beast system has our answers. The beast system... whether you're going to the Pentecostal church, Baptist, Church of Christ, Catholic, it doesn't matter. They all have basically the same understanding: God is angry and he needs to be appeased, and Jesus appeased it, that anger.

But Jesus says, Well, you think you're finding life in that book, but it's telling you to come to me to find life. Well, life eternal is to know the Father. So I'm going to portray for you the thoughts of God, God's understanding. Just so happens that I'm going to show you what he thinks of you, the problem he sees, and how to correct it, hence the Holy Spirit.

So he's revealing the Father to us. In so doing, he can set you free, completely free, of all guilt and anger, hatred, and struggles that you're having in your family. You'll quit acting on your own and start listening to the Spirit of God. As that truth is in you, that Spirit of truth is in you, you will act having that knowledge, and you'll no longer be in darkness about God.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. You don't come to the Father but through him (Jhn 14:6). And the Father gives you life through Jesus. Again, "This is life eternal, that they might know you, the only true God" (Jhn 17:3).

So, having this understanding, people will still go to the beast system. Again, as I was saying, they will give them the abilities they have in religion and their church and so on that came from the church system, the beast system. Therefore, they will give that pastor their conscience and great authority in their lives. Do you realize the danger of that? Do you realize what we're talking about here, to give the beast system your throne or your conscience? Give them your conscience and great authority in your life?

I've seen people when they hear the truth, will run right back to that pastor, that Bible teacher, whoever it is, and give them authority over their understanding of God. If that preacher says it, it's got to be true. So you're giving him your conscience. You're giving him great authority. And the abilities that you do manifest, you're giving that to the church system, the beast system, too.

The beast system needs to be dropped... if we could walk away from it. But that's the issue, isn't it? Because for a new person, someone who isn't understanding the truth with a depth of meaning that's actually going to help them... they don't have the courage to take the truth, cling to it with all their life, and make the changes that need to be made to set them free from iniquity.

This is what it's all about. Remember, Jesus said, *"Depart from me, you workers of iniquity. I never knew you."* It's just interesting. He's talking to believers. Believers! *"Haven't we done many wonderful things in your name?" ... "Well, I never knew you. Depart into this everlasting fire made for the devil and his angels"* (Mat 25:41).

See, we like to think that there's this lake of fire burning somewhere, and he's going to pitch us all in it, when the reality of it is, there is a lake of fire in you and in me. It's spiritual, and that lake of fire is made for the devil and his angels. So when you hear things that are not accurate, when you begin to wake up and realize the truth about God, you can take those lies and that misinterpretation and put them in that lake of fire. It'll disappear forever. It's out of you. You burn it out.

The lake of fire was made for the devil and his angels. At the end of the world, who is it that judges you? Well, we'll all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2Co 5:10). Well, he's going to put them in a lake of fire. That lake of fire is his lake of fire (Rev 20:11-15). They will not survive coming before Christ, and he will forget them. In his mind, he will put them in a lake of fire, and they'll be forgotten.

An example of that is the things that I've learned throughout my Christianity. One is the Trinity. It's like I was told this Trinity is the truth. But when I saw the truth that Jesus really is the Son of God, born in eternity, he emptied himself and became a man, and he came in the flesh, fleshly understanding-- that Trinity doctrine I've put in the lake of fire. That lake of fire, again, burns within me. You can put things in it and get rid of them. You don't have to believe that anymore. You don't have to go that direction anymore.

There's nothing I can say that's actually going to help anybody who doesn't really want the help. If you can't look at what you're being told and realize this is not setting me free from iniquity... You know, it's interesting, most people don't even know what iniquity even is. But he's died to set you free from iniquity (Tit 2:14). But people don't stop to think, "I'm not free from iniquity." Telling somebody the Trinity and that Jesus paid your sin debt does not set you free from iniquity. Hence, you're not being saved.

Oh, but you know, I prayed the prayer. I prayed that prayer, and the preacher told me, "I'm saved." Well, saved means to be redeemed from iniquity. 1 Peter 1:9, *the aim, the conclusion of your faith is the salvation of your soul. The perfection of your faith, the completion of your faith, is the salvation of your soul.* What is faith? Romans 10, *faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God. How are they going to hear without a preacher?* (Rom 10:13-17)

The things I'm telling you are not things you're going to see for yourself in the Bible. Someone has to tell us. We have to be told so that we can see it. And then you cling to that truth, you marry that Spirit. You marry it. You cling to it. The Holy Spirit becomes your wife. The Holy Spirit becomes your emotional side. In so doing, you can begin to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, and you can be set free from all iniquity.

I pray that maybe something I'm saying right now will take hold. I continue to make these videos. I continue to do the podcast on Revelation, just trying to bring this home, hoping somebody's going to see it. So that's my prayer.

If you see light in what I'm saying, give me a thumbs up, leave a message, or leave a comment. Don't go away from this thing, just shrugging it off because every single thing I'm telling you is scriptural, and you can see it for yourself. Remember the acid test: 1 John 2:22, antichrist denies the Father and Son. 1 John 4:1-3, antichrist denies Jesus came in the flesh, because if either of those things is true, the Trinity is false.

To deny the Father and the Son, I would ask you which Son does the Catholic Church deny? He denies that Christ was born in eternity. He denies that when he became a man, he entered into this world in Bethlehem without a knowledge of God and grew in wisdom and grace, and grew in his understanding. If either one of those verses is true, there's no Trinity, and you're not being saved from iniquity. If you believe the Trinity, that is impossible.

I pray that we come to grips with truth and that God gives us, he leads us into deeper truth to glorify Him, live according to the Spirit, and glorify Him.