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VEILED HEARTS, *Blinded Minds*

2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6



VEILED HEARTS, *Blinded Minds*²



- 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.

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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.

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2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6 (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.

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2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6 (NKJV)

4 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,

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2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6 (NKJV)

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. 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.

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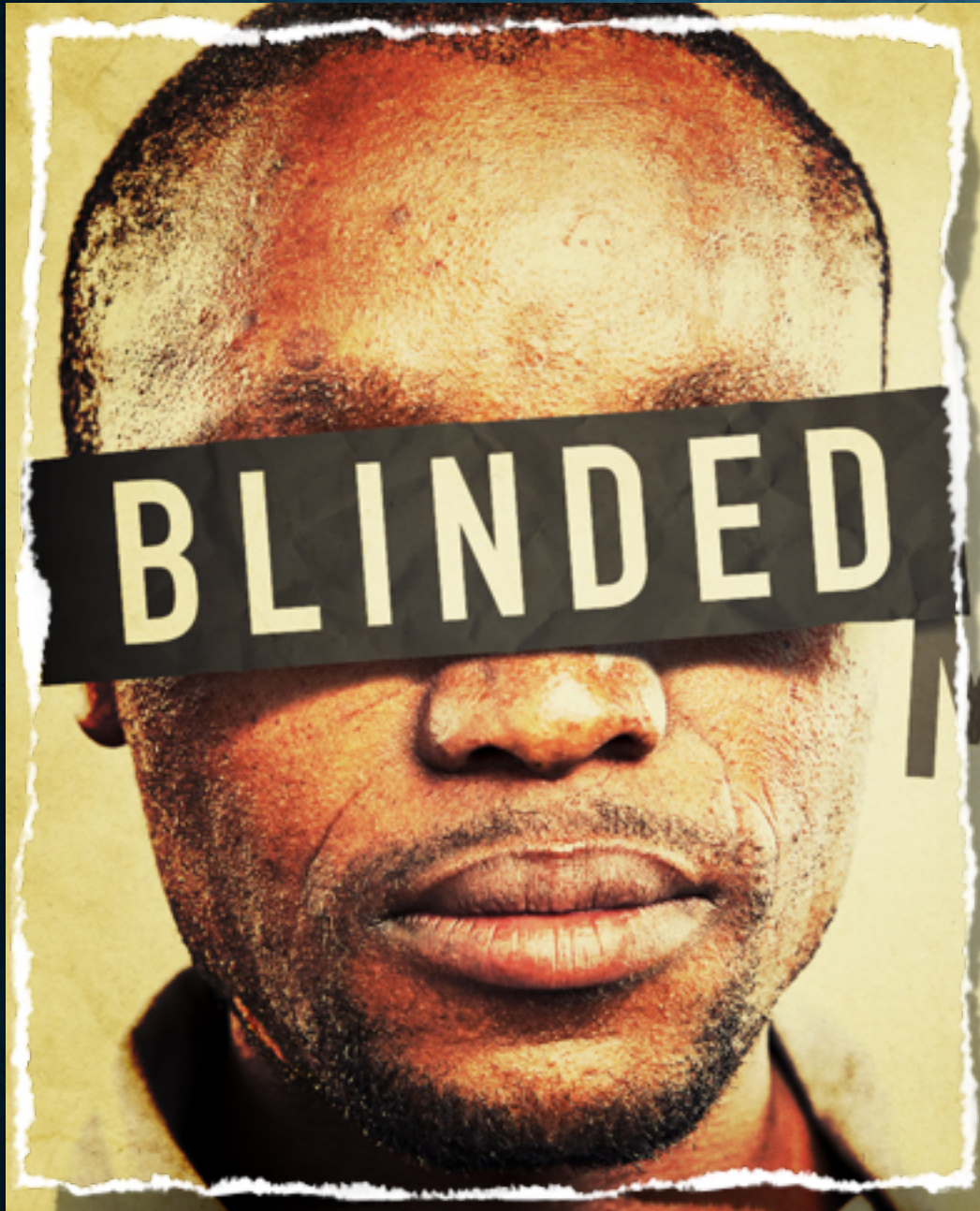
The Veil That Remains



- The contrast – vs 3:12,13
- The Jews were blinded to the transitory nature of the Law – 3:14–16
- The veil on their hearts prevented them from faith in Christ – 3:14–16; cf
- The veil is removed in Christ – 3:14–18; Rom 10:4

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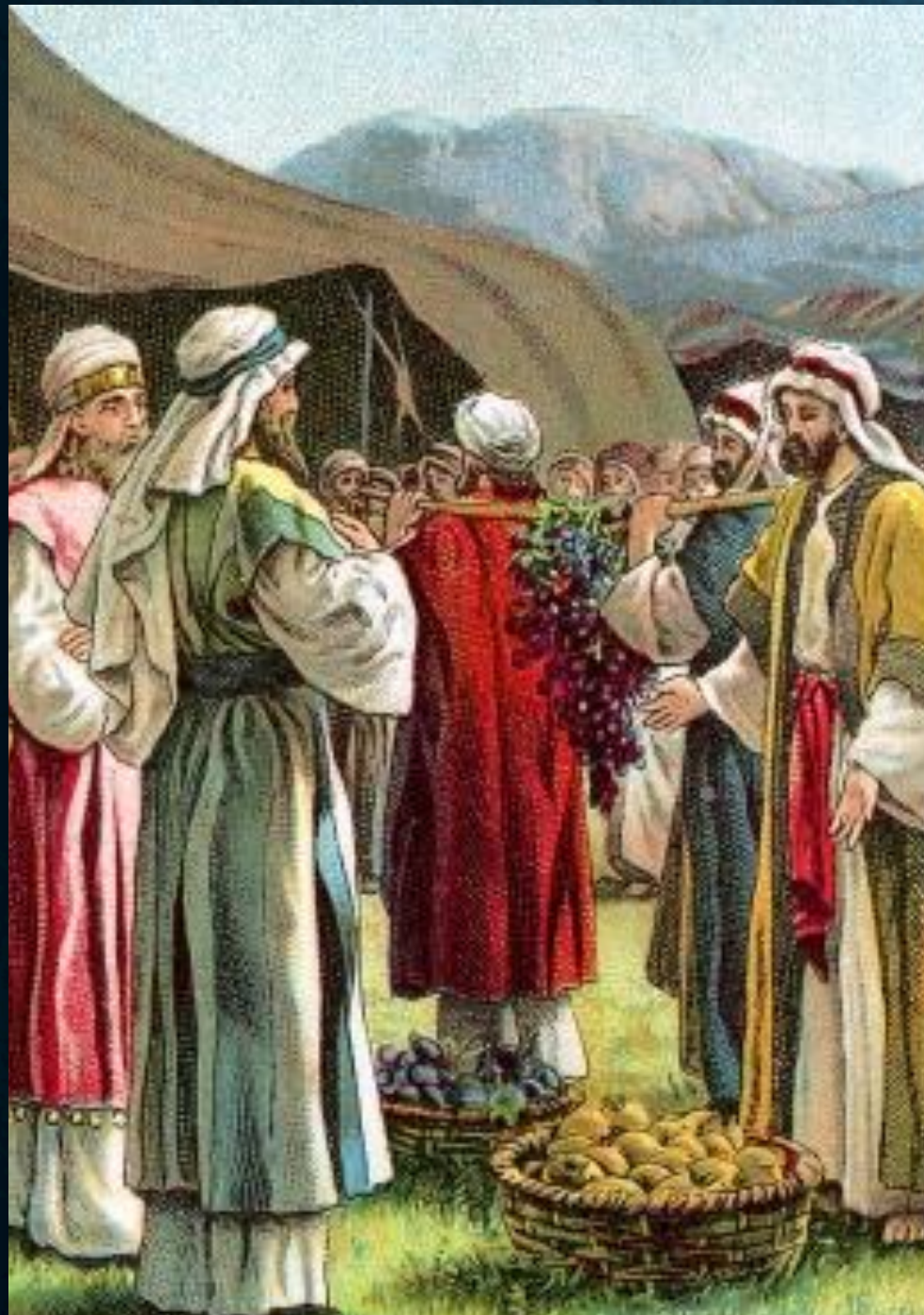
The Veil That Remains



- The gospel must be preached that people may see the glory of the Lord & be made free – 4:1,2,5,6
- Satan continues to blind people from seeing the truth – 4:3,4
- Those who refuse to see the truth are perishing – 4:3,4

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The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom



- A veil of unbelief – Numbers 13,14; 2 Kings 5; 1 Sam. 17
- Why many Gentiles would not see the truth – Rom 1:21–23; 1 Cor. 1:18–25

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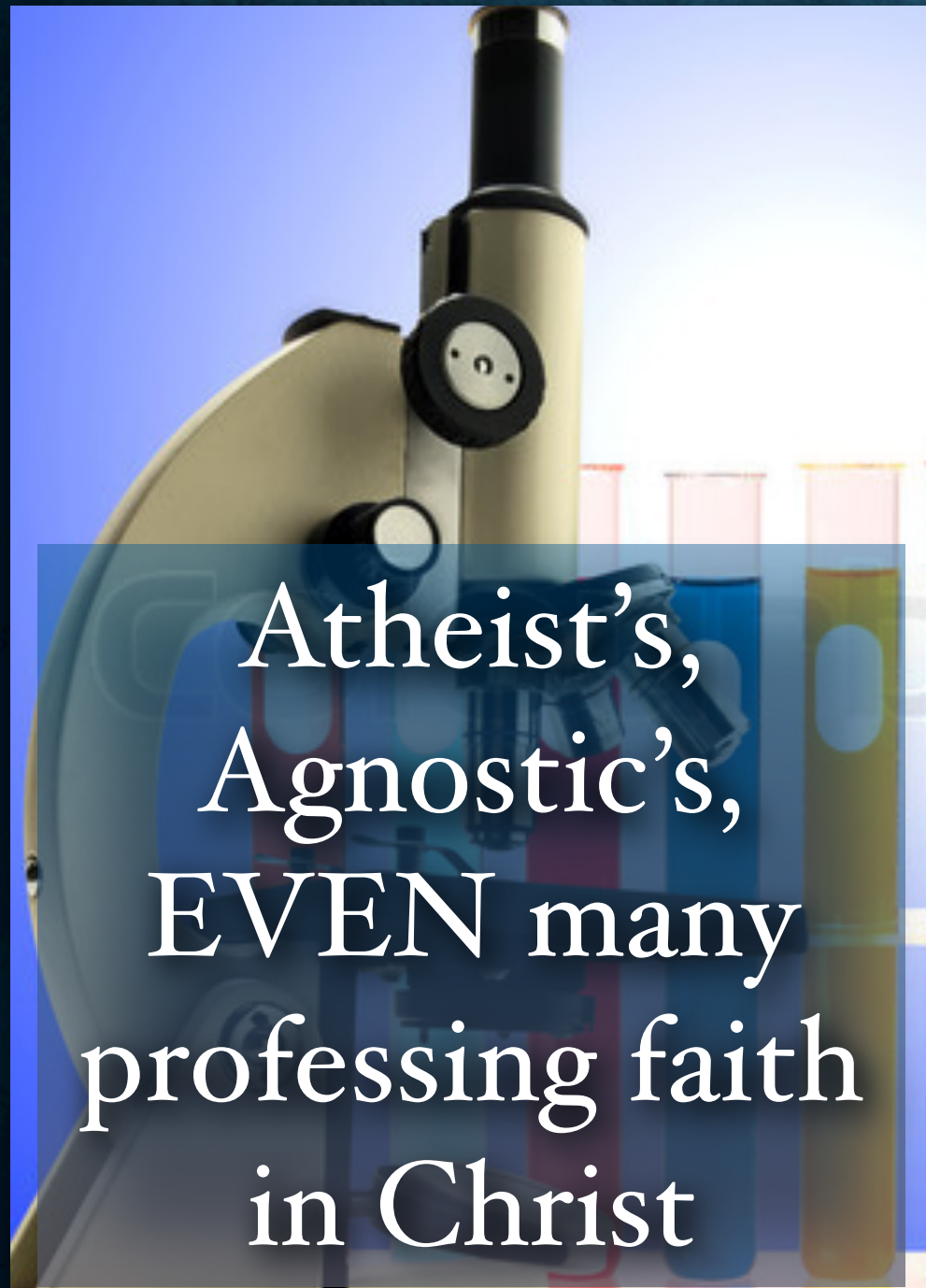
The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom



- There are ways that seem right – BUT – Prov. 14:12
- Confess that they are wise – but are fools – Rom 1:22
- Cannot know God 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



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

- They believe **ONLY** their natural senses – things that make sense from their ungodly perspective – 1 Cor 2
- 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! – Is 55:8,9

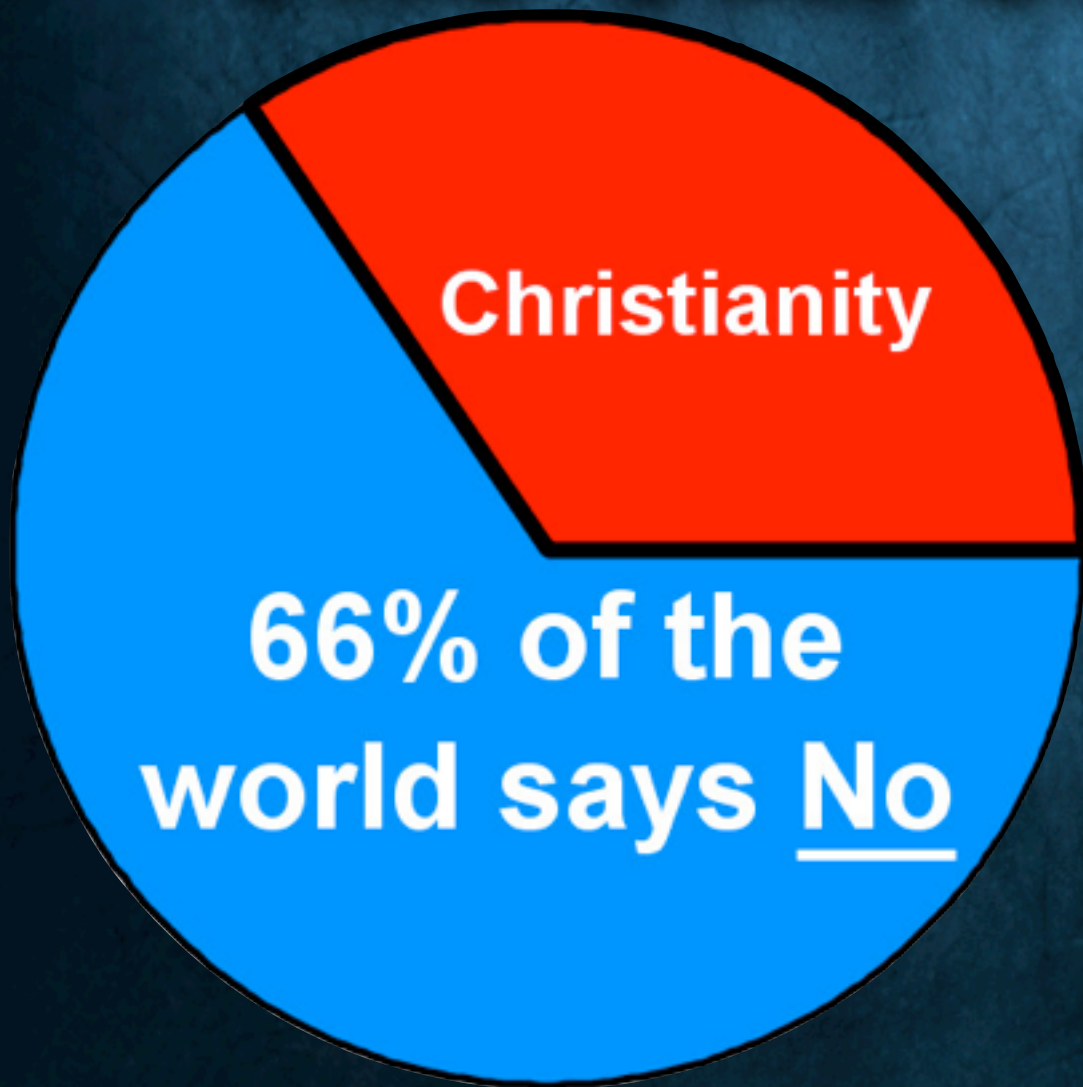
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The Veil Of Worldly Wisdom



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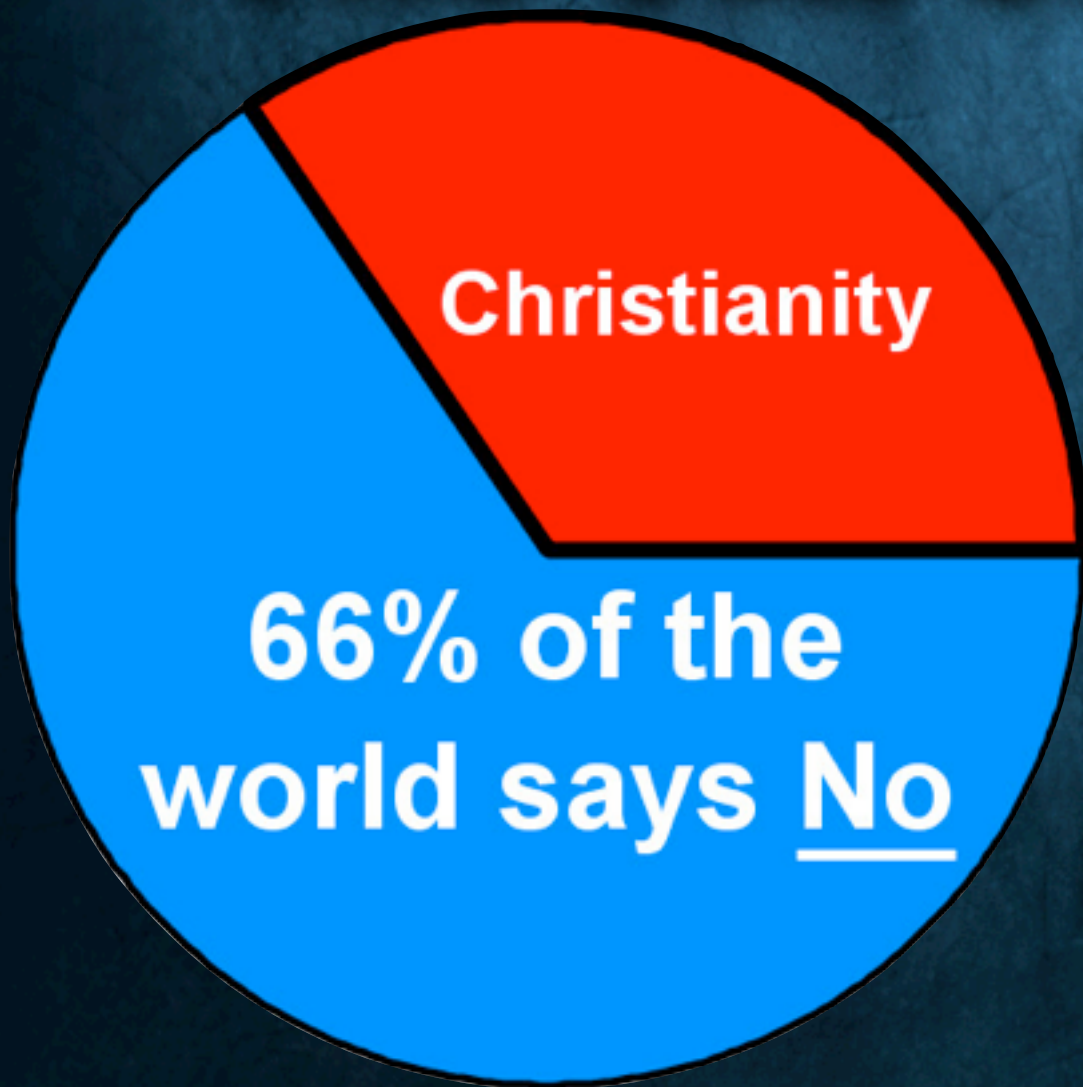
The Veil of Public Opinion



- 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

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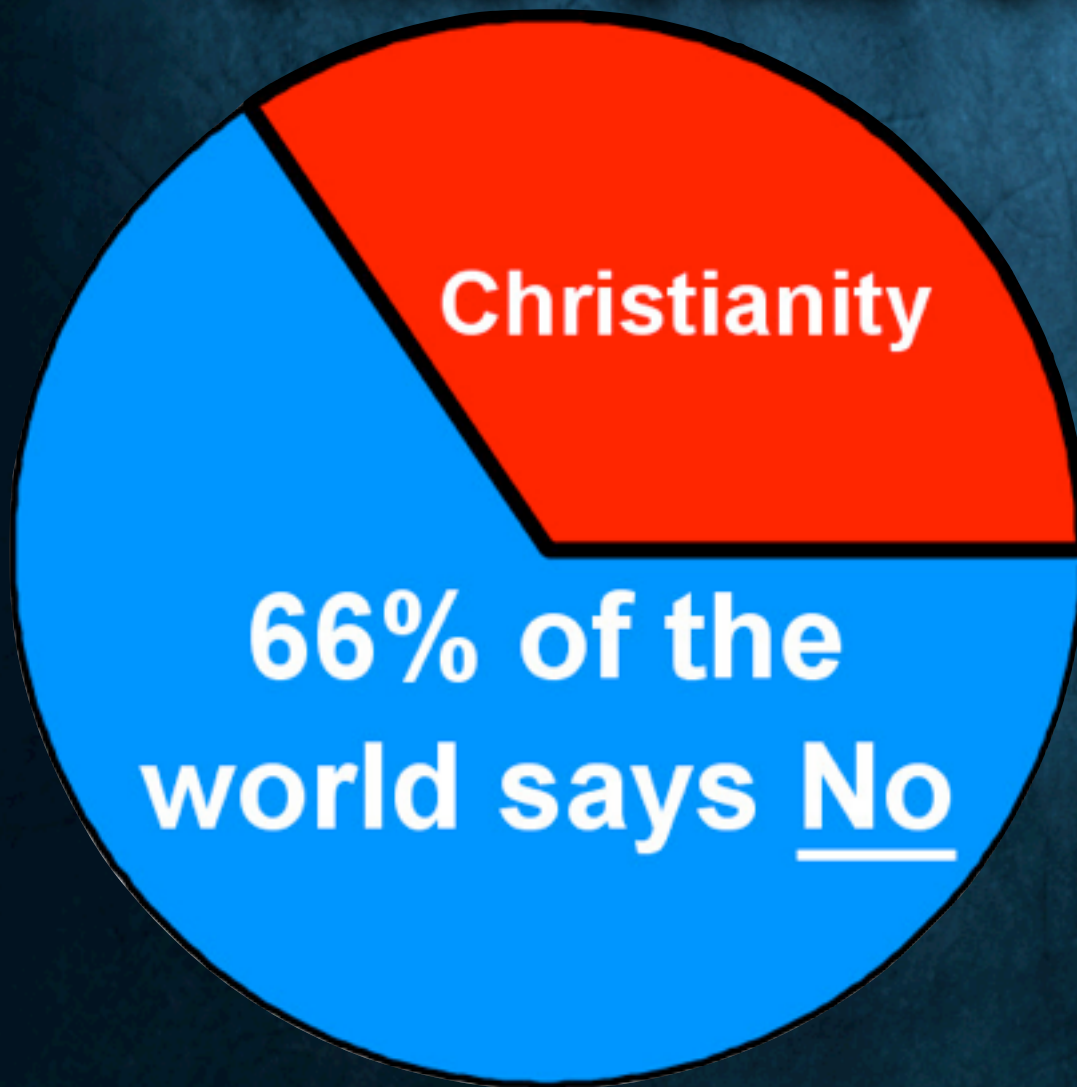
The Veil of Public Opinion



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

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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

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The Veil Of Tradition



- The Pharisees taught their traditions in opposition to God's Law, Matthew 15:2–9
- Many would rather follow their own traditions rather than God's Law – Col 2:8
- We **MUST** not measure our faith & practice by what we (or others) have done, but by "what saith the Lord!"

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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

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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!

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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 practice sin do not want to even hear the truth – Is. 30:9–12; 2 Tim 4:3,4

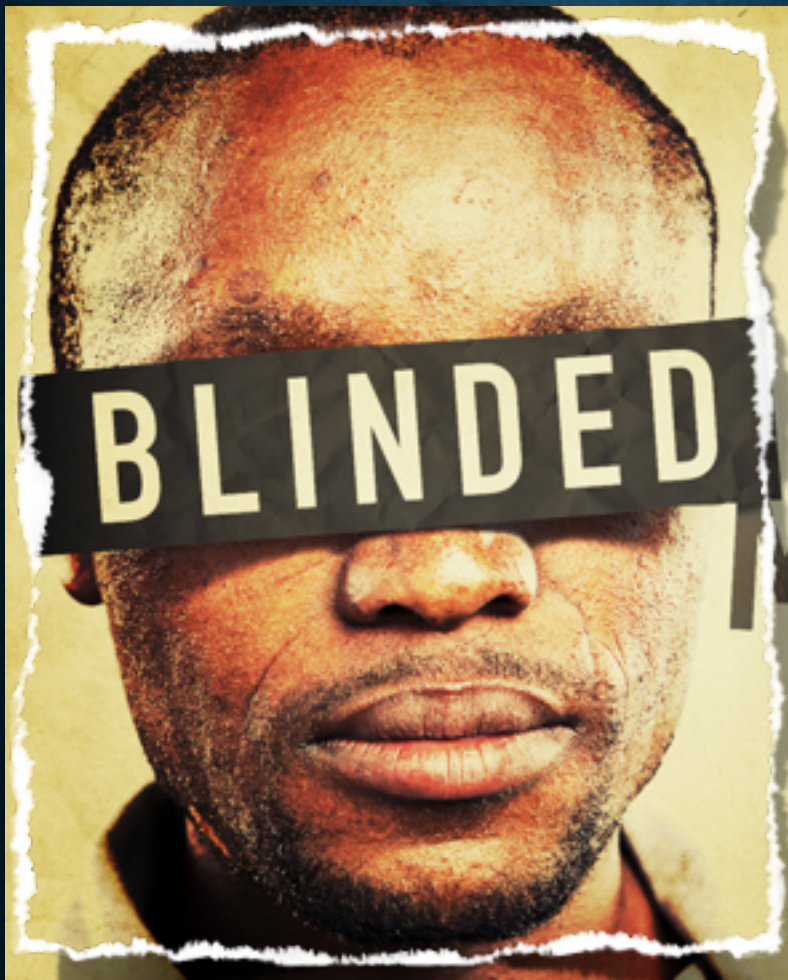
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The Veil Of Practice



- Many have been led away from truth because they had rather justify their actions than repent and serve the Lord! – 1 Sam 15; Lk 16:15; 1 Tim 4:1–3
- Plan of salvation –
- M. D. R. / Morality
- Instrumental music
- Institutionalism -
- We MUST Value Righteousness Over Selfishness!

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All demonstrate:

- 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
 - Selfishness



THE VEIL IS REMOVED IN CHRIST

2 Corinthians 3:13-4:6

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**Remove ANY veil
Receive & Obey the Truth**

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 (NKJV)

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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.

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