

A Biblical Worldview In the Age of Apostasy

Part 3 Handout
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Rightly Dividing God's Unchanging Word (Truth) for a Biblical Worldview in the midst of the godless worldview causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the church. Jesus said "many" pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive "many" because they no longer believe God's Word is true. Matt 24:5

Malachi 3:6 AMPC

6 For I am the Lord, I do not change;

Matthew 5:18 AMPC

18 For truly I tell you, until the sky and earth pass away and perish, not one smallest letter nor one little hook [identifying certain Hebrew letters] will pass from the Law until all things [it foreshadows] are accomplished.

Not one "thing" can be changed. Not motive, intent, interpretation of God's Word. No deletions, additions or omitting of sin, judgement, righteousness and the "things" to come without eternal consequences.

Hebrews 13:8 AMPC

8 Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages).

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

In part 1 we defined “worldview”. Everyone has some type of worldview, but Christians are to hold a Biblical worldview, which means that every decision and action should be shaped by the Truth that was from the beginning—Jesus Christ or the Word. A Biblical worldview (or a Christian worldview) is based on God’s unchanging Word. Since God is the Creator of everything in heaven and earth, He is the standard for truth. God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and unchanging.

A secular or non biblical worldview is one based on and shaped by the ever changing godless culture. It is seen through and affected by the emotions and feelings from our old sin nature. This worldview is what is causing the great apostasy (falling away from the truth) in the Church. Jesus said “many” pastors, preachers and teachers would deceive “many” because they no longer believe God’s Word is true. (Matt 24:5)

Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray.

Matthew 24:5 KJV

5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Note: 1828 Webster’s Dictionary defined “appropriating” as:

Assigning to a particular person or use; claiming or using exclusively; severing to the perpetual use of an ecclesiastical corporation.

- Webster’s Dictionary 1828

This Great Apostasy that is taking place that was foretold as one of the many signs just prior to the Rapture of the church is not people no longer going to church. It is the pastor, preacher and teacher no longer teaching God’s Word as truth but twisting it to fit the godless culture.

The Bible said that pastors themselves would be deceived and attack or persecute those who spoke the truth.

Persecution against Godly people is to be expected in this world; it's one of the few constants in life...

2 Timothy 3:12 KJV

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Also, the sins of "evil people and impostors" can be expected to get worse and worse.

However, what Timothy was currently experiencing from these false teachers and evil people would not get any better. Such people would continue in their "deceiving and being deceived."

Paul often raised an alarm against the deceptions of false preachers and teachers...this is what the George Barna poll is revealing, "this is that" which was spoken of in God's Word about the Time of the End.

Romans 16:18 AMPC

18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites and base desires, and by ingratiating and flattering speech, they beguile the hearts of the unsuspecting and simpleminded [people].

He wrote the church in Ephesus regarding false preachers and teachers...

Ephesians 5:6 AMPC

6 Let no one delude and deceive you with empty excuses and groundless arguments [for these sins], for through these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of rebellion and disobedience.

Paul warned against **spiritual deception**...

1 Corinthians 3:18 AMPC

18 Let no person deceive himself. If anyone among you supposes that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool [let him discard his worldly discernment and recognize himself as dull, stupid, and foolish, without true learning and scholarship], that he may become [really] wise.

1 Corinthians 6:9 AMPC

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous and the wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived (misled): neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality,

1 Thessalonians 2:3 AMPC

3 For our appeal [in preaching] does not [originate] from delusion or error or impure purpose or motive, nor in fraud or deceit.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 AMPC

3 Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the [a]apostasy comes first [unless the predicted great [b]falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come], and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom (of perdition).

Now James has something(s) to tell the End Times church...

James 1:16 AMPC

16 Do not be misled, my beloved brethren.

James 1:26 AMPC

26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious (piously observant of the external duties of his faith) and does not bridle his tongue but deludes his own heart, this person's religious service is worthless (futile, barren).

Now John has something(s) to tell the End Times church...

1 John 1:8 AMPC

8 If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts].

1 John 2:26 AMPC

26 I write this to you with reference to those who would deceive you [seduce and lead you astray].

1 John 3:7 AMPC

7 [a]Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous.

Deception was a major problem even in the earliest New Testament church, they were asking the question: did we miss the Rapture? Is this the Tribulation? because it was taught in the Old Testament. They wanted to know and were reminded in scripture what they must do in order to be ready for the Rapture, to spend eternity in heaven. This great deception and apostasy is happening today as was foretold.

Below is the findings that I listed in part 1 of this series from the American Worldview Inventory 2022, conducted by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University and administered to Christian pastors to better understand the worldviews that drive their thinking and behavior.

George Barna Research

As veteran researcher and CRC Director of Research George Barna explains, “It’s just further evidence that the culture is influencing the American church much more than Christian churches are influencing the culture”.

According to this latest report, the level of Biblical worldview varies by the pastoral position held. Among senior pastors, for instance, 41% hold a Biblical worldview—the highest incidence among any of the five pastoral positions studied. Next highest was the 28% among associate pastors.

One of the more concerning revelations emerging from the research is the worldview of pastors who work with young people, Barna noted. The study found that only 12% of childrens and youth pastors hold a Biblical worldview. And among teaching pastors, the level of Biblical worldview is a mere 13%.

“A person’s worldview primarily develops before the age of 13, then goes through a period of refinement during their teens and twenties. Therefore, from a worldview development perspective, a church’s most important ministers are the childrens pastor and the youth pastor,” Barna said.

“Discovering that seven out of every eight of those pastors lack a Biblical worldview helps to explain why so few among the nation’s youngest generations are developing a heart and mind for Biblical principles and ways of life, and why our society seems to have run wild over the last decade,” Barna explained. According to ACU President Len Munsil, the findings highlight that the Biblical worldview crisis in America begins at the top.

“Our latest research shows this stunning erosion of Biblical understanding is present even among the leaders of the Church,” Munsil said. “We need a comprehensive strategy to rebuild a Biblical worldview into every generation and in every part of life,” Munsil said. “For ACU, this means strategically training our students to develop a Biblical worldview through their academic curriculum, spiritual formation programs, and co-curricular activities. And through CRC, we continue to identify ways to build Biblical worldview throughout the Church, in families and throughout our culture.”

The latest report from the AWVI 2022 found that the prevailing worldview among pastors is best described as Syncretism, the blending of ideas and applications from a variety of holistic worldviews into a unique but inconsistent combination that represents their personal preferences.

More than six of every 10 pastors (62%) hold a syncretistic worldview. This trend is also being seen more widely in American culture, with almost nine out of 10 U.S. adults (88%) embracing Syncretism as their primary worldview, according to a report from last year's study of competing worldviews in the American Worldview Inventory 2021.

According to the latest release, pastors have a Biblical worldview in only one of eight worldview categories measured. Overall, 57% of all pastors think and act in consistently Biblical ways regarding the purpose of life and their calling.

Leading the way in Biblical understanding of life purpose and calling is senior pastors, among whom 60% are consistently Biblical. A minority of the other four pastoral segments hold a Biblical worldview in this area—48% of children's and youth pastors, 41% of associate pastors, 36% of teaching pastors, and 27% of executive pastors.

A minority of all Christian pastors thinks and acts Biblically in each of the other seven categories of worldview measurement. Specifically, only 47% have a Biblical worldview regarding family and the value of life; 44% concerning issues related to God, creation, and history; 43% in relation to personal faith practices; 43% when it comes to matters of sin, salvation, and one's relationship with God; 40% pertaining to human character and human nature; and 40% when it comes to measures of lifestyle, personal behavior, and relationships.

Lowest of all is a category that might have been expected to top the list: beliefs and behaviors related to the Bible, truth, and morality. Only 39% of all pastors have a Biblical worldview in this area.

Barna offered a note of hope in spite of the data. “You cannot fix something unless you know it’s broken,” he commented. “Other recent research we have conducted suggests most pastors believe that they are theologically in tune with the Bible. Perhaps these findings will cause many of them to take a careful look at how well their beliefs and behavior conform to Biblical principles and commands.”

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This survey (above) clearly indicates that when it comes to developing a biblical worldview, a good place to start needs to be with those preaching and teaching.

George Barna gives us a breakdown of what constitutes a "Biblical" worldview. He said it includes a belief in absolute moral truth as defined by scripture, as well as acceptance of six core biblical beliefs: The accuracy of biblical teaching, the sinless nature of Jesus, the literal existence of Satan, the omnipotence and omniscience of God, salvation by grace alone, and the personal responsibility to evangelize. In the recent survey listed above of Protestant pastors conducted by the Barna Research Group, only half (51 percent) passed the test on whether they possess a Biblical worldview.

Of the pastors surveyed, Southern Baptists scored the highest with 71 percent while United Methodists finished at the bottom with just 27 percent. In between were 57 percent of pastors of Baptist churches (other than Southern Baptist), 51 percent of pastors of non-denominational Protestant churches, 44 percent of pastors of charismatic or Pentecostal churches, 35 percent of pastors of black churches, and 28 percent of pastors of leading mainline denominations.

Another point of interest in the survey dealt with education. The pastors least likely to have a biblical worldview were seminary graduates. There was also a significant gender gap in the results. While 53 percent of male pastors possessed a biblical worldview, only 15 percent of female pastors fit that category. In addition, white senior pastors were nearly twice as likely as black senior pastors to have a biblical worldview (55 percent vs. 30 percent).

Interestingly, the highest proportion of pastors showing evidence of a Biblical worldview were found in the area of the country inhabited by people who are considered among the most liberal. According to Barna, almost two-thirds (64 percent) of pastors in California, Oregon and Washington "have such a moral and spiritual compass in place."

This report comes on the heels of another recent Barna survey that indicates only 9 percent of all born-again adults -- and just 7 percent of Protestants -- possess a Biblical worldview. This more recent survey, the researcher says, highlights a simple but important principle: "you can't give people what you don't have."

"The low percentage of Christians who have a biblical worldview is a direct reflection of the fact that half of our primary religious teachers and leaders do not have one," Barna says. "In some denominations, the vast majority of clergy do not have a biblical worldview, and it shows up clearly in the data related to the theological views and moral choices of people who attend those churches."

Why is a Biblical worldview important? According to Barna, everyone has a worldview, but few have a Biblical worldview -- which the researcher says has a radical affect on a person's life. He says individuals' attitudes, beliefs, values and opinions determine their behavior.

"Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core Biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life," he says. "We're often more concerned with survival amidst chaos than with experiencing truth and significance."

Barna's research indicates that adults with a Biblical worldview possess radically different views on morality, hold divergent religious beliefs, and demonstrate vastly different lifestyle choices.

Last week in our study we read and broke down Acts chapter 7 about a man named Stephen. He was serving in the church and was brought up in front of the religious leaders (the Sanhedrin) for rightly dividing God's Word. In his defense he quoted scripture, identified what religion had done to the great men of faith in the Old Testament (shutting them up, throwing them in prison and killing them) and they, the religious leaders, couldn't/didn't argue back.

Sanhedrin Defined:

What was the Sanhedrin during Jesus' time? The Sanhedrin was an assembly of either twenty-three or seventy-one elders (known as "rabbis"), appointed to sit as a tribunal in every city in the ancient land. What is the difference between the Pharisees and the Sanhedrin? The Pharisees and Sadducees made up the Sanhedrin, a council of seventy men who made all the decisions for the Jews. The tie-breaker was the high priest, who was called the nasi/nasee. In modern Hebrew, nasi/nasee means president.

Pharisee: [capitalized] a member of a Jewish sect of the intertestamental period noted for strict observance of rites and ceremonies of the written law and **for insistence on the validity of their own oral traditions concerning the law.** [not capitalized] **a self-righteous person; a hypocrite.**

The Sanhedrin had no grounds Biblically to defend themselves so they killed him for quoting and rightly dividing God's Word, for exposing religion as making its oral and written laws more important than God's Word. Stephen used the Old Testament which Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament. He said to these religious leaders:

Acts 7:51-54 AMPC

51 You stubborn and stiff-necked people, still heathen and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are always [a]actively resisting the Holy Spirit. As your forefathers [were], so you [are and so you do]!

52 Which of the prophets did your forefathers not persecute? And they slew those who proclaimed beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you now have betrayed and murdered—

53 You who received the Law as it was ordained and set in order and delivered by angels, and [yet] you did not obey it!

54 Now upon hearing these things, they [the Jews] were cut to the heart and infuriated, and they ground their teeth against [Stephen].

Note: Jesus said, “If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first”. (John 15:18). Jesus said, “in our lives we will have tribulation” (John 16:33).

55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit and controlled by Him, gazed into heaven and saw the glory (the splendor and majesty) of God, and Jesus standing at God’s right hand;

56 And he said, Look! I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at God’s right hand!

57 But they raised a great shout and put their hands over their ears and rushed together upon him.

58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, **and the witnesses placed their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.**

59 And while they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, Lord Jesus, receive and accept and welcome my spirit!

Let’s continue with this story...

Acts 8 AMPC

1 And Saul was [not only] consenting to [Stephen’s] death [he was [a]pleased and [b]entirely approving]. On that day a great and severe persecution broke out against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles (special messengers).

2 [A party of] devout men [c]with others helped to carry out and bury Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

3 But Saul shamefully treated and laid waste the church continuously [with cruelty and violence]; and entering house after house, he dragged out men and women and committed them to prison.

4 Now those who were scattered abroad went about [through the land from place to place] preaching the glad tidings, the Word [[d]the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of salvation in the kingdom of God].

5 Philip [the deacon, not the apostle] went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to them [the people];

6 And great crowds of people with one accord listened to and heeded what was said by Philip, as they heard him and watched the miracles and wonders which he kept performing [from time to time].

7 For foul spirits came out of many who were possessed by them, screaming and shouting with a loud voice, and many who were suffering from palsy or were crippled were restored to health.

8 And there was great rejoicing in that city.

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had formerly practiced magic arts in the city to the utter amazement of the Samaritan nation, claiming that he himself was an extraordinary and distinguished person.

10 They all paid earnest attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is that exhibition of the power of God which is called great (intense).

11 And they were attentive and made much of him, because for a long time he had amazed and bewildered and dazzled them with his skill in magic arts.

12 But when they believed the good news (the Gospel) about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (the Messiah) as Philip preached it, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Even Simon himself believed [he adhered to, trusted in, and relied on the teaching of Philip], and after being baptized, devoted himself constantly to him. And seeing signs and miracles of great power which were being performed, he was utterly amazed.

14 Now when the apostles (special messengers) at Jerusalem heard that [the country of] Samaria had accepted and welcomed the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 And they came down and prayed for them that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit;

16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them, but they had only been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then [the apostles] laid their hands on them one by one, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 However, when Simon saw that the [Holy] Spirit was imparted through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he brought money and offered it to them,

19 Saying, Grant me also this power and authority, in order that anyone on whom I place my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.

20 But Peter said to him, Destruction overtake your money and you, because you imagined you could obtain the [free] gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is all wrong in God's sight [it is not straightforward or right or true before God].

22 So repent of this depravity and wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, this [e]contriving thought and purpose of your heart may be removed and disregarded and forgiven you.

23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in [f]a bond forged by iniquity [to fetter souls].

24 And Simon answered, Pray for me [beseech the Lord, both of you], that nothing of what you have said may befall me!

25 Now when [the apostles] had borne their testimony and preached the message of the Lord, they went back to Jerusalem, proclaiming the glad tidings (Gospel) to many villages of the Samaritans [on the way].

26 But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, Rise and proceed southward or at midday on the road that runs from Jerusalem down to Gaza. This is the desert [[g]route].

27 So he got up and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship.

28 And he was [now] returning, and sitting in his chariot he was reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

29 Then the [Holy] Spirit said to Philip, Go forward and join yourself to this chariot.

30 Accordingly Philip, running up to him, heard [the man] reading the prophet Isaiah and asked, Do you really understand what you are reading?

31 And he said, How is it possible for me to do so unless someone explains it to me and guides me [in the right way]? And he earnestly requested Philip to come up and sit beside him.

32 Now this was the passage of Scripture which he was reading: Like a sheep He was led to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so He opens not His mouth.

33 In His humiliation [h] He was taken away by distressing and oppressive judgment and justice was denied Him [caused to cease]. Who can describe or relate in full [i]the wickedness of His contemporaries (generation)? For His life is taken from the earth and [j]a bloody death inflicted upon Him.

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, I beg of you, tell me about whom does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this portion of Scripture he announced to him the glad tidings (Gospel) of Jesus and about Him.

36 And as they continued along on the way, they came to some water, and the eunuch exclaimed, See, [here is] water! What is to hinder my being baptized?

37 [k]And Philip said, If you believe with all your heart [if you have [l]a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah and accept Him as the Author of your salvation in the kingdom of God, giving Him your obedience, then] you may. And he replied, I do believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he ordered that the chariot be stopped; and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and [Philip] baptized him.

39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord [[m]suddenly] caught away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus, and passing on he preached the good news (Gospel) to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Acts 9 AMPC

1 Meanwhile Saul, [a]still drawing his breath hard from threatening and murderous desire against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 And requested of him letters to the synagogues at Damascus [authorizing him], so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way [of life as determined by faith in Jesus Christ], he might bring them bound [with chains] to Jerusalem.

3 Now as he traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him,

4 And he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me [harassing, troubling, and molesting Me]?

5 And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. [b]It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad [to offer vain and perilous resistance].

6 Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord said to him, But arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

7 The men who were accompanying him were unable to speak [for terror], hearing the voice but seeing no one.

8 Then Saul got up from the ground, but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

9 And he was unable to see for three days, and he neither ate nor drank [anything].

10 Now there was in Damascus a disciple named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he answered, Here am I, Lord.

11 And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying [there].

12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias enter and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.

13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man, especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;

14 Now he is here and has authority from the high priests to put in chains all who call upon Your name.

15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel;

16 For I will make clear to him how much he will be afflicted and must endure and suffer for My name's sake.

17 So Ananias left and went into the house. And he laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

18 And instantly something like scales fell from [Saul's] eyes, and he recovered his sight. Then he arose and was baptized,

19 And after he took some food, he was strengthened. For several days [afterward] he remained with the disciples at Damascus.

20 And immediately in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, saying, He is the Son of God!

21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, Is not this the very man who harassed and overthrew and destroyed in Jerusalem those who called upon this Name? And he has come here for the express purpose of arresting them and bringing them in chains before the chief priests.

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and continued to confound and put to confusion the Jews who lived in Damascus by comparing and examining evidence and proving that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).

23 After considerable time had elapsed, the Jews conspired to put Saul out of the way by slaying him,

24 But [the knowledge of] their plot was made known to Saul. They were guarding the [city's] gates day and night to kill him,

25 But his disciples took him at night and let him down through the [city's] wall, lowering him in a basket or hamper.

26 And when he had arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to associate himself with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe he really was a disciple.

27 However, Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles, and he explained to them how along the way he had seen the Lord, Who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached freely and confidently and courageously in the name of Jesus.

28 So he went in and out [as one] among them at Jerusalem,

29 Preaching freely and confidently and boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and discussed with and disputed against the Hellenists (the Grecian Jews), but they were seeking to slay him.

30 And when the brethren found it out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus [his home town].

31 So the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was edified [growing in wisdom, virtue, and piety] and walking in the respect and reverential fear of the Lord and in the consolation and exhortation of the Holy Spirit, continued to increase and was multiplied.

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he went down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedfast for eight years and was paralyzed.

34 And Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ (the Messiah) [now] makes you whole. Get up and make your bed! And immediately [Aeneas] stood up.

35 Then all the inhabitants of Lydda and the plain of Sharon saw [what had happened to] him and they turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was at Joppa a disciple [a woman] named [in Aramaic] Tabitha, which [in Greek] means Dorcas. She was abounding in good deeds and acts of charity.

37 About that time she fell sick and died, and when they had cleansed her, they laid [her] in an upper room.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa [however], the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him begging him, Do come to us without delay.

39 So Peter [immediately] rose and accompanied them. And when he had arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood around him, crying and displaying undershirts (tunics) and [other] garments such as Dorcas was accustomed to make while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all out [of the room] and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, Tabitha, get up! And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter, she raised herself and sat upright.

41 And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling in God's people and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

42 And this became known throughout all Joppa, and many came to believe on the Lord [to adhere to and trust in and rely on Him as the Christ and as their Savior].

43 And Peter remained in Joppa for considerable time with a certain Simon a tanner.

Deceived themselves... Paul was deceived, threatening, throwing into prison and killing those who believed in Jesus Christ, the Word. He was trained by the religious leaders to shut down the true gospel from being preached and heard. But now, using the same Bible that he had before He saw the light, He saw the truth and gave testimony to what had happened.

Galatians 1 AMPC

1 Paul, an apostle—[special messenger appointed and commissioned and sent out] not from [any body of] men nor by or through [a]any man, but by and through Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and God the Father, Who raised Him from among the dead—

2 And all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace and spiritual blessing be to you and [soul] peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah),

4 Who gave (yielded) Himself up [[b]to atone] for our sins [and [c]to save and sanctify us], in order to rescue and deliver us from this present wicked age and world order, in accordance with the will and purpose and plan of our God and Father—

5 To Him [be ascribed all] the glory through all the ages of the ages and the eternities of the eternities! Amen (so be it).

6 I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly [d]turning renegade and deserting Him Who invited and called you [e]by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel.

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [[f]with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

9 As we said before, so I now say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel different from or contrary to that which you received [from us], let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

10 Now am I trying to win the favor of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).

11 For I want you to know, brethren, that the Gospel which was proclaimed and made known by me is not man's gospel [a human invention, according to or patterned after any human standard].

12 For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but [it came to me] through a [direct] revelation [given] by Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

13 You have heard of my earlier career and former manner of life in the Jewish religion (Judaism), how I persecuted and abused the church of God furiously and extensively, and [with fanatical zeal did my best] to make havoc of it and destroy it.

14 And [you have heard how] I outstripped many of the men of my own generation among the people of my race in [my advancement in study and observance of the laws of] Judaism, so extremely enthusiastic and zealous I was for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 *But when He, Who had chosen and set me apart [even] before I was born and had called me by His grace (His undeserved favor and blessing), saw fit and was pleased*

16 *To reveal (unveil, disclose) His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles (the non-Jewish world) as the glad tidings (Gospel), immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood [did not consult or counsel with any frail human being or communicate with anyone].*

17 *Nor did I [even] go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles (special messengers of Christ) before I was, but I went away and retired into Arabia, and afterward I came back again to Damascus.*

18 *Then three years later, I did go up to Jerusalem to become [personally] acquainted with Cephas (Peter), and remained with him for fifteen days.*

19 *But I did not see any of the other apostles (the special messengers of Christ) except James the brother of our Lord.*

20 *Now [note carefully what I am telling you, for it is the truth], I write this as if I were standing before the bar of God; I do not lie.*

21 *Then I went into the districts (countries, regions) of Syria and Cilicia.*

22 *And so far I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Christ in Judea (the country surrounding Jerusalem).*

23 *They were only hearing it said, He who used to persecute us is now proclaiming the very faith he once reviled and which he set out to ruin and tried with all his might to destroy.*

24 *And they glorified God [as the Author and Source of what had taken place] in me.*