

# What About the Da Vinci Code?

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

I was doing some shopping at Wal Mart the other day and a woman was standing in the aisle way reading a book. A closer look informed me that she was reading the latest best selling novel called "The Da Vinci Code." This book was written by Dan Brown and has been the number one best seller for several months. The Da Vinci Code is talked about on the news and morning talk shows across America. It's received worldwide attention. As I write, the book has sat atop the *New York Times* bestseller list for some 40 weeks; it's number one on amazon.com's sales list; countless online chat groups have formed to discuss the book; and even churches are finding themselves having to present seminars on the book's views on Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the history of the canon, the early church, the Holy Grail, and many other subjects. A movie about the book has also been released. What is the Christian response of those teachings that are new and contradict what the inspired and historically accurate Bible says? Our response is very straightforward and unapologetic.

1Timothy 6:20-21

"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science (knowledge) falsely so called (untruly named - fabricated): Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen."

Dan Brown's book is a poorly written, factually flawed work of fiction, history, and theology, which supposedly gives a new version of Christianity.

Harry Ironside once said:

"If it's new, it's not true, and if it's true, it's not new."

Good advice!

## The Blasphemy of the Book

The Da Vinci Code gets its name from the claim that Leonardo Da Vinci was a member of a group of conspirators who knew the truth

about a marriage between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Legend has it that Jesus was actually married to Mary Magdalene and together they had a daughter named Sarah. After Jesus' crucifixion Mary and her daughter went to Gaul and established the Merovingian line and dynasty of French royalty. If this is the case there are descendants of Jesus living today who stem back to those that Jesus fathered. The legend has it that Mary moves to Gaul in order to begin a secret society of people that knew about her relationship with Jesus and the intention of Jesus to make her the head and leader of the Church instead of Peter. For this reason Peter declared her to be a prostitute and cut her out of the role of leadership. If the wishes of Jesus were known it would prove he was a supporter of feminism.

Because of opposition from the church, which approved of male dominance, this explosive secret about Jesus being married to Mary Magdalene, and the desire to make Mary the head of the church, had to be concealed or hidden in codes and symbols. To escape the wrath of the Vatican, members of this band of people (Priory of Sion) who possessed the hidden knowledge, had to hide this cherished truth or knowledge in paintings, writings, and architecture in such a way that only the learned (those in the know) could decipher their meanings. Therefore, this truth was hidden in codes and symbols that only the initiated could understand. Legend has it that members of the mysterious secret organization (Priory of Sion), such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Isaac Newton, and Victor Hugo knew about a cover up plot from the church and Christianity, which was destined to hide the truth about the marriage of Jesus to Magdalene and Jesus' sympathy toward female leadership, in order to promote male dominance in the world. The book claims that if the truth was known that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene it would prove that Jesus intended that Mary should be the head of the church and that He promoted feminism and female dominance over males.

The argument goes like this. In Da Vinci's paintings we can find hidden messages or codes that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. It's claimed that Da Vinci knew that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene. They had children who intermarried with the French royal line and established a unique order of people. All of this has been known for centuries, but the truth has been kept from the public for fear of destroying the credibility of the Bible, church, and

Christianity. In fact, there are highly secret documents that, if made public, would destroy Christianity as we know it today. Da Vinci knew all of these things. He understood that Mary Magdalene was married to Jesus and mothered the children of Jesus. He also knew that Mary, the wife of Jesus, was intended to be the head of the church. Therefore, in his famous painting and portrayal of the Last Supper, Da Vinci actually did not intend to paint the apostle John on the right of Jesus. Instead, he intended to paint Mary Magdalene. This is why he made John more feminine in appearance than the rest of the disciples.

The “Holy Grail” is known as the cup Jesus used at the Last Supper. In the twelfth century legends circulated about the cup, which was eventually named the Holy Grail and believed to have magical power. Many of these legends can be found in Greek mythology and were incorporated into the stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. In post-Biblical traditions, Joseph of Arimathea is said to have taken the cup and collected some of the blood of Jesus from the cross. Esoterics (those who know the secrets) and the Da Vinci Code reinterpret the Holy Grail as the remains of Jesus’ wife, Mary Magdalene, who held the royal blood of Jesus Christ in her womb while bearing his child. For this reason Leonardo Da Vinci did not paint a cup on the table in his painting of the Last Supper. He wanted to express his belief through this hidden code that the real Holy Grail is actually Mary, who was sitting to the right of Jesus. The primary gist of the book entitled “The Da Vinci Code” teaches that Leonardo Da Vinci knew of this marriage union between Jesus and Mary Magdalene, that Jesus wanted Mary to be the head of the church, and that Jesus favored feminism. Out of fear of persecution from the organized church of his day, who promoted male dominance and a male celibate Savior, he hid this truth in a code within the painting of the Last Supper. *The effeminate picture of John is actually Mary Magdalene in disguise and the Holy Grail is the blood of Jesus in Mary’s womb that flowed through the veins of His child.* The quest for the Holy Grail today is to find the grave of Mary Magdalene. It’s a journey to pray at the feet of the outcast one and eventually rediscover who is in the bloodline of Jesus through Mary Magdalene’s marriage with Jesus.

Dan Brown's agenda is very clear. His book "The Da Vinci Code" is a direct attack against Jesus Christ, the church, and Christianity. It attacks Christians who follow Him and call Him Savior and Lord. According to Dan Brown's novel, Christianity and the books of the Bible that we have today were invented to suppress women, and to turn people away from what is called the "divine feminine" (female goddess or deity – the feminine aspect of God). "Powerful men in the early Christian church 'conned' the world by propagating lies that devalued the female and tipped the scales in favor of the masculine" (Page 124). Of course, this book appeals to feminists who want to return to goddess worship or worshipping a female god in order to combat male supremacy. It also appeals to those who want to destroy the credibility of Christianity and Christ. It also appeals to a relativistic postmodern society that supports truth and experience outside the Bible which is not based on any historic facts or set of absolutes.

Brown's theory is that the message of Christianity is a plot designed to deceive the masses and that Christianity is based on several big lies. First, Jesus was not God. He was only a man. His followers attributed deity to him in order to consolidate male rule and suppress those who worshipped the divine feminine (female goddess or deity – the female counterpart of God). The church simply wanted a male celibate Savior, one who abstains from sex and marriage, in order to perpetuate the male rule in society. For this reason Mary of Magdalene moves to Gaul and began this French dynasty which knows the true secret.

Second, Brown believed the Counsel of Nicaea (325 A.D.) invented the idea of the deity of Christ so that Jesus as God could eliminate all those who oppose his male chauvinist teachings and declare them as heretics.

Third, Brown suggests that the Roman emperor Constantine (A.D. 324-337) chose the gospels of Matthew Mark, Luke, and John as the only gospels because they fit his agenda of male power. In short, he authenticated only the books that he wanted in the New Testament to support his notion that males were dominant over females. Many other viable Gospels were rejected by Constantine because they taught that Jesus wanted Mary Magdalene to be the real leader of the

church – not Jesus Christ. The New Testament is simply the result of a male-dominated leadership that invented Christianity in order to control the Roman Empire and oppress women and their rights.

Fourth, the Gnostics represented a legitimate early form of Christianity that was hijacked by the male-dominated apostles of the New Testament and what they wrote in the Bible. Other writings should have been included in the Bible and are on equal plain with the Bible, such as the Gnostic Gospels, which support that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and promoted feminism. These people possessed the secret knowledge and their writings should be seen as legitimate statements of truth. Fifth, the real Jesus, according the book, was the original feminist, but his wishes were ignored to foster the male agenda of the day. Christianity and the Bible as we know it today was a way to cover up the feminine ideas that Jesus wanted to promote about God, women, sex, and religion. The church and Christianity suppressed "the divine feminine" in order to keep sex dirty and the church masculine. It's assumed that God is a female goddess and should be worshipped as a woman. In short, the painting of the Last Supper contained the hidden code that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, that Jesus was supportive of feminism, and the Bible, as we know it today, is a fabricated compilation of books that do not tell the true story.

Since Leonardo Da Vinci's painting (among other secret manuscripts) contains this hidden code of Jesus' marriage to Mary Magdalene and His promotion of feminism, it demonstrates that what the Bible says about a celibate (single) Jesus, who refused sex and marriage, was the result of a secretive and deceitful plot designed by Christianity to promote male dominance in society and overthrow the rights of women. There is actually an alternative Christianity that represents the true Christian faith. It's one of mystical experience outside the Bible that says during sex rituals with females the males actually become spiritually complete and achieve gnosis – knowledge of the divine. In short, sex with women is used to commune with God, or should we say, the god of a person's choice. Through sex people can encounter their god in their own way. The sacredness of sex is a way to get in touch with the Sacred Feminine (female deity of God).

There is only one word that can be said when reviewing the overall plot of “The Da Vinci Code.” **Blasphemy!**

Matthew 15:19

“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

This is a good way to describe Dan Brown’s book entitled “The Da Vinci Code.” It is a book of false witnesses and blasphemies. The Bible says that those who promote heresies that blaspheme Christ’s deity, God, and Christianity will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21). Dan Brown should take note!

### **The Bashing of Christianity**

In a word, this book is disgusting, diabolical, devilish and a detriment to Christ and Christianity. This book was meant to be a work of pure fiction. However, the book begins with a page labeled “FACT,” which claims, among other things, that “all descriptions of ... documents ... in this novel are accurate.” This simply is not true. The FACT page gives readers the false impression that this novel is based on sound historical research. The truth is this. It’s based on all sorts of conjectures without any historical facts. The book would be better named, “The Da Vinci Deception.”

Darrell Bock from Dallas Seminary basically concluded that Mr. Brown's central contentions are based on evidence so thin that calling them conjecture would be a compliment. He was right. To their own shame and disgrace the liberal revisionist scholars have always attempted to revise what the Gospel and gospel records actually say. However, the Bible clearly says that those who revise the Gospel of Christ’s death and bodily resurrection from the grave should be accursed to hell and damnation (Gal. 1:9). Furthermore, those who seek to distort and counter the absolute verifiable truth of Christianity are called “haters of God” (Rom. 1:30) and persecutors of “the way” (Acts 9:2) of Christianity and the true Church which is the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

Although the book claims to be based the Gnostic Gospels it is not based on history and historical evidence. It is actually unhistorical and

anti-historical. The end result is that it is pure fiction and is another attempt by the devil to destroy the credibility of Christ and Christianity. The battle between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent continues on to this very day (Gen. 3:15). From the very beginning the devil asked this question: **“Yea, hath God said?”** (Gen. 3:1). The devil like the “The Da Vinci Code” places doubt on God’s Word. “The Da Vinci Code” was designed to undermine Christ, Christianity, and the cross as the only way of salvation. This is nothing new. The Jesus Seminar of left-wing scholars with their subjective hunches has been bashing Christ and New Testament Christianity for many years. Robert Funk, the founder of the Jesus Seminar, fully endorses the false gospels of the Gnostics instead of the true historical accuracies of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Funk along with other Jesus Seminar revisionist scholars claim that only 18 percent of the words ascribed to Jesus in the gospels are actually true. The rest of them are made up by the early church to support Christianity. These so-called scholars, who have no historical evidence to back up their claims, also concluded that the miracles and resurrection of Christ are not true historical accounts.

One statement that is made in the “The Da Vinci Code” accuses the New Testament church of “borrowing” its teachings from stories about another god who is described in pagan traditions. The implication is that Christianity is based on stolen mythology. In “The Da Vinci Code” Dan Brown says that there are thousands of secret documents which exist that disprove the Bible and Christianity. The book says, “The New Testament is based on fabrications” (page 341) and “The New Testament is false testimony” (page 345). We should call his bluff and insist that he find these fabrications and false testimonies and present them to the world! These are simply false statements and cheap shots against Christ and Christianity. Brown is desperate to build a case for unbelief based on imaginary documents and fables. Today in our postmodern society there are no absolutes. Everybody can define what is true and right for them based on experience and feeling (existentialism) instead of factual statements and an absolute standard that has stood the test of time – the Bible. With our present way of thinking in society one can conclude that fiction and inaccurate historical statements can actually become history. This is why they are rewriting our history books in school and rewriting the Bible. When fables are agreed upon and eventually become the standard of

truth, it's then that truth, moral codes, and history are rewritten. Fables become truth and history. The Bible says something about these times:

2 Timothy 4:2-4

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

### **The Background of the Bible**

Brown actually cites his principal sources within the text of his novel. One is a specimen of academic feminist scholarship: *The Gnostic Gospels* by Elaine Pagels. The others are popular esoteric histories: *The Templar Revelation: Secret Guardians of the True Identity of Christ* by Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince. In this book it's argued that Jesus and Mary were married or at least sex partners. It's said that the anointing of Jesus by Mary of Bethany was a pagan ritual performed by a priestess. Other histories included *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln; *The Goddess in the Gospels: Reclaiming the Sacred Feminine* and *The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: Mary Magdalene and the Holy Grail*, both by Margaret Starbird. (Starbird, a self-identified Catholic, has her books published by Matthew Fox's outfit, Bear & Co.) Another influence is *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* by Barbara G. Walker. The use of such unreliable sources tells us of Brown's intellectuality. But his scholarly act has apparently fooled at least some of his readers — the *New York Daily News* book reviewer trumpeted, "His research is impeccable."

Brown uses legends, myths, esoteric cultic practices of ancient times, and unreliable anti-historical documents as the basis of his interpretations of Jesus, Christianity, and gospel records instead of viable historical facts. All Christians should be appalled by these false accusations of Christ and Christianity. Brown's findings lack authentic sources and are based upon myths and legends passed down by cults and other weird historical documents that have no credibility. On



the other hand, the Bible bases its findings on reliable facts, historical records, and eyewitnesses. Any claim to truth should have evidence that supports the claim. The Bible has all the evidence to support itself as authentic and accurate in its teachings. We can trust the Bible above all the other manmade sources of false revelation. Dan Brown casts doubt on the Bible's authenticity and historical accuracy. Brown looks at the Bible as a mere human book, riddled with errors and contradictions. However, Dan Brown does not have anything to stand upon. Brown, like all other Bible haters and rejecters (Rom. 1:30), tries to discredit the validity of the Bible and place other records of antiquity in its place.

Why do we accept the Bible instead of other ancient records?

### 1. Inspiration

Leigh Teabing in "The Da Vinci code" said: "The Bible is a product of man, my dear, not of God" (page 231). This is a false statement. The Bible claims to be the very words of God and not the words of man. How can this be?

### 2 Timothy 3:16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

The word "inspiration" means literally "God breathed" and suggests that God used the writers of Scripture as vehicles (2 Pet. 1:21) through whom He could speak forth His direct words. Thus, what we have today in the Bible are the very words of God. Paul the apostle knew that he was not inspired like Shakespeare to speak (1 Cor. 2:4) but that the words he spoke were inspired by God and produced what are called the original manuscripts.

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

## 2. Transmission

This is basically how the transmission or passing down of the Bible took place and came to be in existence as we know it today. First, letters from the apostles were written and received in the churches during the last half of the first century. From the earliest times the church had a working functional canon of inspired letters even though all the letters were not yet written or gathered together in a Bible as we know it today. The writing and recording of the Bible was promised to take place under the guidance and supervision of the Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26) and this recorded teaching became the apostolic foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20). Copies of the letters were carefully and meticulously made that circulated throughout the churches. Not all the churches immediately had copies of the letters but eventually they were distributed among all the churches. Of course, while the apostles were alive they could authenticate their own writings. In other words, they could be checked by the men who actually wrote the letters (Gal. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:2; 1 Pet. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:1; 1 John 1:4; Jude 1:1; Rev. 1:1, 19). Apostolic authority was the final court of appeal.

Second, a growing group of books developed that were recognized as inspired Scriptures. The belief that specific letters were inspired by the apostles and written for the church was the common consensus and practice since the earliest days of Christianity (1 Thess. 5:27). The early church accepted the apostolic writings as God's Word (1 Thess. 2:13) and distributed them throughout the churches (Col. 4:16). It's clear that the letters were intended for the whole church (1 Cor. 1:2; Rev. 1:3). There was a type of round-robin circulation of inspired books or letters that steadily grew and were understood and accepted by the apostles as authentic Scripture (2 Tim. 4:13). Peter accepted Paul's writings as inspired and quotes them (2 Pet. 3:15-16), Jude quoted Peter (Jude 1:17-18 with 2 Pet. 3:3), and Paul cited Luke's Gospel as Scripture (1 Tim. 5:18 with Luke 10:7). It's obvious that the early church recognized a *growing body of literature* as the inspired Word of God. The questions that were used to authenticate a book were these. Was it written by an apostle or someone who knew the apostles (apostolic authority – Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:37)? Was it in harmony with other accepted doctrine or teaching (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 1:10; Titus 1:9; 2:1)? Was the document widespread and

continuously accepted among the churches as inspired and apostolic in origin (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Cor. 8:18). A heretic named Marcion (a member of a Gnostic sect) opposed the Christian writings with his own version of the Scripture in A.D. 135. The church responded and declared what books were authoritative in a document that is today called the "Muratorian Fragment" that dates back to 175 A.D. *The early church did not want poison mixed with the honey!*

There were then books banned from the Bible and writings that were never accepted by the early church as inspired such as "The Shepherd of Hermes," "Epistle of Barnabas," "Gospel of Judas," and the "Didache" (the teaching of the apostles) since these books were never inspired by God. From very early on the church correctly discerned the writings that came to them and made sure they came from God. What eventually became to be called the "Lost Books of the Bible," "Gnostic Gospels," and other writings such as the apocrypha were not found to be written by the apostles and inspired by God. They were fraudulent and spurious writings and banned from the Bible. Yes, banned from the Bible! The Gnostic Gospels are actually a diverse collection of documents, written by the early Christian sect known as the Gnostics, which bear little resemblance to the canonical Gospels. They do not seek to present a biography of the historical Jesus. Their focus tends to be more on esoteric wisdom that the risen Jesus supposedly conveyed to the disciples after Easter. What did the early church do spurious writings? Everything that was a forgery and heresy was banned by the early church. Furthermore, anything that was not stamped with the authority of the apostles was banned. The early church knew which documents were authored by the apostles and which were not. God did not make a mistake when He led the Christian Church to recognize what is and is not inspired.

I know there is much talk these days about the so-called lost books of the Bible. From cults to the New Age, people make all sorts of claims about how the Bible is missing books, books that help justify what they hope to believe, whether it's reincarnationism or feminism. One thing is certain. **The "lost books" were never lost!** They were known by the Jews in Old Testament times and the Christians of the New Testament times and were never considered Scripture. They

weren't lost nor were they removed. They were never in the Bible in the first place. They failed the apostolic test and were banned.

Third, by the end of the first century all of the 27 books in our present canon of Scripture had been written, received by some of the churches, and were considered inspired. Two thirds of them were accepted as inspired while the rest needed continued circulation and distribution among the churches to gain the full support. The remaining books that were not yet fully circulated, such as the book of Revelation, were known and quoted as authoritative even though they had not yet achieved wide circulation. It was only a matter of time before all of them would be categorized as Scripture.

Fourth, the generation *after* the end of the apostolic age, or the days when the apostles lived upon earth, also agreed upon the 27 books of tradition that were already accepted by the early church through widespread distribution. This can be proven in that every book of the New Testament had been cited as authoritative by the church leaders that existed in the next three centuries following the times of the apostles. History tells us that all 27 books of the Bible, which had been passed down by testing, tradition, and transmission, appeared in an Easter letter written by Athanasius the church leader. This was in A.D. 367.

Fifth, the 27 books of our New Testament were officially ratified as Scripture by the Council of Hippo (A.D. 393) and the Third Council of Carthage (A.D. 397). However, the important note is that all of these books of the Bible were already recognized and finalized as inspired Scripture throughout the days of the early church long before any church council labeled them as Scripture. In fact, the church had been calling the 27 books of the Bible "Scripture" for some 250 years before any official council deemed them as Scripture. The canon was already present in the apostolic age as books became known and circulated. In short, there was no politically engineered canonization process. No council had any knowledge of power that was not already available to Christians already concerning the inspiration of the Bible.

### 3. Preservation

Preservation refers to the providential keeping of the original text from loss and alteration (Ps. 12:6-7; 100:5; 119:152,160; Is. 40:8; 59:21; Mt. 5:18; 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:25). Today, 2,000 years since the time of Jesus, we have an extraordinary number of ancient manuscripts in existence for the New Testament. These manuscripts prove the authenticity of the Bible. **There are now about 5,700 Greek manuscripts of the New Testament, which agree to the accuracy of the Bible. Some of the manuscripts date back to the early centuries of Christianity and less than one hundred years from the original writings.** In some cases manuscripts had dates on them. But the style of manuscripts (large and small letters) and the types of material they are written on (parchments or papyrus - paper) give important clues to the historical time period in which they were written. Paul wanted to read the parchments or the precious copies of God's Word in his own day and time (2 Timothy 4:13). Because of the continuing manuscript studies we now have good reason to believe that most of the New Testament was completed between A.D. 47 and A.D. 70, and that all of it was completed by A.D. 95. The fact is this. All these thousands of manuscripts were recorded in multiple places and yet have a remarkably accurate consistency between them proving the accuracy of the Bible. The Bible is in agreement on all issues despite thousands of years of copying and translating.

The Church has essentially affirmed a canon (a standard collection of accepted books) for the entire Bible. Eventually God directed that the New Testament documents should be officially canonized or become an accepted standard of Scripture (a fixed body of divinely inspired and authoritative writings). Official Church councils confirmed the books of the Bible so that they might remain intact as an entire collection of writings handed down by God. This official canonization occurred between the years of 367 A.D and 397 A.D. However, no specific council was responsible for bringing the books together. The early church had already recognized which books were inspired by the apostles.

The New Testament stands head and shoulders over all other major books of antiquity as an authentic and reliable source because of the large number of existing manuscript evidences. This alone proves the accuracy of its transmission over many centuries of time. The original writings of Julius Caesar are no longer around. We know what he

wrote only by the copies we have. Only 10 copies still exist, and they were made 1,000 years after he died. Most ancient writers such as Plato, Aristotle, and Herodotus have less than a dozen copies of their writings and these were copied some 1,000 years after their originals. The Biblical manuscripts are the exception. Literally thousands of preserved manuscripts remain in close proximity to the original writings which gives even more assurance of the preservation of the Bible.

## **The Biblical Answers**

### 1. Who was Jesus?

Brown's book concludes that "Jesus was a mortal prophet ... a great and powerful man, but a man nonetheless" (Pages 233). His book claims that "Constantine upgraded Jesus' status almost four centuries after Jesus' death" (page 234). "Jesus' establishment as the 'Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea [and it was] 'a relatively close vote at that'" (page 233).

These statements are simply biased and false for they have no Scriptural basis or historical accuracy. Furthermore, the vote of the council in reaction to the Arian heresy (Arius rejected the deity of Christ) was 300 to 2. Hardly a close vote! One again, Brown simply ignores true history and substitutes fabrication. Peter, an actual eyewitness of Jesus Christ, said in 2 Peter 1:16: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

There are no fabricated stories in Peter's account. He actually saw Jesus and witnessed the display of His deity on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Mark 8:27 says:

"And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?"

Who do you say Jesus was? Men like Dan Brown, along with the liberals, modernists, humanists, and cults of our day, may say that Jesus was someone other than God, the long-awaited Christ, and Savior of lost mankind. However, the Bible teaches that Jesus was the Christ (Matt. 1:16; 22:42) and Son of God (Matt. 3:17) who came from Heaven (John 6:58), as God of very God (1 John 1:1 – “the Word was God”), to die on a cross and provide salvation for a lost human race (John 3:16). There has always been an attempt to expose and debunk Jesus. Liberals and cults have tried to always change the identity of Jesus. Many are in search for the historical Jesus. Well, stop searching. Jesus already came, identified who He was, died on the cross, and rose again. Jesus was “Immanuel” (Isa. 7:14) which means “God with us” (Matt. 1:23). There are those who make Jesus some kind of countercultural hippie, Jewish reactionary, a charismatic rabbi, or even a homosexual magician. But the Bible is very clear on who Jesus was and is today. Jesus asked, “Whom do men say that I am?” How you answer this question and respond to Jesus will determine your eternal destiny.

## 2. Who was Mary Magdalene?

Brown says that “The marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record” (page 246). What historical record? The Bible does not mention it and neither do the Gnostic gospels directly mention this relationship between Mary and Jesus. It’s all a

Luke 8:2-3

“And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.”

Jesus broke with tradition and allowed women to travel with Him and help support the ministry. We can be sure that Mary had a marvelous story of conversion. Jesus rescued her from the clutches of Satan and gave her a new way of life. Mary was at the foot of the cross when Jesus died (John 19:25). She was also the first witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:1-7). The mention of Mary Magdalene in close proximity to Christ does not indicate that Christ had any relationship with her on a physical plain but that Christ

accepted women as a valuable asset to His ministry. It also demonstrates that women need to become servants of the Master today. Mary and other ladies loved Jesus, not in a physical way, but with a sacrificial love that caused them to give of themselves to His ministry and work. Their desire to be with Jesus and support His work should be our desire as well. Mary and “many others” were willing to give of their lives and substance for Jesus Christ. What an example and testimony they are to all of us today.

3. Was Mary Magdalene the head and leader of the Church?

Ephesians 5:23

“For the husband is the head of the wife, **even as Christ is the head of the church**: and he is the saviour of the body.”

Ephesians 1:21-23

“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the **head over all things to the church**, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.’

The record of the Bible is very clear. Jesus was the head of the Church and always will be the leader and head of the Church. It’s not Mary Magdalene, Peter, or the pope. Let the record of Scripture stand.

Matthew 16:18

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

This verse is a play on words. Peter had already said that Jesus was the Christ which was Peter’s confession of the deity of Christ (“thou art the Christ” - Matt. 16:16). Peter recognized who Jesus was and the authority that He possessed as absolute God. In responding to Peter Christ essentially says, “You are just Peter (“petros” - a little stone) who has made the right confession regarding who I am. As the Christ, the Church is built or founded upon my person and work. Upon this rock (“petra” – the large underlying stone), who is the Christ, the church will be built.” In other words, Jesus was actually



saying that Peter's confession was revealed by God (vs. 17 – "flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee") and that what Peter said was true. Christ was the foundation and underlying bedrock upon which the Church would be established. It would only be through the person and work of Christ that the Church could be formed. So Jesus is not only the foundation of the Church but the leader of the Church. He is both the foundation and leader. This is the clear testimony of Scripture.

The whole point is this. If Mary Magdalene was the head of the Church then we are all in trouble. Why? It's because Mary Magdalene was a sinner like all of us (Rom. 3:23) who needed to be saved. Besides, God's word condemns women leadership (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-6). How can a leader be a woman when the Bible says a leader was to be "the husband of one wife" (1 Tim. 1:3; Titus 1:6)? The Bible is very clear. Women were not permitted to be leaders in the local organized churches and this was certainly true in regards to the head, authority, and leader of the Church as an organism. The head of the Church was Jesus Christ.

#### 4. Did Jesus marry the woman Mary Magdalene?

The so-called evidence that Jesus married Mary Magdalene comes largely from the "Gospel of Mary" which was written by an unknown author in the second century. It affirms that Jesus loved Mary more than the other disciples and this allows the Gnostics to build a case that Mary was married to Jesus. Of course, this is pure conjecture and has no Biblical basis. The Gnostics and their false Gnostic gospels conclude that their gospel records and assumptions are on the same level as the records of the Biblical Gospels. This is a fallacy of the worst sort. No man can add his thoughts and humanistic assumptions to the closed and unalterable canon of Scripture (Rev. 22:18-19).

We know that the Bible says that sex and marriage are honorable and undefiled (Heb 13:4). But why would we even speculate that Jesus could have been married and bore children? Because Jesus had both a human nature and divine nature we must confess that it's unthinkable that Jesus, the God-man, could be joined to a sinner in the most intimate physical human bond. Jesus' mission on earth was

not to marry but to do the Father's will (John 4:34). Actually, Jesus could not have been married. Do you know why? It's because someday Jesus is going to be married to His true bride – the Church.

Revelation 19:7-9

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

The marriage of Jesus is in the future. And guess what? I'm invited! Are you?

5. Was Jesus a promoter of feminism?

Dan Brown concludes that “powerful men in the early church ‘conned’ the world by propagating lies that devalued the female and tipped the scales in favor of the masculine” (page 124). Brown asserts that Jesus never intended the Bible to promote male dominance. In fact, Jesus was actually a promoter of feminism.

However, just the opposite is true. Jesus was not a promoter of feminism. He treated women properly (Luke 7:44-46; John 4) and countered the part of the culture that looked down upon women knowing that both genders were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26). But Jesus never adopted a feministic philosophy for He sounded forth the original design of Genesis, when speaking about the “beginning” (Matt. 19:4-5), which promoted male leadership over the woman (Gen. 2:22; 3:16; 1 Cor. 11:3). The record of Scripture that Jesus gave to the apostles (Col. 3:16 – “the word of Christ”) also proves that Jesus was not a promoter of feminist teachings.

Ephesians 5:23

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”

1 Timothy 2:12

“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”

1 Corinthians 14:35

“And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.”

Let all the feminists and women preachers of today take note! This is what God’s Word says! God said it, I believe it, and that settles it with me. It should also settle it with you unless you dismiss the clear record and authority of Scripture for the sake of culture and philosophies that promote humanistic agendas in the last days.

6. Is Jesus the only way to God?

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

Today people believe there is a smorgasbord of ways to God. This is the teaching of pluralism – there are many ways to God. You just have to pick your way and whatever works for you is fine. But Jesus was very clear about the way into the Father’s presence. Jesus Christ is the only “way” (pathway), “truth” (trustworthy or reliable source), and the very “life” (spiritual and everlasting life) that a person needs to enter Heaven and God’s presence forever. There is no way and no hope without Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). Case closed!

7. Is Gnosticism a replacement for Christianity?

Today you can walk into a bookstore and purchase what is called a “Gnostic Bible.” The claim is now made that there is another Bible. The Mormons claim there is “another testament.” This is what the Gnostic Bible claims. The Gnostic Bible contains such books as “The Gospel of Peter,” “The Gospel of Mary,” “The Gospel of Philip,” and “The Gospel of Thomas.” Gnostic writings were eventually formed together and the result was “The Gnostic Gospels.” The books mentioned above were written to bear the names of the apostles and other names in the Bible in order to try and sell them to the public

domain. But the church was too smart and saw through these as false gospels. They were written long after (some 150 – 200 years) the other Gospel records were deemed inspired. Most of them are from the third and fourth centuries making them far removed from the earliest and most reliable eyewitness accounts of the apostles (2 Pet. 1:16; John 1:1). None of them were written by an apostle of Christ, or by someone who had direct contact with the apostles, since they were written long after the apostles were dead.

Dan Brown used these Gnostic gospels as his primary source to gain the false accusations about Christ, Mary, and Christianity. From these sources he gathered the idea that the Gnostic form of Christianity is the true source and not what we have today in the Bible. The word Gnostic comes from the word “gnosis” which means knowledge. The word was used to refer to hidden knowledge that is available only to the enlightened. *Gnosticism says our real need is not forgiveness but enlightenment.* Man does not need to be saved by Jesus Christ. Man needs to rescue or save himself through seeking spiritual experiences that work for him. Gnosticism is in sync with our times and is making a come back through New Age philosophy. Man can be his own Savior in his own way. This mocks what the Bible says. Man is lost and going to hell and he cannot save himself (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9).

The book of Colossians countered the Gnostic philosophy and mysticism which promoted the gaining of knowledge through worshipping angels, dreams, and seeking experience outside of God and Christianity.

Colossians 2:18

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.”

The Christians needed to see through the practice of finding hidden knowledge through angels and dreams or the so-called spiritual encounters outside of God and the Bible. Paul says that the Gnostic was “intruding into those things which he hath not seen.” In other words, their experiences were not genuine and their knowledge that they received from their so-called spiritual encounters was not the

true “knowledge of his will” (Col. 1:9). Only Christians who walk a holy life in accordance with the revealed will of God found in the Bible will keep “increasing in the knowledge of God.” (Col. 1:10). True knowledge comes from the Bible and true worship can only be focused on the truth of the Bible, the God of the Bible, and Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible (John 4:24). All other worship and spiritual experiences are deemed false, fraudulent, and futile. The idea of Gnosticism is that we can rescue ourselves through our own spiritual quest. It’s similar to the “New Age” teaching of today. Man can save himself when he takes his own spiritual journey and finds a way to help himself through life.

The Gnostics were a group of thinkers who were highly influenced by Plato. The Gnostics denied the historical truth of the four Gospels in the New Testament and attempted to distort the true teaching that had been passed down by the eyewitnesses of Christ. They denied that God became flesh in Jesus Christ since they claimed that all flesh was evil. Some Gnostics accepted a deity that was both feminine and masculine. They all denied the physical resurrection of Jesus. In the Gospel of Mary the resurrection appearances of Jesus are said to be dreams, visions, and trances – not a literal bodily resurrection. Some Gnostics taught that Jesus did not die on the cross. Instead, a substitute died for him. They taught that Jesus can help us but not save us. They claimed that man must find his own way of salvation. Man’s problem was not sin but the need of self-knowledge that could be gained through personal experience and spiritual encounters that can reshape a person’s life. Gnostics claimed that redemption is within our own power and it can be achieved by encountering the divine side that is within all of us. Christ was not needed for salvation.

**Today people are looking for another way to be Christian.** They want spirituality without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without the true Christ, and a savior from their troubles but not their sin (Matt. 1:21). One thing is certain. No one can be spiritual unless they have the Holy Spirit living within them (Rom. 8:9). Likewise, no person can be Christian without believing on Christ (John 6:47) and having Christ live within him (Gal. 2:20 - Christ liveth in me”). True spirituality focuses on the working of the Holy Spirit in guiding people in the way of Biblical truth (John 16:13). Spirituality for many people today is

simply some kind of journey into whatever they believe or practice. Anyone from Oprah Winfrey to witchdoctors claims to be spiritual. But true spirituality is when a person, who is born again, possesses the Holy Spirit (Gal. 4:6) and is led by the Holy Spirit (the word spirit is in spirituality) into the truth of the Bible (1 Cor. 2:14-15). The person who is spiritual will be led by the Holy Spirit to discern and verify Biblical truth and how it applies to everyday living. The unsaved cannot be spiritual for they are spiritually discerned or incapable of understanding the relevance of Biblical truth for their lives (1 Cor. 2:14). This is because they don't have the ministry of the Holy Spirit operating in their lives (Rom. 8:9; Jude vs. 19).

Today the spirit of Gnosticism has permeated our present world culture and climate. People today are seeking to connect with the spiritual world through esoteric experiences. We have many television programs and books today that speak of spiritual experience without God, Christ, and Christianity. The fundamental danger of the new Gnosticism is the focus on self. Everybody wants their own experience in order to find their own path that leads to their joy. The problem with the advice to "be yourself" or "be your own person" is that none of us without God and His life (Eph. 2:12) can be what God wants us to be (Rom. 3:10-18; Eph. 2:1-3). We have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23) and we need the redemption Christ offers us (Rom. 3:24), not another self-help program. We need God's salvation from hell and sin's power (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 2:14-15) so we can be saved and become a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). In short, man must come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4) as found in the Gospel message and discover the new life that is found in Jesus Christ. We don't need spiritual enlightenment but new life.

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:7

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

## 8. What makes Christ and Christianity credible?

Robert Langdon, the hero of the book, stresses that “every faith in the world is based on fabrication.” This is his definition of faith. Faith is really the acceptance of what we imagine to be true and that which we cannot prove. He goes on to say, “Every religion describes God through metaphor, allegory, and exaggeration ... The problems arise when we begin to believe literally in our own metaphors ... Those who understand their faiths understand the stories are metaphorical.” Brown’s book inconsistently suggests that historical truth doesn’t matter to faith *except when it supports his agenda regarding Mary Magdalene or the Catholic Church*. Brown seems to fail to grasp that early Christianity, like early Judaism, is not all about symbols and metaphors. It is about truths grounded in historical events and evidence, whether the Exodus, the reign of King David, or the death and resurrection of Jesus. **The faith of Christianity is a reasonable and sensible faith based upon facts.** The faith of Christianity has substance and reality. The faith of Christianity is not a blind leap into the dark.

Hebrews 11:1-3

“Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith (A REASONABLE AND RATIONAL FAITH) we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

Is Christianity credible? Can the Bible and Christianity be trusted? Is Christianity or the claims of Jesus Christ the only belief system that is true in the midst of an ever increasing pluralistic society? How do we know that we know the truth? Let’s answer these questions in this way. When the Bible and the central message of Christianity are put on trial they can be proven to be true by convincing logic and evidence such as reputable historical records and documents, the confirmation of ancient historians, eyewitness accounts, archeology, science, and fulfilled prophecy. **No other religious-based organizations, which claim to be from God or have spiritual enlightenment, can base their authority upon thousands of manuscripts to back up their documents and teachings, nor can they use archeology and science to verify their trustworthiness,**

**nor do they possess thousands of eyewitnesses and historians to verify their claims, nor can they confess that they have a Leader (Jesus Christ) who has risen from the dead!** This is evidence that demands only one verdict – True! The Bible and Christianity are true and for this reason Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven (John 14:6).

Let us remember that there were multitudes of eyewitnesses that saw Christ after His resurrection (Luke 1:1-3; Acts 1:21-22; 1 John 1:2-3; 2 Pet. 1:16-18). The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:3-4) and Christianity. Jesus rose from the dead to prove that His claims were true, that He was God, and that He was the only way to God and the Giver of eternal life (John 6:23).

Erwin Lutzer wrote:

"Why would anyone accept the Gnostic gospels rather than the verifiable account of the canonical Scriptures? The answer can only be found in the spirit of the times: the desire for doctrinal diversity, the pressure of feminism, and the dogged insistence that we can have our own direct experience of God without the mediation of Christ. Only this desire to be 'trendier than thou' can explain the mindless rush ... "

The books of the Bible have historical accuracy and they reveal that Christ was raised from the dead and seen by eyewitnesses. The Bible, Christ, and Christianity have a historical base that cannot be denied. The truth of the Bible and Christ's resurrection cannot be denied in any sane court of law. There is more proof that Jesus lived and rose from the dead than there is proof that Julius Caesar lived. Jesus is alive. The Bible record is true. Christianity is true. Only Jesus can give you eternal life (John 4:13-14).

9. Is God a woman?

Christian language for God as Father is not derived from pagan influence but from the intimate relationship between the divine Son and the Father (Matt. 3:17; 17:5). God is always called the Father in Scripture (Isa. 9:6; Matt. 5:16, 45, 48; 6:9; John 4:23; 20:21; Col. 1:2; James 1:17; Rev. 3:21). This is the way God has chosen to reveal His eternal being and person. The male and Father image of God



stresses leadership and authority over the human race. This is what the feminists hate and why they want to turn God into a mother instead of a father. God has not chosen to reveal Himself as a woman. Here is a good question. If God intended to convey Himself as a woman then why does He call Himself Father hundreds of times in the Bible instead of a woman? When Jesus came to earth He revealed God to the world and in doing so He represented Himself as a man - "the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). There can be no question about God's desire in expressing Himself in the masculine gender. Let the Bible speak for itself.

Many are saying today that the God of the Bible is above gender and He never intended to convey himself in any specific gender. If this is true, then why does God call Himself the "Father" and not the Mother? God portrays himself in the gender of a Father for only a Father could send a son that would die on the cross and save lost humanity. God did not have a daughter die on the cross but a Son (John 3:16). The Son portrays the Father's existence as the true God and the last time I checked my Bible Jesus Christ was a male, a man, the Son of the living God who is the Father. God is called the Father (not the Mother) for He is represented as the Leader and authority of all the universe. And someday the Father's Son is going to return and rule the universe as the "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15) – not the Queen of Queens!

#### 10. Does the Bible promote sex?

Dan Brown seems to think that the Bible somehow looks down upon sex and this is why the Bible withheld the secret of Jesus' marriage to Mary Magdalene. This is erroneous. If Brown would take more time to read the Bible instead of the Gnostic gospels he would discover that God created sex (Genesis 2) and sex within the context of marriage is permissible and to be enjoyed (Prov. 5:19 – "let her breasts satisfy thee at all times").

Hebrews 13:4 states:

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Yes, God approves of sex, but it's sanctified sex – sex within the confines of marriage! Furthermore, sex was never to be part of a religious experience as false religion has taught throughout the centuries. We might add that the permissive “sexual spirituality” of today comes from the ancient fertility cults that have taught how through sex a person can have a direct experience of the divine. Brown's book concludes that the church, possessive about this type of spiritual experience, suppressed sexual encounters. Once again, these conclusions are outlandish and absurd.

11. What is the prediction of the end times?

2 Timothy 3:13

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

The Bible predicts that in the last days there will be “haters of God” (Rom. 1:30) and those who try and deceive people into believing error and lies. This is certainly what Dan Brown has done in his latest book called “The Da Vinci Code.” This book is full of lies and deception. As the end of the age approaches seducers like Dan Brown “shall wax worse and worse” deceiving themselves and others. We should expect the trend to continue. Here is a little pessimism. It won't get better but worse. People like Dan Brown are “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2 Tim. 3:7). Many people today would fall into this category (“ever learning”) as they seek to find out new things outside the truth of the Bible. However, they are reading and learning the wrong things and are not able to find the truth that is right before them in the Bible. Seducers like Dan Brown and the seductive teachings of demons will increase in the last days.

1 Timothy 4:1

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

It is not surprising that a powerful thriller and page-turner, “The Da Vinci Code,” could have such an impact in an age of widespread Biblical illiteracy and of ignorance of early Christian history. Once

again, this should be called “The Da Vinci Deception.” Through this book the deception of the end-times is being propagated. Millions of people are reading these kinds of deceptive books today which only confuse people and provide the groundwork for greater demonic deception to abound in the minds and hearts of people.

## 12. Is Dan Brown going to Heaven?

The Bible speaks of false teachers like Dan Brown who write novels that bash Christianity and Christ.

2 Peter 2:2-3 says:

“And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. Today many are following the pernicious ways of Dan Brown. In his recent book “the way of truth” is spoken about in an evil way. It seems like the false teachers are winning. But there is an end for all those who fail to embrace Christ and the truth. The Bible says that all false teachers who reject the claims of Christ are going to be judged for their spurious teaching (“and their damnation slumbereth not”). Dan Brown and all other Christ rejecters who deny who Jesus was and the claims of the Bible are not going to Heaven. Instead, they are going to be judged in hell for all eternity.

Revelation 22:18-19

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

A believer has a believing heart toward Scripture but an unbeliever has an unbelieving heart toward God’s timeless and eternal book – the Bible. Like Dan Brown, they seek to change it by addition or subtraction. Those who try and change the Bible will burn in Hell. Liars like Dan Brown will have their part in the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 21:8

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Dan Brown is a liar. He has lied about the claims of Christ and Christianity. He has sought to deceive people and keep them from the only truth that can save their souls and give them eternal life. Is Dan Brown going to Heaven? Not unless he is willing to repent of his sins and embrace the claims of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). A better question to ask is this one. Are you going to Heaven? Unless you embrace the claims of the Christ who died and rose again to give you eternal life you won't go to Heaven. The Bible is very clear on this matter. Jesus died taking the penalty for your sins upon Himself and rose again the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4) so that you can express faith in His saving provision and be saved from hell and judgment. Dear friend, Jesus died to save you from everlasting punishment. If you recognize this to be true and are willing to embrace these truths as your own then you can be saved by His wonderful saving grace (Eph. 2:8 - “for by grace ye are saved through faith”).

Someone said:

“The truth about Jesus is not found in a code to be deciphered, but in a gift of grace to be received and enjoyed for all eternity.”

The Bible says we need to express "faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21) or "faith in Christ Jesus" (Col. 1:4; Gal. 3:26) in order to be saved from hell. Belief in Jesus Christ involves a definite decision or choice of a person's will to commit their faith to Jesus Christ alone for salvation (“If thou believest with all thine heart” – Acts 8:37). With the heart (a person's will) they make the decision (choice) to believe or rely on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save them and give them eternal life. Will you believe in Jesus Christ and His saving provision today?

Acts 16:31

“ ... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ...”