

Like many modern day American "Christians" I was raised in the traditions passed down from one generation to the next. But the scary thing is, how most of us blindly accept what we're taught from the pulpit because Pastor Parrot told us how to think about the verses he cherry picked to prove his point. Over time, these doctrines of men SEEM like fact because the viewpoint is so deeply embedded in us that we don't even question the validity of the doctrine. But when your "religion" comes crashing in on you because all that you thought should be no longer is, many walk away from the faith questioning their belief systems or even leave it altogether, becoming atheists or agnostics who doubt the validity of the entire Bible.

For most of my life I fell into that religious category, and when things didn't "work" like we were promised they would, I too questioned not the Bible, not God, but my belief system. I decided to stop listening to men and start listening to the Word. God's Word. I decided to examine Scriptures slowly, and carefully to see what it actually says, not what Pastor Parrot TOLD me it meant.

The difference in today's Christian church (in general) and what the Word proclaims are WORLDS apart! This journey for me started in October of 2010 and I'm still on it, learning, retraining my brain to remember to go to the WORD and not rely on my lengthy past religious patterns of thought.

But it is a whole different picture than what you learn in church, unfortunately. I challenge anyone who truly wants a closer walk with the Creator to take a hiatus from "Christian religion" and truly renew your mind in the Word itself, being careful to turn off those programmed voices in your head that tell you what it means and search out the meaning for yourself.

Get a big Strong's Exhaustive concordance (or use a Bible app that has it on it, I use Olive Tree and for a small charge have the Strong's add-on) and begin to look more deeply at the Truth of His Word. If you commit to seeking Him and His truth, the Word will take on a whole new, exciting turn in your life!

To get you started, one of my favorite ministries, also dedicated to the purity of the Word, has put together this teaching, Just Ask the Scriptures, which is a good religious reality check. Look for it in my notes under the same title.