

VEILS THAT PREVAIL

*Veiled Hearts
Blinded Minds*

2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6



Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds



- It is a tragedy for a person to have blinded eyes, but infinitely worse to have a blinded heart.
- No one willfully chooses to be sightless, but spiritual blindness is a product of the human will.

2 Corinthians 3:13–4:6 (NKJV)

¹³ unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

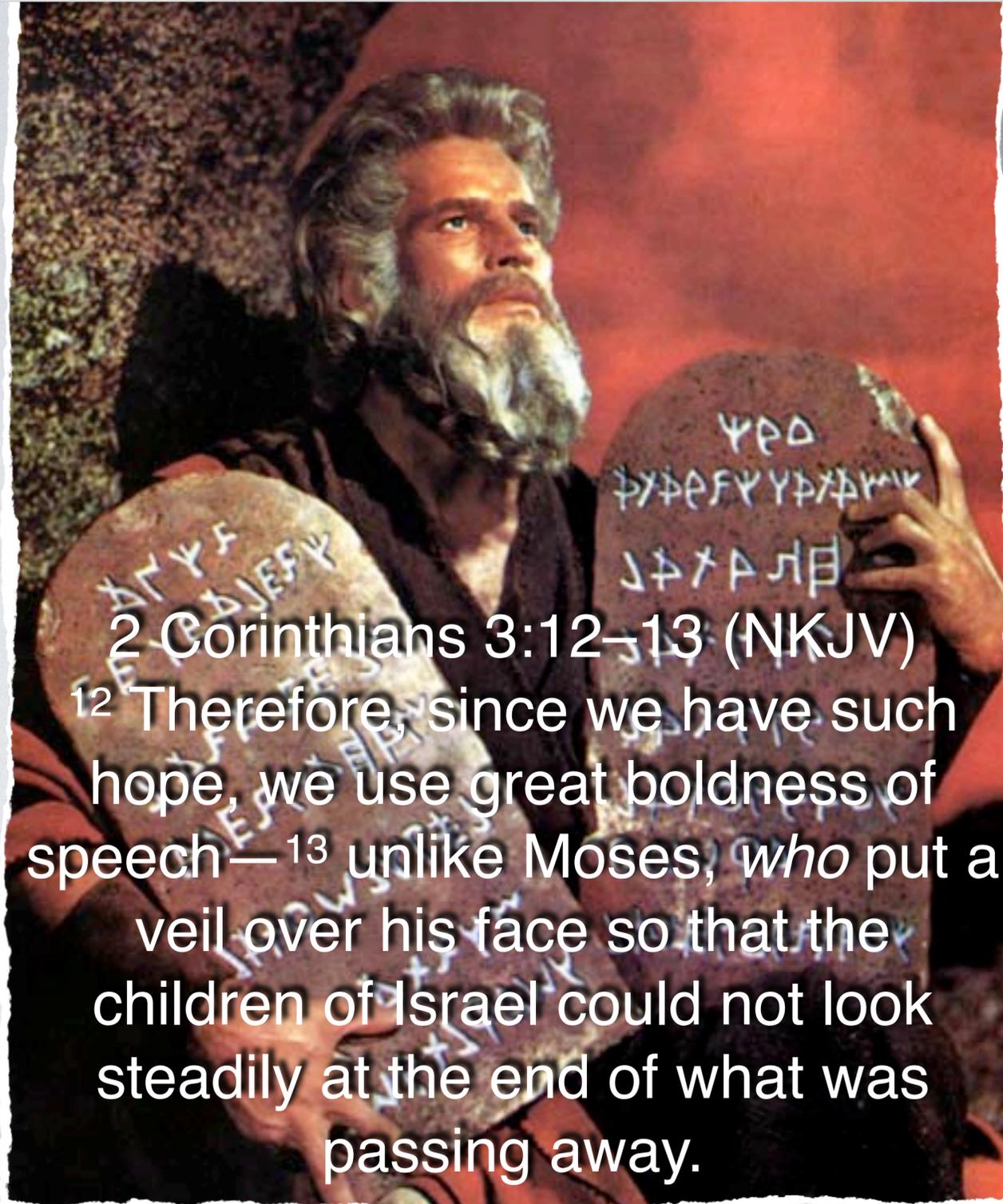
2 Corinthians 3:13–4:6 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

2 Corinthians 3:13–4:6 (NKJV)

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds



2 Corinthians 3:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech—¹³ unlike Moses, *who* put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.

- The contrast between the everlasting gospel and the temporary Law (vs 3:12,13)
- The Jews were blinded to their misunderstanding of the transitory nature of the Law (3:14-16)
- The veil on their hearts prevented them from faith in Christ (3:14-16)
- The veil is removed in Christ (3:14-18; Rom 10:4)

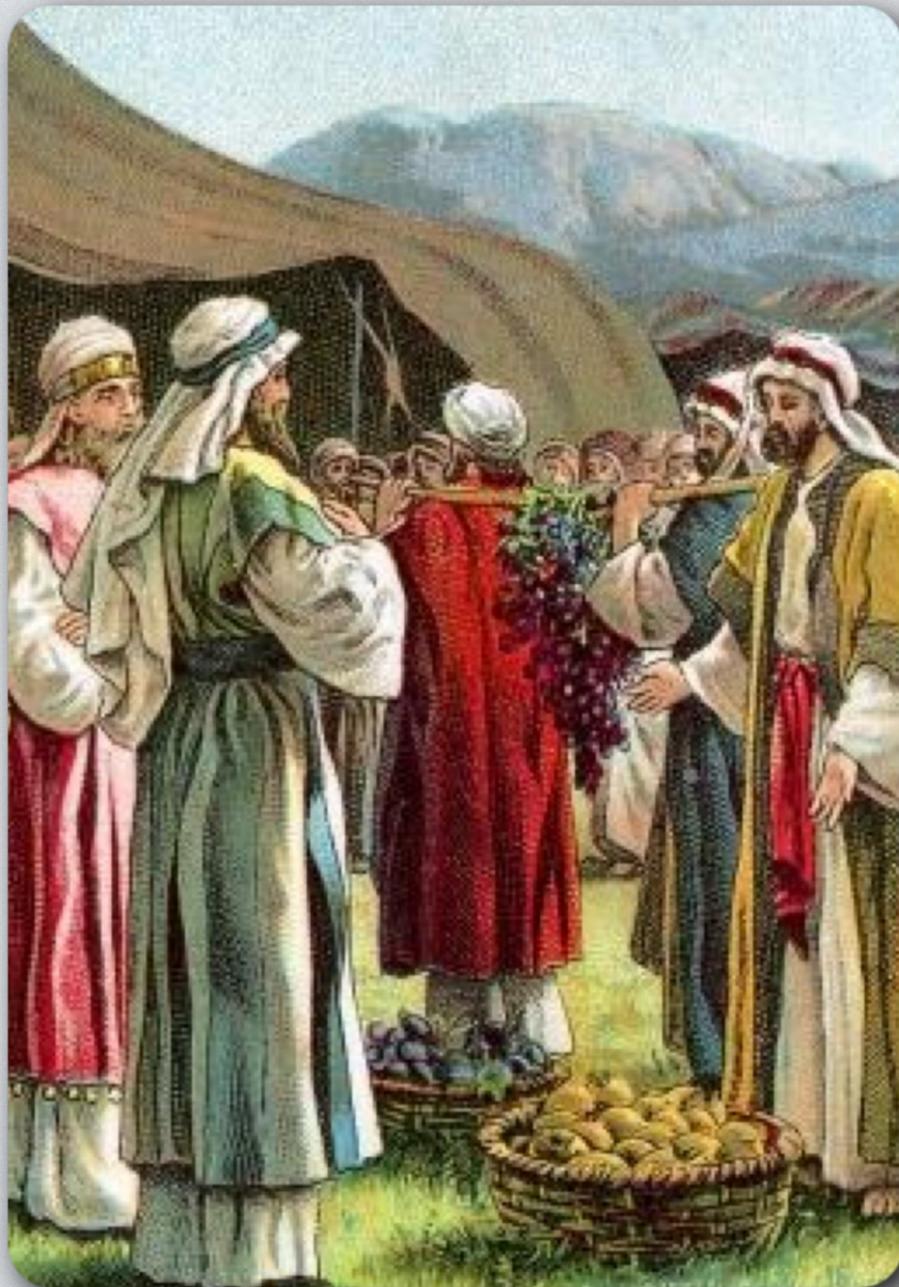
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- The gospel must be preached that people may see the glory of the Lord & be made free from the bondage of sin (4:1,2,5,6; Jn. 8:32)
- Satan continues to blind people from seeing the truth (4:3,4)
- Those who refuse to see the truth are perishing (4:3,4).

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom



- A veil of **unbelief** (Numbers 13,14; 2 Kings 5; 1 Samuel 17)
- Why many Gentiles would not see the truth (Romans 1:21-23; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

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The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom

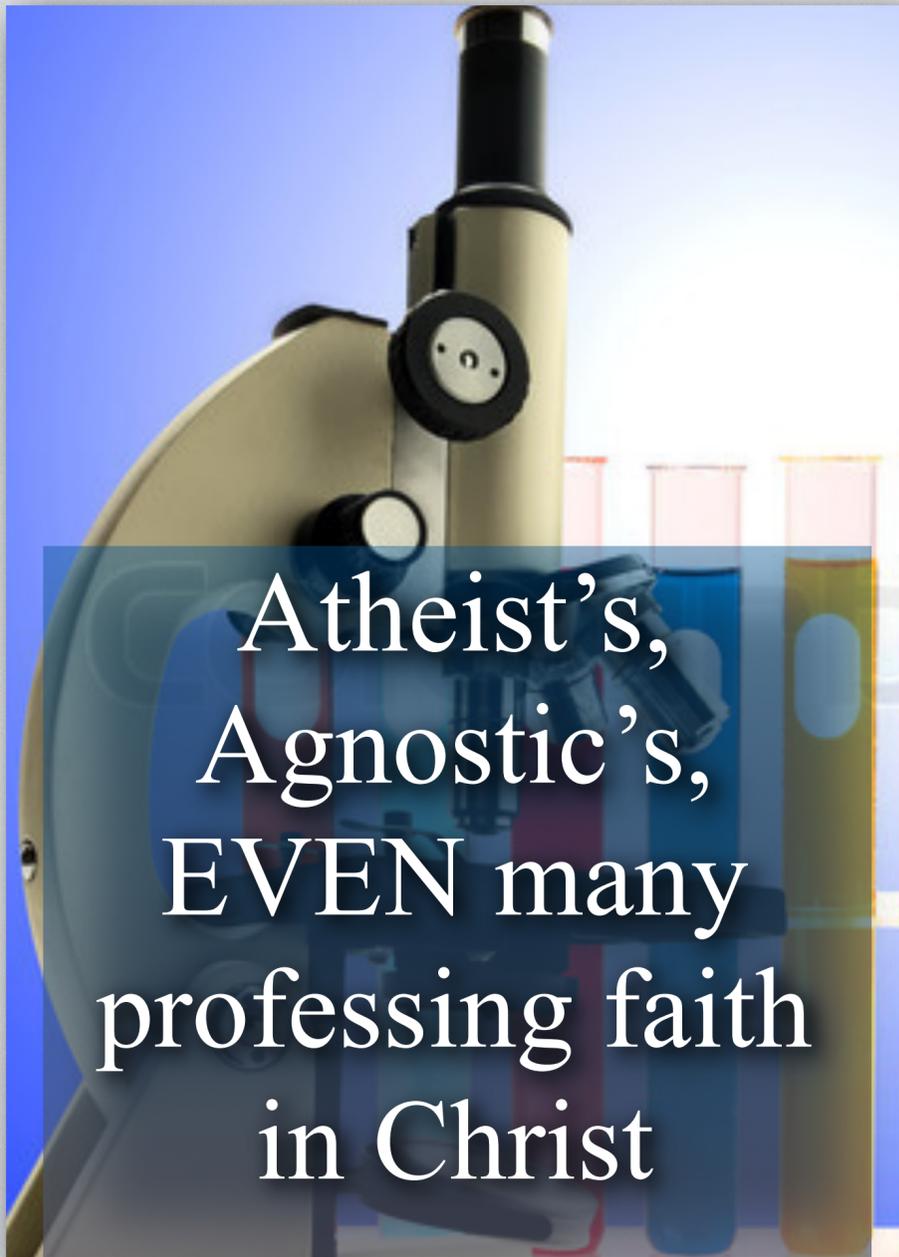


- There are ways that seem right, BUT but the end is death (Prov. 14:12).
- Proclaim we are wise, but we are actually fools (Rom 1:22).
- God cannot be known through worldly wisdom (1 Cor. 1:21).
- Will not allow the gospel to shine in their hearts (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

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The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom

- They believe **ONLY** their natural senses – things that make sense from their ungodly perspective (1 Cor 2:9-16; 5:7)
- We can learn many things from the natural world - but divine truth is not discovered or established from observing the natural world or from within ourselves! (Isaiah 55:8,9)



Atheist's,
Agnostic's,
EVEN many
professing faith
in Christ

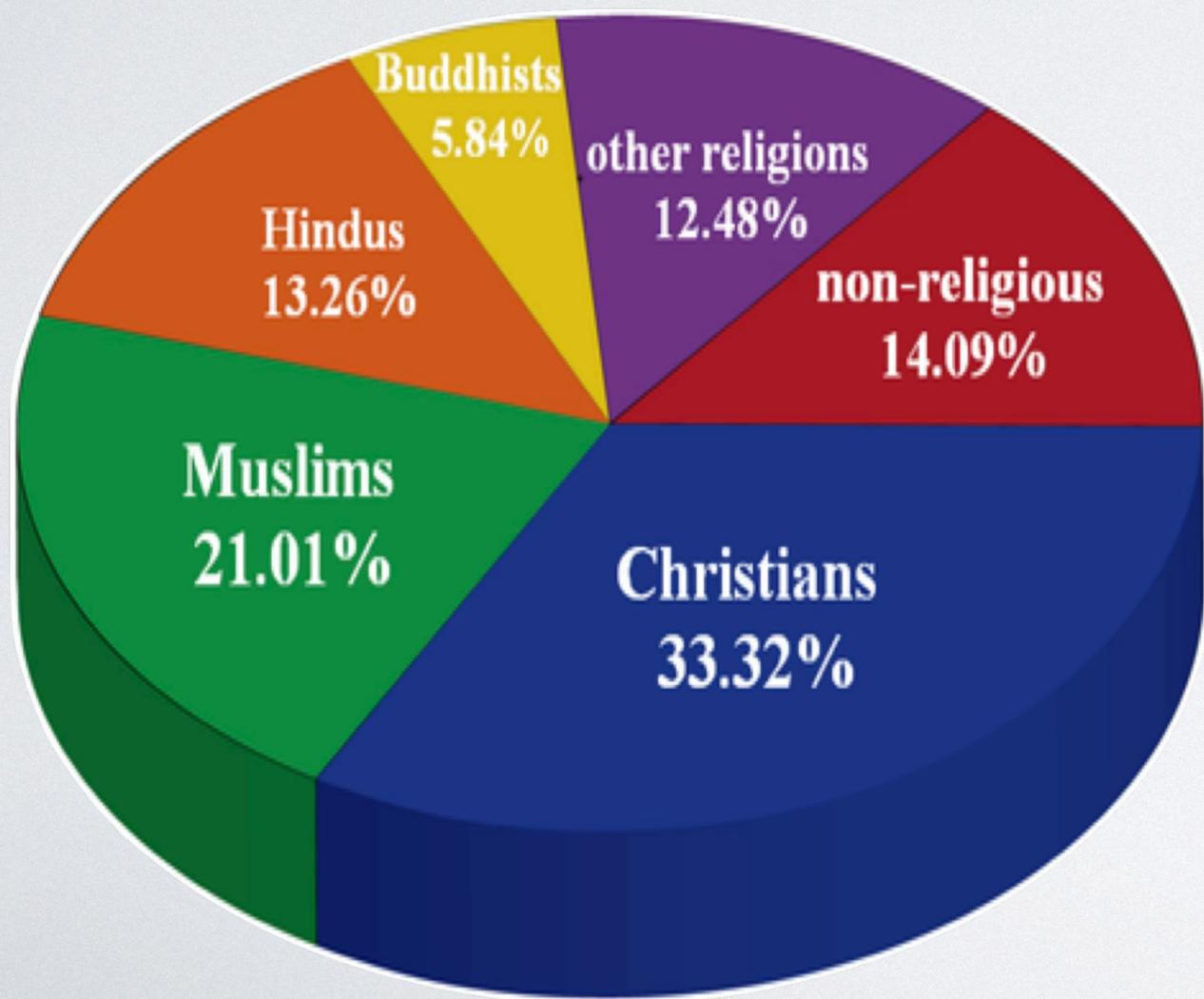
Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom



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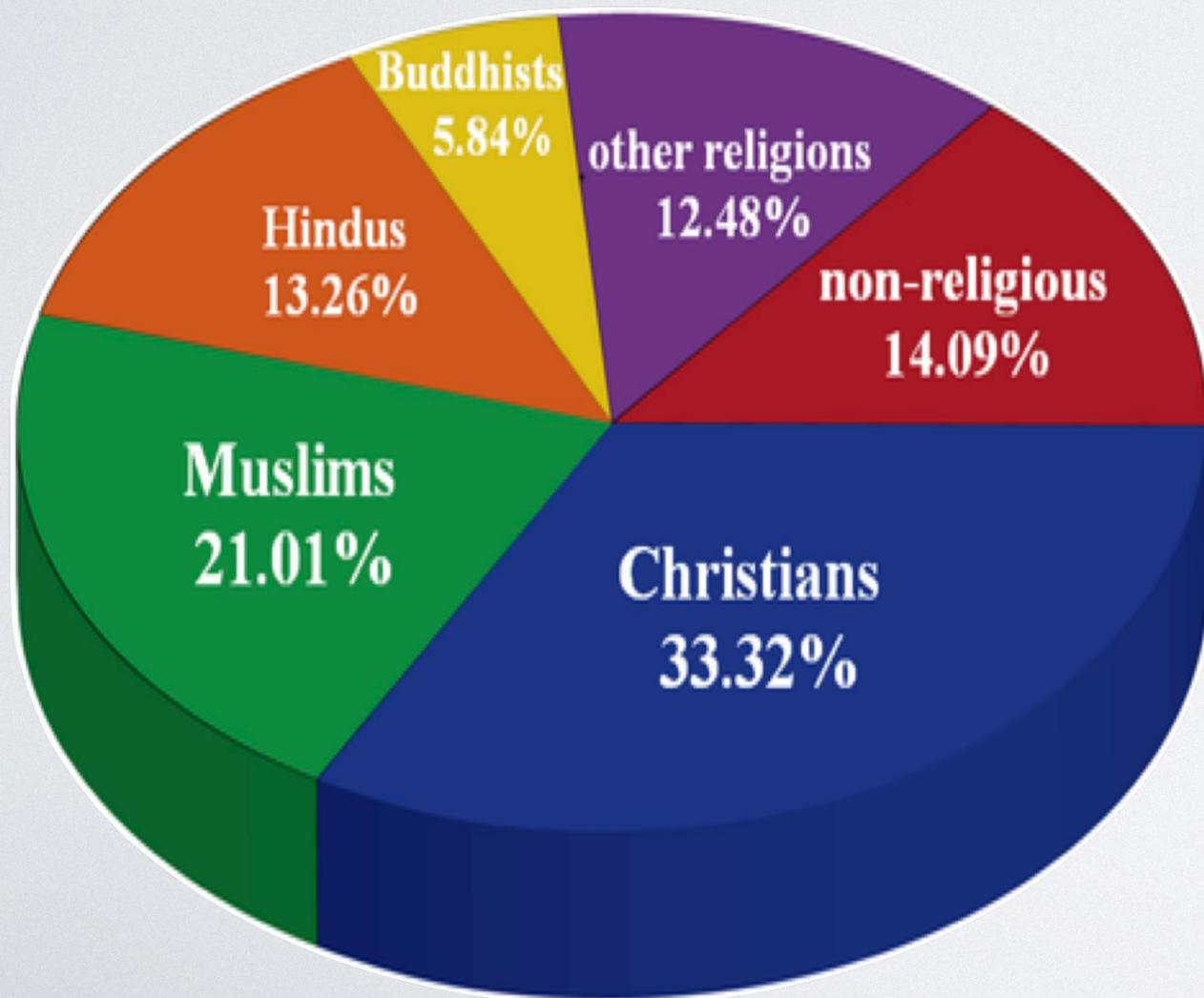
The Veil of Public Opinion



- Pilate surrendered to the majority (Mat 27:24-26)
- Many believed on Jesus but would not confess Him because they feared the majority (John 12:42)
- Peter played the hypocrite because he feared the Jews who had come to Antioch from Judea (Gal 2:11-14)

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

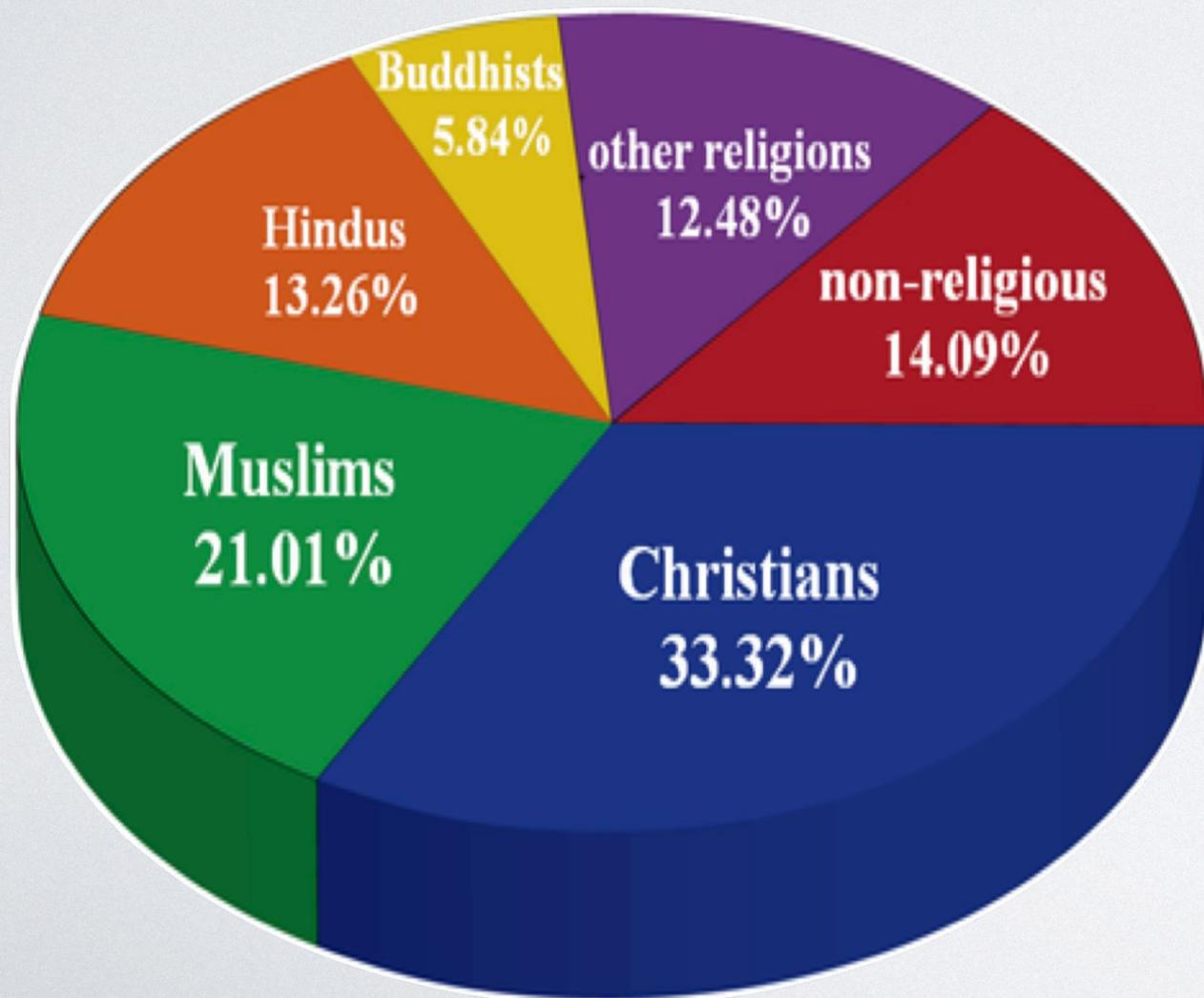
The Veil of Public Opinion



- We must not follow the multitude to do evil (Ex 23:2; 1 Samuel 8:5)
- The majority is in the wrong most of the time (Mat 7:13,14; 1 John 5:19).
- We are not immune to peer pressure, the desire to fit in, and wanting to be accepted by other religions and our friends.

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil of Public Opinion



- How can so many religious people be wrong about:
 - ✱ The plan of salvation?
 - ✱ Which church is right?
 - ✱ The way to worship God?
 - ✱ The work of the church?
 - ✱ Other doctrinal issues: Eschatology / MDR / Morality ...

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Tradition



- The Pharisees taught their traditions in opposition to God's Law (Mat. 15:2-9)
- "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men ..." (Col 2:8)
- We **MUST** not measure our faith & practice by what we (or others) have done, but by "what saith the Lord!"

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Tradition

CATHOLIC
BELIEFS
And
TRADITIONS
† † †
ANCIENT
And
EVER NEW

Rev. John F. O'Grady

- The primary source of authority for the Catholic church is their “tradition”
- Many common doctrines & practices of professed Christians are traditional and not scriptural!
- Does what you believe and practice come from the word of God or the traditions of men? - Mat 21:25

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The Veil Of Prejudice



- Prejudice (to pre-judge something) is to make up your mind before you have the facts, or in spite of the facts - Prov 18:13
- The Jews prejudged a lot of people – tax collectors, harlots, those from Galilee , and the Gentiles, Acts 10.28; 11.15-17
- They also rejected the gospel because it was contrary to their preconceived ideas - John 9; 11:45-53

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Prejudice



- Many reject the truth because it is different from what they have made up their mind to believe (Mat 13:14,15; Acts 22:22,23; 28:25-28)
- We **MUST** be open to examining what we believe in light of the scriptures! (Acts 17:11,12; 2 Cor 13:5)
- We will never accept the truth until we **OPEN** our minds to it!

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

The Veil Of Practice



- Those who practice sin have a hard time seeing the truth (John 3:19-21; 8:44,45)
- As Paul said, “that they all may be condemned who did not practice the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thes 2:12)
- Those who enjoy the practice of sin do not want to even hear the truth (Isa. 30:9-12; John 3:20,21; 2 Tim 4:3,4)

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

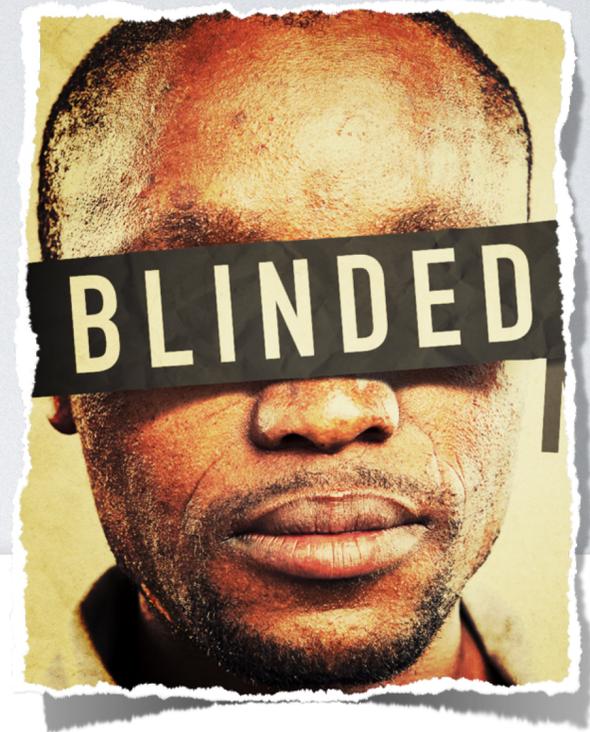
The Veil Of Practice



- Many have been led away from truth because they had rather justify their actions than repent and serve the Lord! (1 Sam 15; Luke 16:15; 1 Tim 4:1-3)
- ▶ The way of salvation –
- ▶ M.D.R. / Morality
- ▶ Worship / Work / Institutionalism -
- ▶ We **MUST** Value Righteousness Over Selfishness!

Veiled Hearts Blinded Minds

VEILS THAT PREVAIL



- The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom
- The Veil of Public Opinion
- The Veil Of Tradition
- The Veil Of Prejudice
- The Veil Of Practice

- Pride
- Misplaced values
- Emotional based faith
- Dishonesty / Laziness
- Selfishness

THE VEIL IS REMOVED IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Ephesians 4:17–24 (NKJV)

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Ephesians 4:17–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

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2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6