

## WHO CAN YOU BELIEVE?

1 Corinthians 2:13 “This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” (NIV)

One resource says world Christianity “. . . is divided into 300 major ecclesiastical traditions, composed of over 33,000 distinct denominations in 238 countries, these denominations themselves being composed of over 3,400,000 worship centers, churches or congregations.” (<https://www.learnreligions.com/how-many-religions...>) In your limited exposure through the various churches you have attended, you are aware not all churches preach and teach the same message. Who, then, should you believe? No, who then can you believe?

St. Paul had critics who challenged what he preached and taught. They were so strong in their opposition to his ministry they arrested him and put him into prison. Eventually he was martyred because of his preaching and teaching.

While he was alive and engaged in ministry, when his critics challenged what he preached and taught he responded, “This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” (1 Corinthians 2:13)

Paul’s words are good advice for you to take to heart. There are many in the countless denominations and congregations (see first paragraph) in the world claiming their message is from God. You can check what they teach and preach by comparing what they say with the Holy Scriptures. Why the Holy Scriptures? Because “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) And, Jesus provides you assistance, “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26) You can be sure what the Holy Spirit teaches you is the truth. The Word He inspired and revealed “. . . was written for our (your) instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we (you) might have hope.” (Romans 15:4-5)

Prayer: Holy Spirit, lead and guide me through the Holy Scriptures to know what is true and believe it for Jesus' sake in whose name I pray. Amen.

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,  
And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray.  
O keep our faith from failing; Keep hope's bright star aglow.  
Let nothing from truth turn us While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor, The bold blasphemer smite;  
Convince, convert, enlighten The souls in error's night.  
Reveal Your will, dear Savior, To all who dwell below,  
Great light of all the living, That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion, Bought dearly with Your blood;  
Protect what You have chosen Against the hellish flood.  
Be always our defender When dangers gather round;  
When all the earth is crumbling, Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching, The truth that makes us whole,  
The mirror of Your glory, The pow'r that saves the soul.  
Oh, may this living water, This dew of heav'nly grace,  
Sustain us while here living Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest Your storm-tossed little flock;  
Assailed by wind and weather, May it endure each shock.  
Stand at the helm, our pilot, And set the course aright;  
Then we will reach the harbor In Your eternal light.

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