

NEW TESTAMENT REVISION PROPOSAL

By
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Laramie, Wyoming
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**The Key to Finding Peace
In this life or the next
Is to Know & Treat Life
Like it is a Gift –
For a Gift it is from
An All Present Infinite God.
Or such is MY BELIEF!
Onwards!**

**Every place is Heaven
because God is everywhere.
What makes a place a Heaven
is the Divinity that is there.
So, it stands to reason, My Friend,
if all existence is of God,
all existence must be Heaven
and where I am I should applaud.**

**But who believes that? Is it really that simple? I think it is
and I encourage all to take heed and follow the simple way of life
it offers – *KNOW YOURSELF BY KNOWING THAT ALL LIFE IS
SACRED – OR OF GOD – INCLUDING YOURSELF.* That is all
there is to it to live a good life. Take off your clothes and know
you are taking off a civilization that demands shame and not
virtue. Shame and Virtue do not get along. Know that and you
will know *Heaven on Earth.* I think it is as simple as that.**

Knowing that, however, is to know that we are all the same. A naked me is not better than a naked you – and a naked you is not better than a naked me. Take off your clothes and live without shame, but in doing so, don't commit adultery. Whoops! That is an exception, huh?

In the wonderful GOSPEL OF MARY (MAGDALENE), banned by some bishops in the 4th Century who believed it is shameful to go naked, Peter asked Jesus about sin, which would have probably included going naked. Let me quote. OK? *Peter said to him, "you have explained everything to us. Tell us also what is the sin of the world?" The savior replied, "There is no such thing as sin, but you create sin when you mingle as in adultery, and this is called sin."*

That is to say, I think, we have been told wrong in believing that we are born in sin. Jesus said that we have no sin unless we create it. That is sin. His example of "creating sin" is "adultery."

I did not encounter the GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDALENE until 2004 when I just chanced to find it in a book store in Laramie, Wyoming, where I live, however, while looking for another book. Just goes to show miracles can happen when least expecting them. Right? Indeed, I consider it a "miracle" that I found that book while searching for another.

Let me continue, however, with the GOSPEL OF THOMAS and check out what Jesus said in it, recorded by the apostle, Thomas, but also banned by some not wanting to deal with shame in the 4th Century when the current BIBLE was selected and canonized by some who did not agree with the Jesus of Thomas in terms of making virtue a solo thing entirely and not dependent upon some authority having to approve it.

Anyway, in verse 37 of that skipped gospel, let me quote. *His disciples said: When wilt thou be revealed to us and when will we see Thee? Jesus said: When you take off your clothing without being ashamed, and take your clothes and put them under your feet as the little children and tread on them, then shall you behold the Son of the Living One and you shall not fear.*

Let us realize, however, that Jesus is not "The Only Son" of the Living One! We all are! – and that we are not is one of "terrible dictums" of the current BIBLE. Do you think that Peter

and Paul and all their comrades could take off their clothing in order to recognize Jesus for one just like them? Of course not; and that is clear indication that they did not know Jesus – according to the GOSPEL OF THOMAS. They only thought they did. Based on the BIBLE gospels, they were under the impression that we all “inherit sin” from supposed failures of Adam & Eve and that Jesus was a Jewish Messiah who came to remove that “original sin” which in effect separated us from God. Jesus came to restore us to God – or such was and is the tale of traditional Christianity.

Anyway, there it is in a nutshell, I think. *When you take off your clothes without being ashamed*, it is not only Jesus that you are knowing. It is any “son of the Living One” – including yourself, not just Jesus.

Many, of course, will claim that we are not “all sons of the Living One,” however. Well, let me quote what Jesus said about that in the GOSPEL OF THOMAS. In verse 3 of 114 verses in that wonderful insightful gospel, *Jesus said: If those who lead you say to you: “See, the Kingdom is in heaven, then the birds of the heaven will precede you. If they say to you: “it is in the sea,” then the fish will precede you. But the Kingdom is within you and it is without you. If you will know yourselves, then you will be known and you will know that you are sons of the Living Father. But if you do not know yourselves, then you are in poverty and you are poverty.”*

Wow! Does that say that Jesus is not “The Only Son” of God or what? The BIBLE gospels claim that Jesus is “The Only Son” of the Living Father – or God; and according to the dictum stated in verse 3 of the GOSPEL OF THOMAS, that is not so. We are all “sons of the Living Father” – and that we are not is one of the many misleads of the BIBLE gospels; or so I believe.

It makes sense to one like me to know myself and know that I am a son of the Living Father because I know it can’t be otherwise. I am a son of Creation – which is of “the Living Father.” So, how can I not be a “son of the Living Father”? Tell me that!

That means, however, that we are all equal because we are ALL “sons of the Living Father” – not just me or Jesus. Jesus is not “The Only Son of God.” We all are – including all you wonderful ladies; but did Peter believe that? Let me quote what

Thomas said that Peter said about that in the verse 114 of 114 of his Gospel: *Simon Peter said to them: Let Mary go out from among us, because women are not worthy of the Life. Jesus said: See, I shall lead her, so that I will make her male, that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.*

What does “if you know yourselves, then you will be known and you will know that you are the sons of the Living Father” mean if it does not include “all” – including “female sons” as well as “male sons”? Peter probably did not understand that, though, according to the final verse in the GOSPEL OF THOMAS, did he? If he really thought that “women are not worthy of the Life” as stated in the final verse of the GOSPEL OF THOMAS, then he likely did not see “women as equal.” Right?

But what does the quote from the GOSPEL OF THOMAS – *Jesus said: See, I shall lead her, so that I will make her male, that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven* - mean? That is only to say, I think, that “For every woman who considers herself equal to man will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.” It is only an equality issue. We are all “equal sons or children” of humanity and God.

In the GOSPEL OF MARY, it is stated like this: “Whoever has ears to hear should hear.” *When the blessed one said this, he greeted all of them and said, “Peace be with you. Receive my peace. Be careful that no one leads you astray by saying, ‘Look here’ or ‘Look there.’ The child of humanity is within you. Follow that. Those who seek it will find it. Go and preach the good news of the kingdom. Do not lay down any rules other than what I have given you, and do not establish law, as the lawgiver did, or you will be bound by it.” When he said this, he left them.*

Where did he go? Who knows, but Mary did not seem to care. She was satisfied with “he left them.” I guess we have to guess where he went, but it does not really matter, does it? All we need to know is that he suggested we should look for the “child of humanity within us.” For me, that is enough. It is to confirm the notion that all of us are “equal children of humanity” and that as long as we recognize that and treat everyone as an

equal, we will find ourselves in *“the kingdom of Jesus.”* I like being a member of that *“kingdom.”* How about you?

I could go on, but I think I will proceed with the intent of this essay. Based on the implication, at least, that Peter and his fellow “men” did not understand Jesus as being “a” son of God and not the “only son of God,” I would like to suggest that we overrule the BIBLE that claims that God can choose one over another and allow for what I would call a **“REVISED CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT”** that includes only those works that maintain the equality of all like the GOSPELS OF THOMAS AND MARY MAGDALENE – theoretically banned in the 4th Century for favoring simple virtue over authority.

I am a “son or child of God” and you are too. We can accept that by relying on such as the GOSPELS OF THOMAS AND MARY MAGDALENE – and perhaps the writings of “disciples” of those gospels - like Francis, that is, yours truly. We do not need to continue to war and claim we are “marching onto war in the name of Jesus” as we have done so many times in history – including the current wars in Ukraine and Israel.

When will we stop killing so called “enemies” in the name of one who forbid it and accepted crucifixion rather than lose his virtue by striking back at some who wanted to remove him from life? In truth, Jesus did not die as an *“intended sacrifice”* as current Christian churches uphold as teaching. He was probably killed only because he angered some who believed that solo virtue is not enough to find salvation; but what many do not realize – you cannot “strike back” and hold onto virtue – *which is acting only to admire and embrace the wonderful gift of life – that of yourself and the one you would strike.*

If Jesus would have carried a sword in his time to be able to strike back at another with a sword, he would have planned to use it – and that plan would have stripped him of his virtue of believing *“we are all sons of the Living Father or God.”* It is as simple as that for us who really believe we are all “equal sons or children” of Life and God.

So, again, I am suggesting that we turn back the pages, so to speak, and overrule the current BIBLE because it states from the beginning in GENESIS to the end in THE BOOK OF REVELATIONS that true virtue is acting to “please God” rather

than acting “*to be pleased we are all sons or children of God*” and start living that course by living according to what I call a **REVISED CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT** which would include only those books that state the need for equality such as the GOSPELS OF THOMAS AND MARY MAGDALENE – and perhaps my own which I will list below.

How can we do that? I do not know, but we can figure that out in time – either before I pass like my late Dear Wife, Nancy, at nearly the age of 91, did on 11/1/2023 or after it. It won’t matter so much for me because I have tried to live the verses of the GOSPELS OF THOMAS AND MARY all my life and will continue to live them wherever I go – in this life or another. For me, like Jesus tried to say, *Heaven is always at hand* – but practically speaking, only if we act like it.

I have included the wonderful GOSPELS OF THOMAS AND MARY in my writings listed below. I do believe it is time we “undo the canon chosen in the 4th Century” and start anew with a much simpler **REVISED CHRISTIAN NEW TESTAMENT**. We can leave it with those works – or include those like mine to form a “*Revised New Testament*.” What do you think?

Thank You – and **HAPPY LIVING TO US ALL!**

ALL MY LOVE!

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MY LOOK AT LIFE

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I consider myself a “*Divine Naturist Christian*” – a label of my own making, so to speak. I believe that an Infinite God must be

in everything and everyone, making everywhere *Heaven* if Heaven is defined as “*being in the presence of God.*”

We are all saints, but we don't know it – and, thus, do not act like it. I consider myself Christian in that I believe Christ believed and taught the same – based largely on the mostly unknown *Gospels of Thomas and Mary Magdalene*, effectively banned by church and state in the 4th Century for challenging a need for authority for salvation. All my works argue accordingly and can be acquired if desired via my websites, indicated above – though currently, *francisbessler.com* is offline.

Consider a description of a work via my websites to judge if a work seems acceptable or not. OK?

THANKS! FWB

My Books: (composition range in parens)

1. **WILD FLOWERS (1983-2014),**
2. **FIVE HEAVEN ON EARTH STORIES (1975-2007),**
3. **EXPLORING THE SOUL
AND BROTHER JESUS (1988/2005),**
4. **LOVING EVERYTHING (1963-2015),**
5. **JESUS ACCORDING TO THOMAS & MARY –
AND ME (2009-2017),**
6. **IT'S A NEW DAY (2015-2017),**
7. **IMPRESSIONS OF FRANCIS (of Assisi)
AND WILLIAM (Penn) (1995),**
8. **SONGS BY A DIVINE NATURIST CHRISTIAN (1963-2018),**
9. **KNOWING CHRIST (1985-2019),**
10. **TRUE CHRISTIANITY (1983-2019).**