

The Faith Once Delivered

Copyright Page

The Faith Once Delivered

Copyright © 2025 by Zacarias M.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the copyright holder, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org
First Edition, 2025

Disclaimer

The words in this book reflect my personal beliefs, drawn from diligent Bible study and prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit. I seek no addition or removal from scripture, which alone holds authority: “All Scripture is inspired by God” (2 Timothy 3:16, NASB 1995). My aim is to clarify what I believe the Bible teaches, word for word, without altering its truth. I claim no knowledge beyond what God reveals, and I urge readers to test all things, as scripture commands: “Test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1, NASB 1995). As a student of the Word, not a teacher, I share insights humbly, knowing “we who teach will be judged with greater strictness” (James 3:1, NASB 1995).

Each day, I ask the Father to draw me closer to Him and my King, Jesus Christ. I invite believers to rekindle their zeal for Him, and non-believers to trust the only One who saves: “There is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NASB 1995). All glory belongs to God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Table of Contents

Copyright Page

Disclaimer

Chapter 1: Introduction - The True Message

Chapter 2: Jesus' Divinity

Chapter 3: Lord's Supper

Chapter 4: Flee From Idolatry

Chapter 5: Prayer to the Father Through Jesus

Chapter 6: God's Word: Keep It Pure

Chapter 7: The Role of Prophecy

Chapter 8: Exploring the Lives of the Apostles

Chapter 9: Polycarp of Smyrna: Guardian of the Gospel

Chapter 10: Ignatius of Antioch: Champion of Christ's Truth

Chapter 11: Clement of Rome: Faithful to the Apostolic Call

Chapter 12: Tracing True Christianity: From Apostles to Today

Chapter 13: Arianism: A Threat to Christ's Divinity

Chapter 14: Gnosticism: A Denial of Christ's Reality

Chapter 15: Modern Distortions: Straying from Apostolic Truth

Chapter 16: The Jewish-Christian Link: Roots of the Faith

Chapter 17: Closeness of Early Congregations and Jesus' Path

Chapter 18: Hospitality in the Early Church

Chapter 19: Preaching in the Early Church

Chapter 20: A Call to Enduring Faith

Introduction

Jesus Christ the Kingdom: The Gospel to God's Glory

It's not about religion, human degrees, money, prestige, or position. It's not about division, who taught whom, tradition, or pride. The gifts we receive are partial, but love is the greatest of all. "So now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13, NASB 1995). The apostles warned of divisions in Christianity, and those warnings have come to pass. "I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10, NASB 1995). Yet the faith has been polluted—by mixing politics with service to God, by prioritizing human traditions over the commandments of Jesus Christ, and by misunderstanding grace. Grace is not earned through works but received through faith in the One who died for all and rose again, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him. "For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law" (Romans 3:28, NASB 1995). "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3, NASB 1995). As we love Him, our works follow naturally, for "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15, NASB 1995), and "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him" (John 14:21, NASB 1995). And this is the will of the Father as the Father himself said: "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:5, NASB 1995).

We must return to the pure, original message of the Gospel, untainted by human constructs. "The Kingdom is Christ, to the glory of God the Father" (Matthew 17:5, NASB 1995). "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or, "There it is!" For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst'" (Luke 17:20-21, NASB 1995). Each one must stand by their own faith, strengthening one another or standing alone if necessary. "But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13, NASB 1995). "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Isaiah 7:9, NASB 1995). Jesus declared, "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:50, NASB 1995). How do we rediscover this true message? We must empty ourselves of evolved traditions and human decrees, becoming like children to receive the instructions of our Master and King, Jesus Christ. "And said, 'Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 18:3, NASB 1995). The Kingdom was already present with Jesus' arrival, for He said again, "The kingdom of God is in your midst" (Luke 17:21, NASB 1995).