

# Seeking God

## Lesson 6: False Ideas About Seeking God



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

## Seeking God

# Lesson 6: False Ideas About Seeking God

Learn how five common ways people try to seek God fail to please God

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ [www.godsaidso.com/dgw98](http://www.godsaidso.com/dgw98)

### Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

**Study Number:** DGW98

Written by Eric Krieg

**About the author:** My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

**Copyright:** Copyright © 2018 GodSaidSo Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

**Scripture quotations:** Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES @  
WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

# Lesson 6: False Ideas About Seeking God

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Seeking God is central to living a life that is pleasing to God. Unfortunately, there are many people who claim to seek God in their lives who remain the enemies of God because they are not actually seeking Him by being obedient to His word. Instead, they are trying to seek Him in other ways that seem better to themselves.

However, we should remember the Scripture that was introduced in lesson 5 that said God’s thoughts and ways are much higher than ours (see Isaiah 55:8-9). In fact, Jeremiah 10:23 reveals that it is not “in man who walks to direct his own steps.” That is, it is outside of man’s ability to seek God by living in just any way that seems right to him. Listen to Proverbs 14:12: “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

Yes, God has promised that we will find Him if we seek Him (see Matthew 7:7-8). However, He has not promised that we will find Him if we refuse to seek Him in the way He desires to be sought! In fact, the Scriptures record examples of individuals

who appeared as if they were seeking God. But, they were not truly seeking Him because they were not seeking Him according to His instructions. Consider two examples.

First, consider the Jews. Many of the Jewish people rejected Jesus Christ. Therefore, they could not possibly be seeking God when they rejected the Messiah (Christ) the Law and the Prophets had been foretelling. In Romans 10:2-3, Paul wrote concerning them: “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” They were zealous for God and they wanted righteousness. However, they sought being right with God their own way rather than God’s! They rejected the proper actions that true knowledge of God’s word would have led them to. Still, these individuals likely lived according to many of the instructions God had given in the Old Law. But, though they appeared to be seeking God, they were not actually drawing near to Him.

Second, consider those who sought Jesus in John 6. At the beginning of John 6, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand men (plus women and children) with five loaves and two small fish. After Jesus departed from them, the multitude is said to have been “seeking Jesus” the next day (see verse 25). But, when Jesus was asked why He had come to that place, He answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him” (verses 26-27). These people, therefore, sought Jesus – but they did so for the wrong reasons!

Although other examples could certainly be provided, these illustrate the basic fact that there have been people who have had false ideas about seeking God in the past. And, I firmly believe the Scriptures teach that there will always be individuals who seek Him in ways that fail to please Him. Therefore, this sixth lesson is dedicated to exploring five popular false ideas about seeking God. Now,

before we begin, please understand that these are not the only ways an individual can falsely seek God. Certainly, there are many false ways people try to seek God that are outside of what is called “Christianity.” However, all of these are false (at least) because they fail to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. In this study, we are going to limit our discussion to *some* of the false attempts made within “Christianity.” Now, as we begin this study, please allow yourself to be challenged and honestly evaluate the attempts you have made in your life to seek God. Remember that the God who is Lord of heaven and earth will judge you by His word and will only reward those who seek Him according to what He has revealed therein.

## ***“Faith Only Christianity”***

---

A large percentage of those who claim to be Christians and claim to be seeking God believe in the doctrine of “faith only.” In fact, this doctrine is the foundation of the majority of so-called protestant “Christian” churches today. However, we need to examine this popular teaching by the Scriptures to see whether it is part of the pattern God has revealed about seeking Him.

### **What is “faith only Christianity”?**

“Faith only Christianity” is rooted in a doctrine that claims faith is the only thing that is necessary for salvation. They claim that there is nothing that a person must *do* in order to be forgiven of his/her sins. They claim that belief in God and in Jesus Christ is enough to save an individual. So, according to this popular doctrine, at the point an individual mentally accepts the truths about God and Jesus Christ, he/she is saved.

Then, since faith in God and Jesus is the only requirement for salvation, this doctrine claims that other doctrines simply do not matter to an individual’s salvation. Other than the doctrines that are at the “core” of the gospel’s message (i.e. Jesus’ Deity, His virgin birth, His sacrifice, His resurrection, etc.), other doctrines are simply not viewed as being that significant. In fact, adherents to

“faith only Christianity” have a wide range of doctrinal beliefs. But, they simply do not view their doctrinal differences as being significant – since they all believe in Jesus.

### **Why “faith only Christianity” is false**

“Faith only Christianity” is a false attempt at seeking God because it is simply not taught in the Scriptures. Yes, as we have already studied in previous lessons, faith is absolutely essential to seeking God (see Hebrews 11:6). But, “faith only” is contrary to seeking God.

First, recognize that acceptable faith involves more than “faith only.” Hebrews 11 demonstrates this perfectly. In lesson 3, we observed the definition of faith that was given in verse 1. And, we have continued to consider verse 6. Particularly, verse 6 states that in order to have a faith that pleases God, we must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. So, true faith is more than just believing God exists. It also believes that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. And, if it truly does believe God rewards those who diligently seek Him, it will also act in obedience to diligently seek God! In fact, the rest of Hebrews 11 demonstrates this exact nature of faith as active and obedient.

Second, God instructs us to *do* something in order to seek Him and become Christians. Go back and review the things we studied in lesson 5. We observed (from the Scriptures) that hearing God’s word, believing in Jesus as the Son of God, repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus as Christ, and being immersed in water are all requirements God has placed upon our salvations. Then, He also instructs that we remain faithful to Him throughout our lives. Now, we do not do these things in order to earn our own salvations. Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly teaches that we cannot do any kind of work to earn our salvations. Instead, whenever we do the things we have been instructed to do, we are simply being obedient to God. So, as Luke 17:10 teaches, whenever we do all that we have been commanded, we recognize that we are still “unprofitable servants,” having only done what was our duty to do!

Third, Jesus taught that it is not enough just to believe in Him and profess allegiance to Him. In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” Very clearly, Jesus Christ taught that it was absolutely essential to be obedient to God. And, it was not enough to just profess faith and allegiance to Jesus, while doing some good things. Such a one who did not obey God and engaged in sin (lawlessness) will be eternally separated from God on the Day of Judgment!

Fourth, God’s word tells us that it is essential to abide in the doctrine of Christ. Please recognize that God’s inspired word is a book of doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reveals that all Scripture is inspired of God and is profitable for doctrine. Yes, God wants us to learn from His doctrines (teachings) He reveals in the pages of the Bible. And, not only must we learn from them, but we must also hold only to them. 2 John 1:9-11 says, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.” To dismiss most Bible doctrines as being unimportant or to accept those who hold to contrary doctrines is to fail to abide in God!

Fifth, “faith only Christianity” is directly opposed in James 2:14-26. Please take some time to read the entire passage – and then consider this brief summary. Verse 14: Can a faith without works save an individual? Verses 15-16: What profit is it, when you observe someone who is naked and without food and only say to such a one, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” but do not give him what he was in need of? Verse 17: This is just like faith without works. It does no good and it is dead because it is by itself! Verse 18: Faith is not shown in the absence of works! Instead, faith is shown by works. Faith without works is not a real faith! Verse 19: Even the

demons believe and shudder that there is a God (but, the demons are not saved by their belief in God and Christ). Verse 20: Faith without works is useless. Verses 21-23: Abraham was justified by works. Verse 24: You are justified by works (i.e. works of obedience) and *not* by faith only. Notice that this is the only time in the Bible that the phrase “faith only” is used. Verse 25: Rahab was justified by works. Verse 26: Faith without works is dead. Can a dead faith save? Clearly, the doctrine of “faith only” is not Bible doctrine. There are other things that God has required of us. Therefore, “faith only Christianity” is not sufficient in seeking God!

## ***“Denominational Christianity”***

---

Today, there are tens of thousands of religious organizations and churches that all claim to be following Jesus Christ. And, these tens of thousands of different (so-called) “Christian” churches teach many different doctrines and practice their “Christianity” differently from the others. These many churches have millions of members who are professing to be Christians and believe that they are seeking God. However, we need to examine this popular religious system in the world by the Scriptures to see whether it is part of the pattern God has revealed about seeking Him.

### **What is “denominational Christianity”?**

A “denomination” (when used in a religious sense) refers to a church body/organization that exercises authority over local churches. For instance, Southern Baptist, Wesleyan, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Methodist, etc. are all examples of denominations. There are many local churches in various communities around the world that associate themselves with these church bodies. They possess a governing body and have official church creeds (doctrines).

Although each one of these denominations have been established by a man or a woman, they all claim to be part of Christ’s church. Therefore, many people join these denominations in their attempts to seek God. Thus, they adhere to the doctrines/beliefs

of that particular denomination (as decided upon by the governing body of the denomination – i.e. a president, church council, etc.). Perhaps they have even joined the denomination because they were raised in that particular denomination.

### **Why “denominational Christianity” is false**

“Denominational Christianity” is a false attempt at seeking God because it simply cannot be found in the Scriptures that tell us how to seek God. While it is important to be a member of the church and a local church (as discussed briefly in lesson 5), the denominations were not in existence during the time of the New Testament. And, because they originated with men and do not stand in Bible doctrine, “denominational Christianity” is contrary to seeking God.

First, Jesus only established one church. Although it is very common to hear folks associated with the denominations say, “Join the church of your own choice because all roads lead to Heaven,” we need to consider what God actually teaches. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised, “I will build My church.” Notice the singular nature of that church Jesus would build. And, in Acts 2, we read only about one church coming into existence (see verses 41 and 47). Those who were being added to the church were those who were being saved by obeying the requirements God had placed upon salvation (as discussed in lesson 5). Then, in Ephesians 4:4, Paul said that there is only “one body” (which is the church, Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, any other church that came into existence after Christ’s cannot be the one church Jesus established. Only those who are in His church will be saved (see Acts 2:47)!

Second, God has only revealed one faith – and commands unity in that one faith. Along with stating that there is only one body, Paul also stated that there is only “one faith” (Ephesians 4:5). That is, there is only one system of acceptable religious belief, teaching, and practice. Yet, the denominational world claims thousands of ways to believe, teach, and practice “Christianity.” Furthermore, the Scriptures command unity in this faith. Philippians 1:27 commands “that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (see also 1 Corinthians 1:10).

There is to be no division in the body (church) of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:25). How, then, could God be pleased with all the division that has occurred to bring about the thousands of denominations that exist today?

Third, denominations do not stand for the doctrine of Jesus Christ. We have already seen the need to stand firmly in the doctrine of Christ that is revealed in the pages of God’s word (read 2 John 1:9-11 again). However, all of the denominations I am familiar with do not stand firmly in the doctrine of Christ. For instance, a large number of them have adopted the doctrine of “faith only” we have already discussed. Very few of them accurately teach God’s plan of salvation we studied in lesson 5. So, you must consider: How can we seek God if we do not believe the things God wants us to believe and do things in the way God wants us to do them? We simply cannot. And, the Scriptures have warned us not to follow those who teach false doctrines (see Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

Fourth, denominations have human heads rather than recognizing Christ Jesus as the only Head of the church. Colossians 1:18 says that “He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church.” The Scriptures teach that He is the only one His church must submit to. However, the denominations have church councils, presidents, etc. who decide what their doctrines will be. And, in doing so, they depart from the doctrine of Christ. Christ has simply never given His headship over the church to any man or group of men. There is absolutely no Bible authority for the denominational arrangement/system to even exist. Therefore, “denominational Christianity” is not sufficient in seeking God.

## ***“Conscience-Based Christianity”***

---

There are many people today who claim to be Christians and claim to be seeking God who are merely living according to the directions of their own consciences. They believe that God will accept them as long as they seek Him with a clean conscience.

However, we need to examine this popular idea by the Scriptures to see whether it is part of the pattern God has revealed about seeking Him.

## What is “conscience-based Christianity”?

“Let your conscience be your guide.” That is what many people claim today – even in religion. They claim that as long as we live according to the directions of our consciences that we will be pleasing to God. The conscience is, therefore, implied as the standard to be used in determining what is “right” and what is “wrong.” This, then, often leads to the development and discussion of “situation ethics” (i.e. what is “right” and “wrong” in particular situations).

Of course, the basis of “conscience-based Christianity” is a belief that there is no absolute standard of “right” and “wrong.” This is “moral relativity.” What is “right” and “wrong” is said to vary from situation to situation and is influenced by a wide number of factors (i.e. how an individual was raised, an individual’s education, the values of particular cultures, etc.). Thus, what is “right” and “wrong” is said to be subjective and differs from person to person.

## Why “conscience-based Christianity” is false

“Conscience-based Christianity” is a false attempt at seeking God because it fails to recognize God’s word as the complete and objective standard in living life on this earth. While those who try to seek God in this way may claim to believe in and follow the Bible as God’s word, they elevate their own consciences above what God’s word teaches. Therefore, “conscience-based Christianity” is contrary to seeking God.

First, God does recognize that matters of individual conscience exists – and the conscience does matter. Please understand that I am not at all dismissing the importance of the conscience in pleasing God. The Scriptures teach that the conscience does have a role in living to please God. But, we must be careful to keep it in its God-given place. For instance, Romans 14 is a chapter that discusses matters of Christian liberty. These are things God has given the individual Christian the

freedom to either do something or not do something. Read this chapter, then, and consider how God teaches us not to violate our consciences in these matters and not to cause others to stumble in these matters. But, recognize that this passage does *not* address matters in which God has given specific instruction.

Second, God will judge us all by the objective standard of His word. We have already studied this to be true in lesson 5. For instance, Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Jesus Christ will simply not judge you solely on the basis of your conscience. Instead, it is His word (and all the Divinely inspired words written in the New Testament) that will be the objective standard we will be judged by. So, even though our consciences may permit us to do a thing that is contrary to God’s word, the thing is still “wrong” and we will be punished accordingly. Remember that Proverbs 14:12 said that there is a way that often *seems right* to us that actually leads to death! Rather than listening to our own consciences more than God, we must learn to train our consciences by God’s word and submit ultimately to His objective standard of authority that never changes!

Third, God’s word endures forever and will never become irrelevant. Some believe that the Bible is an outdated book that is not particularly relevant to how we should live our lives today. Therefore, they claim that we should live in the way we feel is right. However, God’s word is an enduring book. 1 Peter 1:25 says that the “word of the Lord endures forever.” It never fails to be applicable to our lives. Rather, it remains the true word of God and His power for salvation (Romans 1:16). If we listen to it and accurately apply its message, we will be saved eternally! But, if we reject it, we will be eternally condemned in Hell (even though we may live in good conscience).

Fourth, the Scriptures demonstrate that an individual can act in all good conscience and still fail to please God. Proverbs 14:12 (as quoted earlier) is proof of this. If it is possible to die while doing what *seems right* to us, then our “good consciences” do not always please God. Paul is an example of this. Recall

from lesson 4 that Paul believed (as a Jew) that he needed to persecute and kill Christians in order to please God (see Acts 22:3-5 and Acts 26:9-11). And, he did this in “all good conscience” (Acts 23:1). Yet, God was not pleased. His conscience had been shaped by things that were not true. Therefore, he needed to be obedient to God’s instructions (as discussed in lesson 5) in order to be saved and please God. Similarly, there are many people today who have had their consciences trained by things that are not true and, like Paul, fail to please God when they live accordingly. Therefore, “conscience-based Christianity” is not sufficient in seeking God!

## ***“Hypocritical Christianity”***

---

There are many who profess to be Christians (who may have even obeyed the instructions God has given for salvation) who live “double lives.” That is, some look as though they live for Jesus Christ some of their lives while living contrary to God’s laws other times. However, we need to examine this common characteristic by the Scriptures to see whether it is part of the pattern God has revealed about seeking Him.

### **What is “hypocritical Christianity”?**

A hypocrite (by definition) is a play-actor. The term actually is a theatrical term. It references an individual who may be acting out various roles in a play. Therefore, whenever the actor would act one part, he/she would hold up one mask. Then, whenever he/she would play a different part, he/she would hold up a different mask and act in a different kind of way. A hypocrite, then, is someone who is not real or genuine. Rather, it is someone who is fake and pretend.

Unfortunately, hypocrisy is not just limited to the theatre. Instead, it is also the way that some individuals who claim to be Christians try to seek God! They “walk the walk” and “talk the talk” when *some* individuals are around (i.e. elders, the preacher, other members of the local church, family members who are Christians, etc.). Then, they live and talk in other ways whenever they are alone or with a

different group of people (i.e. co-workers, classmates, friends, etc.)! Or, perhaps their acts of obedience do not stem from the right motives (i.e. obeying only to keep a good appearance/name, to please their parents, etc.).

### **Why “hypocritical Christianity” is false**

“Hypocritical Christianity” is a false attempt at seeking God because it does not actually seek God’s favor all of the time. Instead, “hypocritical Christianity” attempts to do whatever appears to be most advantageous for the individual at any particular time. And, because it fails to obey God’s will, it is contrary to seeking God.

First, God knows the heart. Acts 15:8 begins, “So God, who knows the heart....” Remember that the God we should be seeking in our lives is Divine (Acts 17:29). This includes the fact that God is able to know anything He desires to know and see anything He desires to see. Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.” Therefore, God knows whether you have a heart that is set on living for Him or not. Although you may be successful in deceiving other people about your commitment to seeking God, God will not be fooled. He knows when you violate His laws and when you keep them. And, He promises that you will reap what you sow (see Galatians 6:7-8).

Second, God directly condemns hypocrisy. This God who knows the heart and sees all things repeatedly demonstrates His hatred of hypocrisy. For instance, whenever Jesus lived on this earth, He often confronted the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders of that time. Many of these people were well respected by the Jewish community for being devoutly religious. Yet, Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and knew that they were not keeping God’s commandments as they should. For instance, in Matthew 15:1-11, Jesus called them hypocrites when they drew near to God with their mouths, honored Him with their lips, but had hearts that were far away from God and worshiped Him in vain by teaching the doctrines and commandments of men! In Matthew 23, Jesus presents an extensive discourse on hypocrisy. For instance, He exposed the hypocrisy of religious leaders who bound God’s instructions on other



people but would not obey God's instructions themselves. And, in Luke 12:2, Jesus identified the hypocrisy of the Pharisees (a strict sect of Judaism) as "leaven."

Third, God expects genuineness. Go back and review the things we discussed in lesson 3. In all of them, you should be able to see that God expects genuineness. Furthermore, think about the examples of individuals who sought God we discussed in lesson 4. Ask yourself: Were they hypocrites? No, they were not perfect. But, they also did not live hypocritical lives when they were truly seeking God! Similarly, God expects to come absolutely first in our lives (Matthew 6:33). He instructs us to present our bodies to Him as living sacrifices that are holy and acceptable to Him (Romans 12:1). Surely, this means that we cannot possibly seek God if we are only seeking Him while certain people are around. Certainly, it is impossible to seek God if we are only "part-time Christians" (which is exactly what hypocritical Christians are – if they are even Christians at all)! Therefore, "hypocritical Christianity" is not sufficient in seeking God!

## ***"Lukewarm Christianity"***

---

There are many who claim to be Christians and seeking God who are not zealous to do what God wants from their lives. Maybe their love for Christ has grown weak. Maybe their initial obedience to Christ was only to please someone else. Maybe their initial fervor for seeking God has diminished over time. Regardless of the reason(s) behind it, we need to examine "lukewarm Christianity" by the Scriptures to see whether it is part of the pattern God has revealed about seeking Him.

### **What is "lukewarm Christianity"?**

The best way to describe "lukewarm Christianity" is by considering what Jesus said in Revelation 3:15-16. In the city of Laodicea there was a local church composed of individuals who had once begun to follow Jesus Christ. However, at the time Jesus addressed them in Revelation 3, they were described as lukewarm. He said, "I know your works,

that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

Like these Christians, there are many people today who are like a lukewarm beverage – neither on fire to serve Jesus Christ or cold and against Him. They are somewhere in the middle. Sometimes, they do what Jesus wants them to do. Sometimes they don't. Many times, they will just do whatever they feel they can "get by" with (doing what they perceive to be the "minimum requirements of Christianity"). Maybe they just go through the motions of serving God. Regardless, they do not have a fire that is burning in their hearts to serve God more and do everything they can to please Him!

### **Why "lukewarm Christianity" is false**

"Lukewarm Christianity" is a false attempt at seeking God because it is contrary to how Jesus wants His followers to live. In fact, in Revelation 3:15-16, Jesus said that He would have preferred the Laodiceans to be entirely against Him (i.e. cold) rather than be lukewarm in their service! Their lukewarmness simply did not accomplish Christ's purposes for them. In fact, it worked against His purposes. Likewise, being lukewarm continues to be contrary to seeking God.

First, Jesus commanded repentance. If the Laodiceans desired to please God and truly seek Him, they had to realize that they could not remain lukewarm. In verse 19, Jesus told them, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent." The only way they could truly seek God is if they turned their lives around. They needed to repent of being lukewarm. And, they needed to be fervent (zealous) to accomplish the will of Jesus Christ. Therefore, those who are lukewarm today in seeking God need to take this same prescription from Jesus Christ. Like the Laodiceans, they are in a spiritually destitute situation in their lukewarmness. And, there is no path to pleasing God through "lukewarm Christianity." The only option that involves pleasing God is to change and be zealous!

Second, Jesus demands whole-hearted allegiance. As we saw in lesson 3 (particularly),

seeking God is not a half-hearted endeavor. In Revelation 3:20, Jesus said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” But, if we want to open the door for Jesus to take control of our lives, this means that we must allow Him to have control over every area of our lives – not just a few! In Matthew 12:30, Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” There is no acceptable option of being partially committed to serving Jesus Christ. We are either entirely with Him or we are entirely against Him. In Luke 14:25-33, Jesus said that those who do not put Him before their possessions, their family members, and their own lives cannot be His disciples. Therefore, those who attempt to seek God through “lukewarm Christianity” are against Jesus Christ.

Third, Jesus did not die for people to be lukewarm in His service. Jesus Christ came to this earth, suffer, and die so that people could have the opportunity to be forgiven of their sins, be reconciled to God, and have a home in Heaven for all eternity. And, He did not fulfill this mission in a lukewarm kind of way. He gave everything He had to give! But, Titus 2:11-14 should help us understand that Jesus did not give Himself in this way for people to be lukewarm in His service! Instead, He “gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” (verse 14)! There is too much at stake for the Christian not to give his/her all in living according to God’s instructions. He/she must diligently put sin out of his/her life, must put on the characteristics God desires from His people, must be involved in the work of teaching others the message of the gospel so that they can be saved from their sins, must be encouraging their fellow Christians to serve God faithfully, etc. Therefore, “lukewarm Christianity” is not sufficient in seeking God.

---

## **Conclusion**

---

There are many false ways people try to seek God. Certainly, the five we have discussed in this lesson are only a sample. Still, we have discovered that all five of these are not sufficient in seeking God. In other lessons, we have also considered exactly what it means to seek God and how to seek Him.

So, how are you seeking God? Are you seeking Him faithfully by being obedient to His word (as we discussed in lesson 5)? Or, have you allowed yourself to adopt a false idea about seeking God. Perhaps you are seeking Him in one of the false ways we have discussed in this lesson. Or, perhaps there is another false way you are seeking Him. Regardless, you must recognize that only those who seek God in the way He desires to be sought (as revealed in the pages of His word) will find Him!

---

## **Study Questions**

---

### **1. “Faith Only Christianity”**

What is “faith only Christianity”?

Why is “faith only Christianity” false?

### **2. “Denominational Christianity”**

What is “denominational Christianity”?

Why is “denominational Christianity” false?

### **3. “Conscience-Based Christianity”**

What is “conscience-based Christianity”?

Why is “conscience-based Christianity” false?

### **4. “Hypocritical Christianity”**

What is “hypocritical Christianity”?

Why is “hypocritical Christianity” false?

### **5. “Lukewarm Christianity”**

What is “lukewarm Christianity”?

Why is “lukewarm Christianity” false?