

The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

# The Evangelical Vow

by Ben Huot

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# First Things

The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

# For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at  
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I even enjoy constructive criticism

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filenames and directory names

links

distribution method

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# And the Laughter Continues

The soldier arrives home  
And is greeted with laughter  
The minister speaks  
And the church merely laughs  
We are no longer preaching to the choir

The world is a bully  
And we preach a religion  
A path of non-violence  
And acceptance of everyone  
But the world likes  
Its hierarchies and self importance

Most people don't mature  
Or get past high school  
One person's pain  
Is another person's joy  
The depravity of those  
Who would mock the Lord Himself  
To His face



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Many people don't care  
When weak people suffer  
The same people  
Who commit mass murder  
Who become serial killers  
What motivates this attitude  
It is based on a view of the world  
Where your self worth  
Comes only from others losing

This describes a person  
Who enjoys power  
At any cost  
The kind of person  
With a cross on the back  
Of their run down car  
But the cross is upside down

The kind of person  
Who likes to spy on others  
Who sees only the videos  
Rejected by even Youtube

The kind of person  
Who doesn't take life seriously  
Whose only fear is the possibility  
Of their Internet connection being lost

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Someone who has no shame  
This is the kind of person  
You hire to solve problems  
And then find yourself  
The victim of their help  
It is a criminal mentality  
It is the way prison works

The only thing valued is strength  
And any show of emotions  
Or any act of compassion  
Or any expression of faith  
Is not only rejected  
But becomes fuel for greater cruelty  
We say but they are just kids  
Later we talk about  
What they did in a criminal court

As the sun sets on our morality  
America will become as mean  
As what happens in the third world  
But yet these same people  
We are sworn to save  
Or at least attempt to  
This is what they truly  
Cannot accept is why we  
Keep on caring and fighting for them  
And so they think we are crazy and weak

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Because we are fixated  
On nothing but helping  
Those who are bent  
On taking advantage  
Of what we give freely

To truly live in the example of Christ  
We must accept being weak  
And to accept at the very least  
Others mocking us  
We cannot reject everything  
Our society has come to  
Love and respect  
And at the same time  
Be accepted and treated as equals

There are going to be deeper divisions  
Than we can yet possibly imagine  
There will be more cruelty  
But also more compassion

And the world will continue to laugh  
Because they do not understand  
Because they do not care about any of this  
Because they are being mean

And yet we are not responding in kind

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When we do not act violently  
In response to others  
Trying to pick a fight  
They just think we are weak  
And then these lose all respect for us

As our society continues to encourage  
This type of behavior  
Glamorizing it in games, music, and movies  
This kind of attitude  
Will only accelerate

Some people just cannot accept  
That sinning is fundamentally painful  
They see the initial bit of pleasure  
And then they think of nothing else  
Maybe they are addicts

There is a part of this  
In every one of us  
Even the kindest among us  
Has a cruel side as well  
So some have hardened themselves  
And refuse these people

Because they see themselves  
As nice people and these as mean people  
Then they just ignore these people

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Or locate themselves  
Behind fence and guards  
They then adopt surveillance  
An barricade themselves indoors

Even in times of crisis  
It is critical to work with others  
We all will eventually have to  
Trust someone  
I would much rather trust God  
Than any other person  
Including myself

We have to starve the wolf  
Calling from within us  
To save ourselves  
From becoming either of these kinds of people

Many educated people believe  
These kind of people are not reformable  
That may well be true for some  
But fundamentally we are all in the same boat

We are both these kind of people  
We are so focused now on how other people think  
And how we will deal with our adversaries  
That we cannot see the bigger picture

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There may be many obstacles before us  
But there is a bigger world  
We cannot see that effects this one  
This is where both our threats  
And salvation come from

But One Greater than all this  
Has given us victory over all else  
In this world there will be suffering  
But God has already destroyed evil  
The ultimate battle has been won  
We just need to fight some minor skirmishes

We are fundamentally peons and unimportant  
In and of ourselves  
But God does not look at us this way  
He values us for some unknown reason

Our problem is that we think  
That we are at the center of our world  
We think we are the ones running the show  
And we think we have earned that right

But ultimately some will laugh  
All the way to hell  
We will continue to reach out to help  
As God has never given up on us

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But eventually it will be too late  
And their minds will be fully resolved  
So that they will not want  
To come to the other side

It is sad to be a victim  
But it is much more depressing  
To reject God's offering of forgiveness  
God is reaching out  
But some will not even shake His hand  
There are a million reasons why  
Some make more sense than others

But God believes in  
Radical equality and radical freedom  
Unlike what most Americans claim  
He loves us all the same no matter what  
But He has also given us freedom  
To reject even His offer of paradise

# The Greatest Sorrow / The Greatest Joy

Many are afraid  
They will never create again  
Many are afraid they will never live again  
We see the time we have now  
As the end of everything  
A sort of accumulation of history and knowledge  
That we are basically good people

But the condition of the earth  
And suffering we cause for our lifestyle  
These show a lack of wisdom  
And a lack of maturity

We think as we get older  
We will learn and grow to be happy  
But if we are not happy now  
Nothing will make us happy

I now realize that the joy of the Lord is my strength  
In many ways I am weak



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I have a weak mind  
I am physically slow in movement  
I lack discipline in many areas of my life

Many with my mental illness  
Have given up on  
Being able to contribute to society  
But sometimes surviving  
Is the only thing you can achieve

But there is good news  
And it is this  
This is only a small part of life  
We worry we will not leave a legacy  
Or that no one will remember us  
Who told you death was the end  
Death is where life starts

And if you do not die  
To the values of the world  
And become otherworldly in their eyes  
You will never experience life

The world is negative and depressing  
Because it has no hope after death  
But we will be brought back to God  
If not willingly then kicking and screaming  
Like when we are pulled from the womb

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Being born again can be achieved  
In a single moment of prayer  
But this is only the start  
Some say you can find Heaven on earth  
That is what walking in faith is like  
But the critical parts of faith  
Are obedience to God and acting on limited information

God will do nothing more  
To prove who He is to us  
We already have enough information  
To fully make up our minds  
Even the devil believes the Christian God is real  
And he is bent on destroying God's plan

So if we are to really enjoy life  
The way isn't to get smarter or more disciplined  
By strength of will alone  
But be allowing the Holy Spirit  
To quicken us by His grace

We constantly judge and second guess God  
But God is always faithful  
He also never lies or breaks promises  
When we say we are good people  
Do you think we are fooling anyone

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People say God is now irrelevant  
We think we have risen to the level of God  
But we still cannot predict the weather  
And we are drowning in our own filth  
Even little animals have better sense

We have not improved upon anything God created  
Not even considering the fact  
That He has created all of us  
Our best creations are but poor imitations  
Of what God has already created

So what if we learn to travel in space and time  
So what if we get nearly unlimited energy  
Imagine how all these worlds will look like  
After we are finished using everything up on them  
Will we then be happy

If we are not happy now  
With what we have as Americans  
Nothing will make us happy

If we lived a hundred years ago  
Most of us would be farming small blocks of land  
As many wise people are learning how today  
But even when people worked in factories  
Or did other repetitive and hard physical labor  
They were no less happy than us

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We have tried every solution under the sun  
Except praying to God  
And choosing to follow Him unconditionally  
Does it make the pain hurt less  
To be mad at God

It is now obvious that our arrogance  
To think we could be like God  
Is what has brought evil into this world  
Yes we created something - evil and suffering  
To say we came out of nothing  
Is as crazy as saying we created ourselves

So many Christians are not happy or even nice people  
Maybe they have no real faith  
Maybe they are not cooperating with the Holy Spirit  
Maybe the person is better than they were before

It is not like we fire a doctor  
Because someone dies of heart disease  
Even after being warned  
To change their lifestyle

Who are we to judge  
If you think you are a good person  
Read about the Apostle Paul  
Who followed all ethical rules

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And yet declared himself not good enough

Imagine if you were God  
Would you be impressed  
With our weapons or our toys  
Or modern civilization in general

We make machines and vehicles  
We have huge amounts of energy  
God made life and spirit  
God created the physical and spiritual laws and realities  
God also created the human personalities we try to emulate

With our most advanced artificial intelligence  
Anything we can dream up  
God has both surpassed us  
And gave us the dream in the first place  
And the mind to dream with  
Why do we try to compete  
With our creator

He still loves us  
And will take us as we are now  
If you want to impress God  
Do so with your humility and faithfulness  
Be committed to truth  
And really take morality seriously  
Do not live your life to gain money, power, or love

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You can only be happy  
Once you have the peace of mind  
To see things in perspective  
We are so focused on getting the next job  
That we do not address the most pressing issue  
What will I do after I die  
This is the one and only question  
You need to answer in your life

If you had to choose between being homeless  
And then living forever in paradise  
Or being rich and famous for 70 years  
Which would you choose  
And many people think Christians are foolish

Can you not count  
Can you not see God in the natural world  
Can you not see Him knocking on your heart  
Open your eyes and listen with your ears  
God will make Himself real to you  
If you would only seek Him out

Everyone will find God in this life  
The question is really how will you respond  
Many people think that God  
Forgiving evil people is crazy  
But most of the world's problems

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Could be resolved if we would forgive each other

But why is it you that gets to decide  
What is right and wrong and how God decides  
Who gets into His Heaven  
What gives you the authority or the wisdom  
To know what is best for all humanity

If God wants to forgive someone He can  
I do not sell what I create  
Is that not my right  
So it is with God  
His creation is governed by His rules

So we are as Christians  
Less and less surprised  
You think we are crazy  
Our entire belief system  
Is an affront to your modern world

Christ speaks against  
The great thinkers  
And great inventors  
We challenge everything you value  
Everything you fought hard for

But doesn't the possibility that God  
Wants you just as you are

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Just make you a little curious  
We all know the world is going into  
A scary time and a very dark age  
Is unfolding before our eyes

Is it not worth your time  
To seek this God out  
Surely you respect Him for His creation  
Or for merely creating you  
Even if you do not respect  
Christ's life and death on the cross  
Surely you desire to live forever in paradise  
Do you really despise humility and compassion

Is Christianity not worth further investigation  
It is not like this is a religion we invented  
It is also very common to believe in God  
Internationally and historically  
White people sure didn't invent Christianity  
And most white people in the world  
Will not be Christian in 20 years

Sure modern society is hostile to God  
But it is surely crumbling while I write this  
So do you want to be at peace  
With yourself and for eternity with God

Many say they do not have faith



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But faith is a choice  
And God gives people faith who pray for it  
Many of the greatest Christians  
Wavered in faith even when it really mattered

Like the Apostle Peter  
The very foundation of the Church  
If you have never doubted  
Than you can never really believe

# What is True and What is Real?

Many people have studied philosophy  
Without being aware of it  
Most people have strong views on ethics  
Most people also have beliefs in theology  
Or in a similar category called metaphysics  
For those who don't believe in God

The real issue underlying our beliefs  
Is a conflict between epistemological views  
Epistemology is how we know something to be true  
Many Christians would say the Bible  
Most people across the board would say science

A change in this aspect of thought  
Could be a real turning point  
In our understanding of the world  
And our conflicts of the future

The modern world is based on science  
And the lack of interest in studying theology

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Comes from a disinterest in the study  
Of the humanities in general

Even many Christians have largely bought into  
The idea that the modern world is good  
And that science and technology are the way forward

I propose an entirely different view  
Many people think we disagree  
Primarily over ethics  
And this is driven by our beliefs  
In the areas of theology and metaphysics

An even greater discussion comes  
If we shift our view to incorporate  
The idea of what we think of reality  
The difference between liberal and conservative  
Is based on many things  
It is much about the people's views of religion and science

But the bigger real difference  
The modern world has had on theology  
Is the introduction of science  
And social science in the discussion of religion

I propose that even Christians  
For the most part believe too much in science  
The reality of the spiritual world

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And what happens supernaturally  
Is treated at best with suspicion

In modern psychology religion is  
Not even considered relevant at best  
And at worst the source of the problem  
This great hostility to religion  
I think comes from feminism

Feminists have a wide spectrum of beliefs  
At one extreme they believe that men are equal to women  
And at the other extreme they believe men  
Should be locked in cages and only used for procreation

Many today see men as irrelevant at best  
And a source of violence at worst  
Part of this is how our society sees morality  
But the deeper issue is how people see reality

Our society is fixated on sexual themes currently  
And so this obsession has pushed  
A huge amount of sexual deviance  
And lowered our expectations of sexual morality

Today many people think humans cannot be monogamous  
Many Christians today see homosexuality as a sin  
But regardless the issue is much more broad

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Society no longer cares about what God says

The real gripe that cannot be resolved for most feminists  
With regard to the Christian God  
Even in many Churches today  
Is that God is masculine

Just as some people cannot except  
That men and women are different  
Sure there is huge spectrum and even overlap  
But fundamentally most men  
Share things in common  
That most women do not  
And the opposite is also true

So these modern ideas of feminism, science, and psychology  
Are all hostile to traditional world religions  
Why is this  
It comes down to seeing the person  
As a machine we can manipulate  
Instead of a mystery God created

There is so little mystery to common life  
In the way we relate with each other  
People overshare and over analyze  
They contribute way too much writing  
And way too many pictures  
While thinking much too little about any of it

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More people now write books than ever before  
Even as fewer people read books than ever before  
We are not only becoming a post literate society  
But a post information driven society  
We want to play games non stop

We want to be at the center  
We want to be “in the know” about everything  
And we want to have control over everything  
This current virus shows us how vulnerable we are  
To even the slightest disruption of our lives

We makes far too many compromises as Christians  
We need to live as Christians and the entire world did  
Back before the evolution of the modern world  
We need to shift to a society  
Based off farming and have a subsistence economy

Greed and selfishness really do run the modern world  
But it does not have to be that way  
Sure people will still be selfish  
But we don't need a society  
That is so loud about  
Things that should be done in private

Society now has no shame  
We don't need all the technology we currently have

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We are a society of addictions  
And our entire world view encourages this  
There are more temptations and ways to do evil  
Than ever before

We are running through everything too fast  
Young people go through the stages of life too fast  
We need to slow everything down  
And take time to think  
We need a new frontier  
Not a technology or land based one  
But one based on emotional and spiritual dimensions

One of the biggest changes  
Many have overlooked  
Is that science fiction has become mainstream  
This is critical as contemporary science fiction  
Means supernatural in religious terms

It makes people think philosophically  
It is ironic that we consider science fiction  
To be an entirely different genre than regular fiction  
As if the things that happen in these stories  
Are somehow less real or less likely to happen

One person's technology is another person's magic  
While our society is very loud in many regards  
What powers it we treat like magic

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Because it is so complex  
Many people who help build websites today  
Cannot build even a small one all by themselves

The complexity has gone up exponentially  
Even in the last decade  
The whole design of computers  
Allows you to ignore the parts  
Underpinning the level you work at  
Much as going to the bathroom  
Does not require you understand plumbing well  
Unless of course it stops working

Technology will undo itself  
In a number of different ways  
A big part of this is the inability  
To effectively control access  
To only parts of a system  
And the ability of hackers  
To quickly break down even the best of barriers  
And the inability to verify the validity of anything

Hacking is now actually encouraged by both popular culture  
As well as major branches of most major  
Local, regional, and national governments  
With the US and Israel leading the pack

They are the sources of the most dangerous hacks today



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Which are made much worse  
By sloppiness and poor defensive security  
These leading countries encourage more countries  
To join in this type of warfare  
Because we are doing the same to the same countries  
The real victims of this particular US foreign policy are your local  
School districts, hospitals, and city governments  
In rural and low income areas of the country

Our whole morality in society has crumbled  
Because we no longer question reality  
We just accept what we are told in school  
As it were Gospel truth

We need to listen to God and our parents  
But we also need to think critically  
And wake up and make some connections  
As to what is happening  
And read some history of another culture  
At another time period of history

Our world culture lead by our country  
Is doing radically different things  
Than long-lasting empires of the past did  
Many governments are run by fools  
But when the dominant world empire does so  
It hurts everyone

# What is Wrong with Other Religions?

What is wrong with other religions  
Nothing is morally wrong  
But none of them promise you  
Forever in paradise  
After a simple prayer  
And a change of attitude

Christianity is free for us  
But it will also cost us everything  
You hear until you are blue in the face  
That salvation is the result of a single prayer

This true technically  
But there is no evidence of it  
To prove to others or God  
Or even yourself  
That your faith is real

Faith follows into action  
Much as effect follows cause

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Changing what you believe  
Is not just an academic decision  
And is not just a one time thing

Sure if you are on your death bed  
You can go to Heaven with just a prayer  
And a real heart change  
But you will miss out on a more peaceful life  
And none of us know when or how we will die

Also following God is never forced on you  
Even for those filled with the Holy Spirit  
God will not force you to do anything  
Because that is not how He created us  
Nor is it in His nature or plan for us

Having God in your life  
Does not mean you will always have fun  
You will have peace  
But these qualities are meant as spiritual ones  
Not physical or emotional

We live in different spheres simultaneously  
Something can be true spiritually but not emotionally  
Or emotionally true but not physically true  
The most important factor in any spiritual act  
Is the intent of the action

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Unlike the physical aspect  
On the emotional side  
Your response to some action  
Depends upon various factors  
Including experiences, personality, and belief system

The mind is where the physical  
And spiritual worlds cross over  
You can simultaneously feel one thing  
Think another and believe something else

The mind is difficult to master  
Because it is stressed out  
Fighting between our conflicted selves  
For those who can unite  
Their feelings, thinking, and choices  
Those people will have a still mind

Much of the internal conflicts  
People have are over morally significant choices  
Where you want to do something  
Or do not want to do something  
But instead do the opposite  
Emotions are tricky  
And change as the wind's direction does

The start of this process  
Is to have complete control over your will

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You can try to do all this on your own  
But I for one am not strong enough

In Christianity the Holy Spirit lives within you  
And gives you the ability to follow  
What you believe in over time  
And to the extent that you let Him

In Buddhism you believe that  
Evil and suffering come from desire or lust  
And so seek to overcome what most call immorality  
But instead of Christ doing most of the work for you  
In Buddhism the load is totally on you  
Because in Buddhism God is irrelevant

I have great respect for Buddhism  
And have tried to learn  
As much as possible from it  
But I do not have it in me  
To do all this on my own  
These are the major concepts that distinguish  
Christianity from Buddhism

Enlightenment is a matter of debate within Buddhism  
All it definitely means is the extinction of desire  
And it is only supposed to happen after you die  
There are literally hundreds of rules to follow

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There is also as much division and violence  
That is fair to contribute to Buddhism as there is to Christianity  
Which is to say neither are responsible  
Because fighting goes against both belief systems

So while I think it is worth my time  
To study various major world belief systems  
And there is much wisdom in there  
Great beauty and imagination  
Great morals and role models

The Bible is written on an entirely different level  
The Bible is both easier to understand  
And also much deeper in thinking  
While also covering more topics  
With much more brevity

I could read through the Pali Canon  
Maybe three times in my lifetime  
And learn new things each time  
Whereas I could read the Bible  
Every year of my life  
And learn new things after each verse

Some Christians may think  
Other religions were designed by the devil  
Merely to misdirect and deceive people  
I do not believe so

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I believe these people pursued  
And persevered greatly  
To try to find solution  
To very difficult problems

I think Buddhism in particular  
Is the best thought out  
Agnostic leaning belief system  
Especially in their view of creation or origin

There are of course many crossovers  
In terms of morality  
And many ideas are similar  
Like advice for wise living  
They both encourage discipline  
And force people to really think

There are no easy decisions in life  
Even the obvious ones that are morally significant  
Are hard because they require action

Christianity is not hard to understand  
To merely practice the religion  
And God has done most of the work  
Being Christian is hard  
Because you cannot take credit  
For those good things you do

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But being Christian makes you  
Desire to do what is good  
And it becomes more natural over time

Christians spend so much time and effort  
To spread God's message  
Because if you believe what we do  
You would have to be mean person  
To not want to help bring others to God

As God never gives up on us  
We will never give up on you  
Surely God brings people to Himself  
And again God does most of the work  
And Christians certainly shouldn't claim credit for it

There are many non-Christians  
Who make up their own religion  
This has some serious issues on several levels  
If you want any philosophy  
Or religion to be effective  
It has to be consistent  
Within its own framework  
It has to be true and reflect  
And deal with reality as it is

To mix major belief systems  
Or only focus on those things



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They have in common  
Is definitely easier  
But if you don't want to really try and be serious  
There is no point in claiming to be religious  
People will easily see through it  
But not before they have enough time invested  
That it will really irritate them

So few religious people will want to embrace you  
Even Christians who accept everyone  
Will never allow you in a position  
Of leadership or teaching  
Until they feel you are  
On the same page as them

Ultimately choosing various parts of religions to assemble  
Means you are taking on the role of God  
Who are you to decide  
What others do  
Or what is right and wrong

Christians did not create Christianity  
And it comes from the Jewish people of ancient Israel  
There are no more connections to Europe or America  
Than there are with Buddhism, Islam, or modern Atheism

All the major world religions  
Come from Asia and maybe Africa

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And predate all but the oldest civilizations  
We have records of

They formed before any of these nations  
We associate with these various religions  
Had the current cultures  
We know them now for  
In any recognizable form

It is true that it is acceptable traditionally  
To mix Chinese and Indian philosophies and religions  
Of course the Chinese traditionally treated Buddhism similar to Christianity  
And Hinduism is considered part of the same system  
As Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism  
This does not require you to accept all the ideas of these religions  
To legitimately practice some parts

There are actually entire religions that have formed  
By taking parts of other religions  
Although usually much more of one than another  
Like Sikhism, Zen Buddhism, Neo-Confucianism, Manicheanism, and  
I think Zoroastrianism

Christianity on the other hand  
Does not accept the idea  
That you can add or take away  
From what the entire Bible says

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Neither does Islam allow you  
To take away or add  
To the Quran or Sunna

Practicing parts of Christianity would be like  
Practicing science without logic or  
Algebra without addition or multiplication  
Buddhism stands on its own and makes sense  
Regardless of whether or not their was actual man  
Who became enlightened in ancient India

Christianity only makes sense  
Within the Old Testament law and prophets  
If the Old Testament was unreliable factually or historically  
Christianity would make little sense either  
Finally, if you do not believe  
In the possibility of the supernatural  
The Bible will make no sense to you

Buddhism does depend upon the concept of karma  
Which is similar but not the same as sin in the Bible  
The proof for Buddhism in this life is that  
We can see karma happening before our eyes

But the Christian concept of sin  
Makes much more sense  
Because good things happen to bad people  
And bad thing happen to good people

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Furthermore good people do bad things  
And bad people do good things

Innocent people suffer  
Because of the actions of others  
There are many nice poor people  
And many nasty rich people

There is also the idea of hell  
Shared between Buddhism and Christianity  
But there is no savior  
Or promise of Heaven in Buddhism

Oddly during your final lifetime  
Before ascending you need  
To accumulate no karma  
Either good or bad  
Because karma drives  
The reincarnation cycle

Buddhism is so difficult to follow  
That most Buddhists actually  
Pray to Buddha  
(actually another Buddha)  
Although this makes no sense  
Within the conceptual framework  
Of Buddhist philosophy

# The Evangelical Vow

In Mahayana / Chinese Buddhism

Monks take a vow

Called the Bodhisattva Vow

This vow is not to ascend fully

Until every sentient being

Reaches the same point

This is called the Greater Vehicle

For this reason

This is opposed to Hinayana / Indian Buddhism

Where the focus is on individual enlightenment

Buddhism is less specific in doctrines

And there are less practical divisions

Within major branches of Buddhism

Than their are between some churches

Traditionally Mahayana and Hinayana students

Both studied together and lived in the same dorms

Tibetan Buddhism actually builds

On both the Chinese and Indian schools

And adds its own method of enlightenment

Taken from a Tibetan version of animism

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

I believe the all Evangelical Christians  
When they ask for forgiveness of sins  
And believe in the fundamentals of salvation  
Like the literal Biblical account of Christ's  
Birth, life, death, teachings, and resurrection

They are also taking an implicit or indirect vow  
To not give up on evangelizing  
Until every person is converted  
Or they physically die and go to heaven  
This is because God has never given up on us

We as Christians now are feeling a culmination  
Of many changes in culture over my lifetime  
That America as whole has become so hostile to God  
That evangelicals could make the argument  
That they presented the Gospel as best they can  
And the country totally rejected it  
And there is no more that they can do

They could now be morally ok with  
Just keeping their faith to themselves  
And practice in private  
And completely withdraw from the world

Many non-believers would rejoice  
But we can never give up on non-believers

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Because God didn't and doesn't  
Feel that unbelievers are permanently lost  
Until the very moment we die  
The offer of salvation is open still  
To all human beings and possibly other life forms

Animals have a different covenant with God  
They have actually not ever sinned like us  
You can read hints of this in Genesis 9

We are all forgiven unconditionally  
So we must see others as the same as us  
Just like before we were saved  
We cannot expect God to forgive us  
If we are not actively seeking out new converts

The way this is done is largely  
Up to individual Christians  
We must try to follow the law wherever possible  
And not be obnoxious or aggressive about it

We should follow God's direction  
And the Bible's example  
Christ did not pick fights  
With people unnecessarily

But when something was true  
And central to His ministry

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

He did not back down  
Or water down His message

This idea is timely because  
We have just this year  
Been legally required  
To keep from meeting in public  
Even though this violates  
What our country stands for

While pot stores remained open  
And are not used primarily for medicine  
Which is only supposed to be legal  
So we don't fill prisons with non-violent offenders

The reasoning for this change in the law  
Was not to promote it  
There is no mention in the Bill of Rights  
About alcohol or other drugs

This happened because so few people cared in many states

We are all the prodigal son as Christians  
We are to welcome in any  
Who truly repent of their sins  
There is more partying in heaven over one new convert  
Than a sea of people who have been  
Serving God faithfully all their lives



## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

We are to make no distinction between  
These two categories of believers  
This is because we do not practice Christianity  
For status with God  
God cares about who you are now  
Not how you were in the past  
Provided you completely turn from your sins

The Apostle Paul was the leader  
Of those persecuting the Church  
And he was made the missionary leader  
For spreading the Gospel  
Through most of their known world

He was also given the honor  
Of penning scripture in his own words  
From the exact thoughts  
Given to Him directly from God

Paul's letters were never disputed  
As legitimate by early Christians  
Even before the New Testament  
Was finished and agreed upon

The basis for the church in its human form is the Apostle Peter  
Peter ditched God and the early followers  
At the most critical time

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

There is no reason to take a formal vow  
For this implicit promise  
As the important point is the idea behind it  
Also Protestants have been using rituals  
Less and less over time  
What we need is hope for the future

If nothing else is obvious in prophecy  
It is that God controls history directly

Christ Himself was quite a surprise  
To even His closest followers  
Even to those who studied prophecy and knew it best  
Expect similar levels of surprises in the future  
And for Christ's second coming and the apocalypse

Even a hundred years ago  
No one would have predicted  
That the political leaders of Israel would be Jews

A couple hundred years go  
No one would believe  
That a former colony  
On an entirely different continent  
Would win independence from the  
Best army and navy on the planet

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

And then by itself  
Become the biggest world power  
Even when it for a long time had little interest  
In world politics  
And believed little in foreign intervention

Within the last hundred years  
The church cultural center has shifted again  
From America to Africa  
We think belief in God is dying  
Because so many people in America  
Are negative about God

But America is only 5% of the world's population  
Most of the world has become  
More religious not less  
Especially over the last couple hundred years  
And it is continuing to accelerate

The majority the church is now very poor  
And has very little power  
We feel sorry for the poverty and violence in Africa  
But many Africans feel sorry for the  
Lack of spiritual knowledge in America  
There are actually now African missionaries  
Bringing the Gospel back to Europe

Recently one of the most atheist countries in the world

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Has had a great revival in the Church  
Albania has been the place of  
Some of the greatest Christians heroes  
Who fought radical Islam in the form of the Turks  
Who for centuries attempted  
And almost did overtake all of Europe

At the same time that the church  
Was literally fighting itself  
During the Protestant Reformation  
France even made an alliance with the Turks  
To further their nation  
At the expense of Christianity

Eastern Europe came together and fought off the Turks  
For Western Europe without their help  
Otherwise Christianity would only be  
Practiced today in Northern Ethiopia

The battle is spiritual  
The key battlegrounds are the mind, the church, and heavenly places  
If we focus on what happens in our own minds  
And in our own churches  
Which we have control over  
The rest of society will come back to God

We should be engaged in the world more not less  
Like on the Internet, media, and gaming

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

But we should avoid political connections  
With religion and business  
Because of several reasons

This has back fired many times throughout history  
It is the source of both the wars of the Reformation  
The fuel behind the cold war on the part of the Soviets  
It is also a big reason why so many Muslims  
Currently hate both America and Christianity

Christians and unbelievers  
Do not all share the same views  
And this adds on another burden  
And obstacle to faith  
That God has not placed on us

People do not need to think  
The greatest threat is still communism  
For them to believe in God  
But it may appear so to unbelievers  
It is like when the pharisees  
Added things to God's law

Also to be effective in politics  
You have to compromise morally  
So much that you cannot effectively  
Bring Christian morality into government

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Neither Christ nor the apostles tried  
To get involved in wars or politics  
The pharisees represented the closest thing  
To a connection between politics and business and religion  
And they then became corrupt

God first wanted to govern Israel  
Directly through prophets  
And the Israelites were warned  
When they asked for a king  
They would become slaves

And that is what happened  
The prophets constantly spoke out against  
Those in power and who had authority  
Who thought they were God's followers

God continues to pick people  
Totally unfit for leadership  
To implement His policies  
Because it gives God credit  
When you do things  
By money and powerful people  
It gives people credit

We need to refocus on spreading the Gospel  
And spend less time fighting  
Over the interpretation of Scripture

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

We need to just read the Bible directly

And God will make sure people  
Understand His word  
Who are willing  
To take the time and effort  
To pray and listen to God

We are very fortunate as English speakers  
We have many very good translations  
For over 40 years  
There are many easy to understand versions  
That are also very accurate  
So much so that many may not now need  
Additional Bible references to get the main points

Lets get back to just reading Scripture  
And let the Bible speak for itself  
We don't need to win theological debates  
Or win public offices  
Or raise lots of money  
Or travel anywhere

We need to change others hearts  
By first changing our own  
We need to humble the Church before God  
And He will lift it up

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Lets wait on God before  
We start our next major project  
Lets spend part of our prayer time  
Listening for God's response

Lets keep from sins as we know  
Everyone is watching closely  
Show unbelievers that being Christian  
Brings joy and peace to our lives

Everyone wants to be happy and content  
First the church must be content  
With where it is now  
It is great to not be satisfied  
But let us focus this impulse to drive us to  
Continue to not just reform the church  
But reform our own lives

Let us do the best with what God has given us  
And where God has placed us  
And get His direction before we move  
Christianity is simple to understand  
But it is amazingly hard to do right

If God hasn't given up on me  
I can never give up on unbelievers  
Even now even through all of this  
I am no better or more important than anyone else



## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Christianity forces radical equality  
God loves us all the same  
As we are all His children

Some may come only come back  
Kicking and screaming  
But so it is with many births  
The way forward is to look to the past  
To look to both scripture  
And the traditions and history of the church

Put God first and the people will follow  
The Church is a reflection  
And a representative of humanity  
Let us reflect Christ

So we may be ready for anything  
Because we haven't seen anything  
Like the changes will be  
Over the next 50 years

# What Does Obedience Mean?

What does obedience mean  
In the context of the Bible  
Christ wants us to obey Him  
But many people have had  
Bad experiences with authority figures

Many became one because  
They wanted power over others  
They have become addicted to power  
And have sometimes even been abusive

But just because you had a bad experience  
With you parent or boss  
The law or the military  
This is not the kind of leader Christ is  
Thinking this way is stereotyping others  
And this is a big component of  
What are called racism and sexism

It is not in God's nature

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

To abuse His power  
He will never force us  
To do things we are unwilling to do

Furthermore He commands us  
To do things that are best for us  
Chosen by the very One  
Who created us

God is always just  
Plus He is merciful  
He is slow to anger and quick to forgive  
To do so He took all evil upon Himself  
To reconcile both justice and mercy  
Within who He is and His character

God is consistent and always faithful  
This is why we should return  
This gift with a commitment  
To be faithful to God

I personally had a bad experience  
With authority in the military  
And bureaucracy in general  
I respected almost all my leaders  
As I believed they would do  
Anything they asked me to do  
And they would risk their lives for me

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Who they did not know at all

But I quickly realized  
The very nature of modern war  
Required them to ask things of us  
Unreasonable to ask of anyone  
Our military has gone to  
Great lengths to be as kind as possible  
With both our people and our enemies

The problem though is you have to be cruel  
In order to wage modern war  
You can be less cruel than the others  
But our soldiers have to fight  
Cultures that do not value kindness  
Or even the dignity of individual people

They do not even believe in the morality  
Of what we all would say are basic human rights  
That often treat women worse than this  
And foreigners can be treated even worse than that

Many nations have a long memory  
Of a history of cruelty done on them  
From others who share their borders  
They were weak and unable to defend themselves  
And no one came to their aid  
So they have engaged in a cycle of revenge

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

This has even sometimes inspired genocide

The US is often unfairly caught in the middle  
When we try to fix other nations  
They both take it as an insult  
And they often unite both sides of the conflict  
Against us until we completely leave their country

The US came late to the game of history  
Americans have been very naive and simplistic  
We think all nations are honest and upfront  
Because we are unwilling to study  
Other cultures and other religions  
Other histories and other languages

We are at a big disadvantage  
Many nations have learned  
Many techniques over the centuries  
To get what they want out of us

If we would only study the humanities  
By both valuing and funding them  
We would learn that no one is good  
Nations always adopt policies  
That help out their nation or people  
Regardless of their impact on others

Many countries have extreme national pride

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

And are literally willing to anything for their country  
Many countries value religion so much  
That this is what determines their entire foreign policy  
Taking no other factors into account  
Most other countries outside the US and Europe  
Put national pride and religion  
Above economics in importance

They do not respect us  
For buying their leaders off  
Many nations we want to be friends with  
Want nothing at all to do with us

Many nations see our entire way of life  
As hedonistic, selfish, and violent  
Our foreign policy used to be  
To stay out of foreign affairs and wars

Then World War II happened  
And then 9/11 happened  
Then we continued to rapidly increase  
And continue to accelerate our aggressiveness  
In every part of the world

Most branches of our government  
Have adopted this policy  
At both local and international levels  
These policies support rich donors

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

At the expense of everyone else

It turns out that without huge subsidies  
From the tax payers money  
Oil would not be cheaper  
Than green energy options

But modern society depends on oil  
For many other things as well  
Like modern medicine  
And everything that uses plastics  
This along with computers  
Are supported by a brittle infrastructure

The entire world economy depends  
Upon a US presence in the Middle East  
And good relations with China  
These groups are as opposed to our way of life  
As it is possible to be  
One approach we use is to pay them off  
The other is to intimidate them with our military

This puts the enlisted soldier  
Into a very dangerous, vulnerable, and lose-lose situation  
The enlisted soldier has to suffer  
Because of the ignorance, poor judgement, and arrogance of our leadership

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

We should never hold police officers, soldiers, or customs agents  
Accountable for what their upper management  
Require them to implement  
If you do not like following a law  
Or a country doesn't like our foreign policy  
It is unfair and ineffective  
To take it out on the weakest and least powerful  
In the entire system

It is also unfair and unreasonable  
To put these who serve faithfully  
In such a position  
And then do little to nothing  
To protect them from the obvious dangerous situations  
Caused for the sake of maintaining  
Our one world government

In a Star Wars analogy  
We are the evil empire and  
The resistance are hackers and terrorists  
Unfortunately those who are  
Targeted most by these groups  
Are the poorest and weakest amongst us  
Who have no control over what their leaders do

It all goes back to the time around World War II  
Where every major product sold  
With any decent degree of profit margin



## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Has been marketed as making our lives easier  
And making us happier

Even though many would laugh  
At the ridiculousness of this idea  
You stop laughing  
When your job depends on it

Most people then follow these  
Unaware of where the ideas came from  
If the message is repeated often enough  
This is called advertising or propaganda  
But can be used for good purposes too

Do not shoot the messenger  
The soldier, police officer, or customs agent  
Who are not the source of your problems  
The lobbyists and congress are  
The banks also run our economy in America and internationally  
Not the president

To fundamentally change our world for the better  
We would have to dismantle modern society  
The best way to do this is to  
Let the system break down slowly  
This is what will be happening  
For the next 50 years

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Instead of a brief apocalyptic world war  
Our society will slowly unwind itself  
Because both powerful people and peons like us  
Both benefit from this approach

As the powerful people stay in power  
And we avoid being in the same situation  
Happening in Africa today  
Where leaders promise they will be benevolent  
And then loot the country and persecute the people

I agree with the sentiment  
Of the environmental approach  
But successfully communicating to the public  
About the gravity of the issue  
And our current situation

Would only inspire people to give up  
And become paranoid  
We in America go from there is no problem  
Directly to lets give up  
Because we have no hope

# The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

# Wars and Fighting

Everything has to be proven  
Nothing can be taken for granted  
Any type of reasoning is accepted  
It does not need to make sense to everyone

Philosophy questions everything  
Nothing stands by itself  
There must be a reason  
For everything there is  
But you must be consistent

Philosophers work alone  
For a reason  
It is not a group project  
They also inspire disagreements

And other philosophers  
Take your same ideas  
To argue the opposite point  
These ideas work like toy bricks  
That can be stacked on each other  
In billions of different configurations  
Like the letters in the alphabet

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Anything can be drawn from  
For instance there is the classical example  
You see a chair in the room  
You cannot just assume it is real

So when I work with theology  
It is not limited to theology  
I start outside the Bible  
And I do not include any other absolutes

I do not work out of any tradition  
I also do not assume anything else  
Like our assumed idea of time  
Or our assumed logic

Sure I have read many ideas  
From many sources  
But I do not adopt  
Anyone's ideas fully  
I created my own philosophy

I do not follow a particular philosophy  
I think philosophy itself should be studied  
But I don't want to promote  
Any one philosophical school  
That said, I do have my own definite opinions  
I do not claim to be objective at all

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

It is not something I strive for or value

One of the biggest explanations  
That helps me understand the Bible  
Come from the idea of paradox  
As understood by the Chinese

You have often heard of the yin and the yang  
The little dots on each side are seeds  
So that the seed of one  
Is contained in the other  
The 2 sides flow into each other  
From opposite directions

The yin and yang represent  
Opposing ideas or values  
The relationship are complimentary  
Like male and female  
It does not represent good and evil

On reflection over many years  
As well as my natural inclinations  
I think all the most important ideas  
Of the Bible are paradoxes

Many outside the faith  
See these as contradictions  
And many inside the faith

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Have divided the church over it

One of the biggest driving factors of this  
Is to understand the Bible rationally  
As much as possible  
And to use faith to fill in the rest

The Church has done an excellent job  
Of presenting Christ in a very  
Efficient, analytical, and highly precise manner  
Which is effective with many people  
Because this reflects our current culture

The thinking is that the Bible  
Needs to be explained and proven rationally  
The Bible is reorganized, recategorized, and marked  
To an astonishing detail and thoroughness

Everything factual about the Bible  
And its culture and history  
Are put under a magnifying glass  
And combed through like an archaeologist

They feel a need to give a rational argument  
For every doctrine  
They also believe you have to have  
Only one interpretation for every doctrine

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

They are obsessed with the earliest Church  
Thinking because they had the same culture as the Bible  
They then understood the Bible better than us  
And that this lack of understanding  
Is what keeps people from Christ  
They also believe that poor doctrine can be avoided  
By making better explanations

Remember the pharisees rejected God  
And they understood all of this better than any of us  
The majority of the Jewish people  
And the nation of Israel itself  
Was constantly unfaithful to God

Jesus said numerous times that the Old Testament  
Gave enough information for people to have saving faith  
Sure it only was possible for this to happen retroactively  
And Jesus Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection were  
Essential for God's plan for salvation to work

But the patriarchs are all saved by faith  
According to grace as proved by their  
Actions following in obedience  
It also could be said they obeyed God  
By having faith which counted as righteousness

Sure the Bible is true  
And we have proven it



## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

About as well as can be done by people  
And yet our culture knowing this  
Has completely rejected God

Many churches are still divided  
Over things I think are the same  
Just explained differently  
Many disagree on what is essential or not  
Even people with a lot of education and sincerity

I think the Bible even though  
It is incredibly complicated  
Is also very simple to understand  
To practice the faith

I also believe that just as God is  
Fair and merciful with us  
He has not gone to all the trouble  
To die on the cross for our sins  
To let people fall away  
Because of a lack of understanding

I also believe this so much that I believe through  
Prayer, reflection, listening to God  
And then following what He says  
Are the only critical elements to faith  
As far as understanding Scripture is concerned  
Which is required for salvation because

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

We are starting from scratch

The big obstacles to the faith  
Are not lack of understanding but stubbornness  
Most people do not follow God  
Because they do not find spiritual things important  
Or they want to find an easier way  
Not because they misunderstand theological concepts

These unbelievers can figure out  
How to follow God from the Bible  
What we need to instill in them today  
Is a desire to please God

People need to accept that  
They are bad and God is good  
They need to understand  
Why they need to follow God  
And should want to follow Him

Today many non-Christians  
Are seeking sincerity and authenticity  
If they are suspicious  
That you are using formulaic approaches  
Or you move too fast  
They distrust you

Too many people have run

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

Too many scams  
In the name of free things  
As well as many people are just distrustful in general  
Because of all the American cults  
And general divisions in society

I think giving the impression  
That salvation is free, fast, and easy  
Sounds too much like  
The way many products are sold today  
That does not mean compromising  
The message of salvation  
And how we cannot earn our salvation

But just because God gives it to us by grace  
Does not mean we do not need  
To work hard to humble ourselves before God  
Or to prove our faith to ourselves, God, and others  
By taking our faith to its logical conclusion  
Which is the fruits of the spirit  
As the Holy Spirit works in our lives

We are too much in a rush in America  
God will give people sufficient time and resources  
To find Him and repent of there sins and  
Accept Him as savior before they die

Without going through the process so fast

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

That they haven't really had time to understand  
The gravity of what they're deciding on  
We have to prepare the soil well  
Before we can plant anything that will take root

That is the normal process God has created for us  
But He wants us to make it possible for people  
Who don't have the time before they die  
Or who have really bad health

So if a person is dying soon  
You can move faster in conversions  
Or if someone has bad health  
You can modify the kind of baptism

If you cannot seem to make a theology  
Without accounting for all these  
What some call edge cases  
You will end up with a theology  
With so many clauses  
That no one actually reads it  
Even amongst church members

The confusion over this  
Has gotten ridiculous  
I am mentally ill  
And understand it  
Use common sense

## The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

The Bible will not be a legal contract  
Even though it would make many happy  
The Bible opens a can of worms  
And you cannot just put God in a box

He is going to challenge you  
And challenge you on many levels  
If you can't understand  
Why God would make exceptions for people  
Than you don't know much about God

God cares about your attitude most of all  
You should want and follow through with baptism  
Because part of faith is  
Following through with your decision  
The point is you have accepted God as your leader  
And now want to please Him

So while salvation can occur  
In a one minute prayer  
If you are not on death's doorstep  
You will have works to show for it

These are connected and natural things  
Like getting a baby after being pregnant  
Not every time does that happen  
And we should never intervene in between

The Evangelical Vow by Ben Huot

But that is what you should have been planning on

# James 4

World English Bible

Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Don't they come from your pleasures that war in your members?

You lust, and don't have. You murder and covet, and can't obtain.

You fight and make war. You don't have, because you don't ask.

You ask, and don't receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously"?

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Proverbs 3:34 7 Be subject therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Don't speak against one another, brothers. He who speaks against a brother and judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the

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law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Only one is the lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge another?

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow let's go into this city, and spend a year there, trade, and make a profit."

Whereas you don't know what your life will be like tomorrow. For what is your life? For you are a vapor that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away.

For you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will both live, and do this or that."

But now you glory in your boasting. All such boasting is evil.

To him therefore who knows to do good, and doesn't do it, to him it is sin.



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# Time of Job, the Patriarch

Many Christians in America  
Consider themselves patriots  
They often try to make some connection  
Between America and God

It is true we are wealthy and powerful  
As a nation  
But I have a hard time seeing  
How being physically rich  
Means we are more spiritual than Africa  
Which is materially poor

Certainly the apostles never made this connection  
And especially never advocated duty to any country

The US does not appear in prophecy  
Unless it is what is referred to as mystery Babylon  
Or the places we escape into the hills  
From persecution by the anti-christ

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In fact the idea of God and Country  
Is a pagan concept from Latin  
Literally meaning from altars and hearths  
Referring to the altars of the spirit of the house  
This refers also to the family home

This idea was merged into Christianity  
In the “Summation of Theology”  
Done by Thomas Aquinas  
These are his ideas on piety  
And have weak scriptural support

Much of similar lore has been developed by America  
Has been done for rich empires  
Like Pagan Rome and the British Empire

Part of this lore is that  
The world was at peace under their rule  
Probably the parts within or controlled by the empire  
Were at peace with each other  
While they followed the orders of the emperor

Ironically the words God and Country was  
The first title for the film later released as Zero Dark Thirty  
Depicting the killing of Osama bin Laden

One of the reason why it is hard to get proof  
For what the US is doing is much of this is classified

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Although much of it has been released and well explained by Edward Snowden

There were others who released the same information before  
But it was more poorly explained or they were caught  
Before they talked to the media  
Because they didn't go directly to Hong Kong

It is sad and inexcusable that he left  
With so much information  
So that there are likely agents  
Captured and killed because of him  
But he did get enough information  
To substantiate what he says

Some others including the person who created  
The computer systems they use for this  
Spoke out against it  
But did not reveal any classified information

And now they are blacklisted  
For employment anywhere  
In the entire commercial technology field  
You can watch these things on Discovery Channel

The US empire or now world corporation  
Is just a natural continuation  
Of the military industrial complex of the cold war

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Basically the entire government is in the process  
Or has been outsourced to corporations  
Just like our blue collar jobs have been  
Outsourced to the third world

This allows both to do things  
They might get in trouble with otherwise  
The big threat is called terrorism, COVID, or hacking

But the real concern is that once people find out  
What the US is doing behind the scenes  
This will dismantle a lot of support for the government  
And make it harder to raise money and soldiers for the military

Our entire world is in a very fragile balance  
Because we favored efficiency to such an extent  
That we didn't consider resilience as important

So as much  
As it is downright evil  
It is also necessary  
For the world economy to work and  
For the technology we enjoy today to exist

And taking it down will probably  
Bring worse people to power  
And it is actually slowly unwinding itself anyway

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It is all driven by the technology, economy, and weather  
We think we are in control but we are not  
This will become evident for most  
Over the next 50 years

The US rules as much by ideology  
As it does by military power  
As any empire has throughout history  
If too many people won't follow the government  
There are never enough police

Most people are not aware  
Because they have not watched Burn Notice  
But basically the job of a spy is to commit crimes  
And other immoral actions in other countries  
To manipulate other countries  
Into doing what America wants

Every country does this  
But it is based on concepts of  
The greater good is better than the individual  
That the ends justify the means  
And that we are the lesser of two evils

All these are morally ambiguous at best  
And have been used to justify  
Many bad things throughout history

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The Bible itself speaks much against  
The ways of the world  
And how Christians are aliens in this world  
Because how we work and how God works  
Is counter to the way people work

We have an entirely different ethical system than any country  
We are called to follow the country's laws  
And obligations like jury duty

This does not mean we should seek out ways  
To expand the power of the one world government  
By re-enforcing these pagan concepts  
Our country is based on

The military and church support each other  
Much as the church supported  
The kings, emperors, and tzars  
In Western Europe and Imperial Russia  
It has never ended well and it will continue  
To have bad unintended consequences

Many Americans Christians see the time ahead of us  
As a time of judgement by God on liberals  
I see that we are going through a testing time  
For Christians like in the life of Job

Most people would agree that

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We are going to become outsiders and sidelined  
And many may even be persecuted in some form  
I believe we will be tested like Job

Just as Job was blessed by God with wealth  
Then God allowed the devil to inflict pain on Him  
To prove Job followed God because  
He loved God not because God made him rich

The Church does not need to try  
To support the one world government  
Many people are aware and planning the transition  
To a post western ideology world

When the enlightenment fully works  
Its way through society  
The enlightenment ideas will bring about its own destruction  
Standing behind America blindly  
Does not encourage people to adopt the Gospel  
In the Third World or Global South

But many there have figured this out already  
And that is why the most effective evangelizing in Africa  
Is being done by indigenous churches  
Not ones affiliated with western ideology

Many of these policies that benefit us in the Empire  
Are at the expense of fellow believers in Africa



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Soon we will be forced to choose between  
American ideology and God

# What I Believe

## We Are All Dying Soon

I said in my heart, “As for the sons of men, God tests them, so that they may see that they themselves are like animals. For that which happens to the sons of men happens to animals. Even one thing happens to them. As the one dies, so the other dies. Yes, they have all one breath; and man has no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. All go to one place. All are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Ecclesiastes 3:18-20 WEB

## The Standard by Which We are Judged

But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. or if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Don't even the tax collectors<sup>[1]</sup> do the same? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:44-48 WEB

## We Are Bad

There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. Even in laughter the heart may be sorrowful, and mirth may end in heaviness. The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways; likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways. A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways.

Proverbs 14:12-15 WEB

## God is in Control

Then Job arose, and tore his robe, and shaved his head, and fell down on the ground, and worshiped. He said, “Naked I came out of my mother’s womb, and naked will I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be Yahweh’s name.” In all this, Job didn’t sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing.

Job 1:21-22 WEB

## God is Good

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,” says Yahweh, “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you hope and a future. You shall call on me, and you shall go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You shall seek me, and find me, when you search for me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” says Yahweh...

Jeremiah 29:11-14 WEB

## God is Merciful

If I shut up the sky so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to prayer that is made in this place.

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For now I have chosen and made this house holy, that my name may be there forever; and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually.

2 Chronicles 7:13-16 WEB

# Faith Cannot Be Proven

Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen. For by this, the elders obtained testimony. By faith, we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which are visible... Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:1-3,6 WEB

# God Want Us to Change Our Attitudes

How shall I come before Yahweh, and bow myself before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will Yahweh be pleased with thousands of rams? With tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my disobedience? The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8 WEB

# God Hates Arrogance

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the lawyer of this world? Hasn't God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For seeing that in the wisdom of God, the world through its wisdom didn't know God, it was God's good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs, Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews, and foolishness to Greeks, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God; because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brothers, that not many are wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, and not many noble; but God chose the foolish things of the world that he might put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world that he might put to shame the things that are strong. God chose the lowly things of the world, and the things that are despised, and the things that don't exist, that he might bring to nothing the things that exist, that no flesh should boast before God. Because of him, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption: that, as it is written, "He who boasts, let him boast in the Lord." Jeremiah 9:24

1 Corinthians 1:20-31 WEB

# Salvation Comes by Faith Plus Repentance

...that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” Isaiah 28:16 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich to all who call on him. For, “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Joel 2:32 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the Good News of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” Isaiah 52:7 But they didn’t all listen to the glad news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?” Isaiah 53:1 So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.  
Romans 10:9-17 WEB



# How Christians Should Live

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God. For I say through the grace that was given me, to every man who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think reasonably, as God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith....Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor preferring one another; not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; enduring in troubles; continuing steadfastly in prayer; contributing to the needs of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and don't curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Don't set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Don't be wise in your own conceits. Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord."Deuteronomy 32:35

Romans 12:1-3,9-19 WEB

# Christians And Sin

This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness, we lie, and don't tell the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 1:5-10 WEB

# How We Prove We Are Saved

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you won't fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, that you may not do the things that you desire. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,<sup>[a]</sup> gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts. If we live by the Spirit, let's also walk by the Spirit. Let's not become conceited, provoking one another, and envying one another.

Galatians 5:16-25 WEB

# The Future

Don't seek what you will eat or what you will drink; neither be anxious. For the nations of the world seek after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need these things. But seek God's Kingdom, and all these things will be added to you. Don't be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Sell that which you have, and give gifts to the needy. Make for yourselves purses which don't grow old, a treasure in the heavens that doesn't fail, where no thief approaches, neither moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. "Let your waist be dressed and your lamps burning. Be like men watching for their lord, when he returns from the wedding feast; that when he comes and knocks, they may immediately open to him. Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes. Most certainly I tell you that he will dress himself, make them recline, and will come and serve them. They will be blessed if he comes in the second or third watch, and finds them so. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what hour the thief was coming, he would have watched, and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore be ready also, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour that you don't expect him."

Luke 12:29-40 WEB

# David Was a Man After God's Own Heart

I waited patiently for Yahweh. He turned to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay. He set my feet on a rock, and gave me a firm place to stand. He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in Yahweh. Blessed is the man who makes Yahweh his trust, and doesn't respect the proud, nor such as turn away to lies. Many, Yahweh, my God, are the wonderful works which you have done, and your thoughts which are toward us. They can't be declared back to you. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be counted. Sacrifice and offering you didn't desire. You have opened my ears. You have not required burnt offering and sin offering. Then I said, "Behold, I have come. It is written about me in the book in the scroll. I delight to do your will, my God. Yes, your law is within my heart." I have proclaimed glad news of righteousness in the great assembly. Behold, I will not seal my lips, Yahweh, you know. I have not hidden your righteousness within my heart. I have declared your faithfulness and your salvation. I have not concealed your loving kindness and your truth from the great assembly. Don't withhold your tender mercies from me, Yahweh. Let your loving kindness and your truth continually preserve me. For innumerable evils have surrounded me. My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up. They are more than the hairs of my head. My

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heart has failed me. Be pleased, Yahweh, to deliver me. Hurry to help me, Yahweh. Let them be disappointed and confounded together who seek after my soul to destroy it. Let them be turned backward and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt. Let them be desolate by reason of their shame that tell me, “Aha! Aha!” Let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let such as love your salvation say continually, “Let Yahweh be exalted!” But I am poor and needy. May the Lord think about me. You are my help and my deliverer. Don’t delay, my God.

Psalm 40 WEB

## In Summary

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's chosen ones, and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who can't lie, promised before time began; but in his own time revealed his word in the message with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior; to Titus, my true child according to a common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior... To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess that they know God, but by their deeds they deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

Titus 1:1-4,15 WEB

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we would live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age; looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good works. Say these things and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Titus 2:11-15 WEB

Remind them to be in subjection to rulers and to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, not

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to be contentious, to be gentle, showing all humility toward all men. For we were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love toward mankind appeared, not by works of righteousness which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy, he saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly, through Jesus Christ our Savior; that being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This saying is faithful, and concerning these things I desire that you affirm confidently, so that those who have believed God may be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men;

Titus 3:1-8 WEB