

Can We Have Unity In Religion?

Jesus prayed for Unity- Jn. 17:20-21- “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on Me through their word. That they all may be one, as Thou art in Me and I in Thee, that they all may be one in us, that the world may believe Thou has sent Me.”

Paul wrote of unity- 1 Cor. 1:10- “I beseech you brethren, by the name of Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and same judgment.”

Man Causes Confusion & Division

Eccl 7:29- Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Prov 8:13- The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

- **Prov 14:12- There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**
- **Rom 3:4- God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;**

God's Ways Are Better Than Ours

Isa 55:9-11- For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

We Can Have Unity

- If we use the same standard- God's Word
- If we rightly divide that standard.
- If we put our creeds, feelings and ideas aside and let God be true and every man a liar.
- If we will not honor men or denominations over what is taught in God's Word.
- How do we know? The Bible must tell us so!

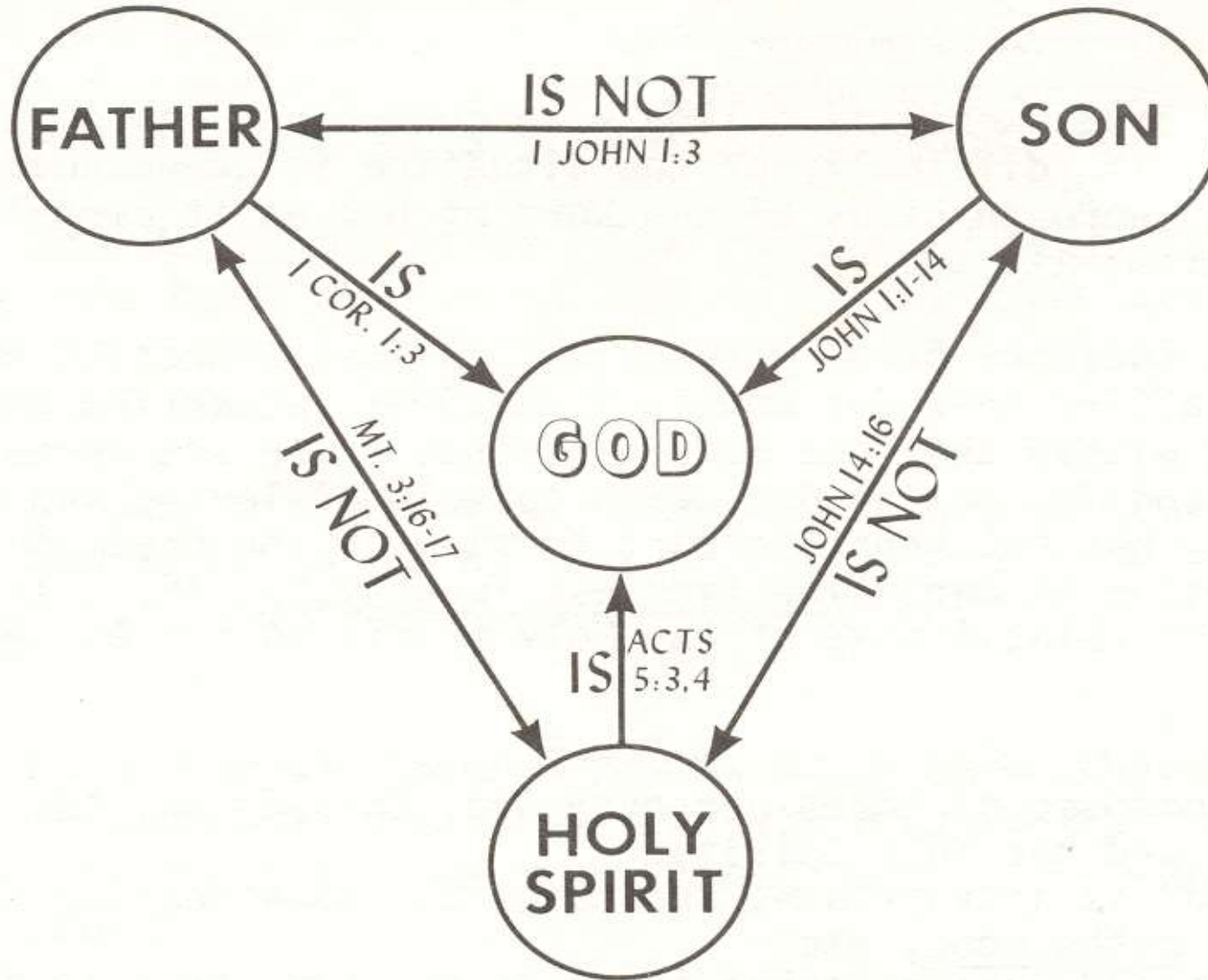
God's Word Makes Man Complete

- **2 Tim. 3:16,17-All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**
- **2 Timothy 2:15- “study to show yourself approved of God a workman that needs not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.”**
- **It is a powerful word- Rom. 1:16.**
- **Good, Religious people are divided for instance on the subject of the Holy Spirit and how He indwells.**
- **Let's look at how we can have unity on this subject and consequently all other religious topics.**

The God Head

- Colossians 2:9- “for in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”
- Acts 17:29- “We ought not to think the Godhead is like unto silver and gold...”
- Romans 1:20- “for the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”
- Trinity or Godhead all seen at Christ’s baptism (Matt. 3:13-17). Father speaking- Spirit descending as a dove- Christ in bodily form.
- Also seen in Creation- In the Beginning God- plural word- Elohim

The Godhead



TRUTH

Jn. 5:38; 15:7
2 Jn. 2
1 Jn. 2:14

“DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS”-
Eph. 3:17- So That Christ may
dwell in your hearts through
faith---faith comes by hearing
the word of God

GOD-FATHER

2 Cor. 6:16
Eph. 4:6
Phil. 2:13
1 Jn. 4:4,12-16

Jn. 8:31; 1 Cor. 15:1

1 Jn. 4:13-16

Mankind (Christian Men & Women)

Gal. 3:26,27; 2 Gal. 5:25
Cor. 5:17; Col.
2:6-7; Jn. 15:4-7

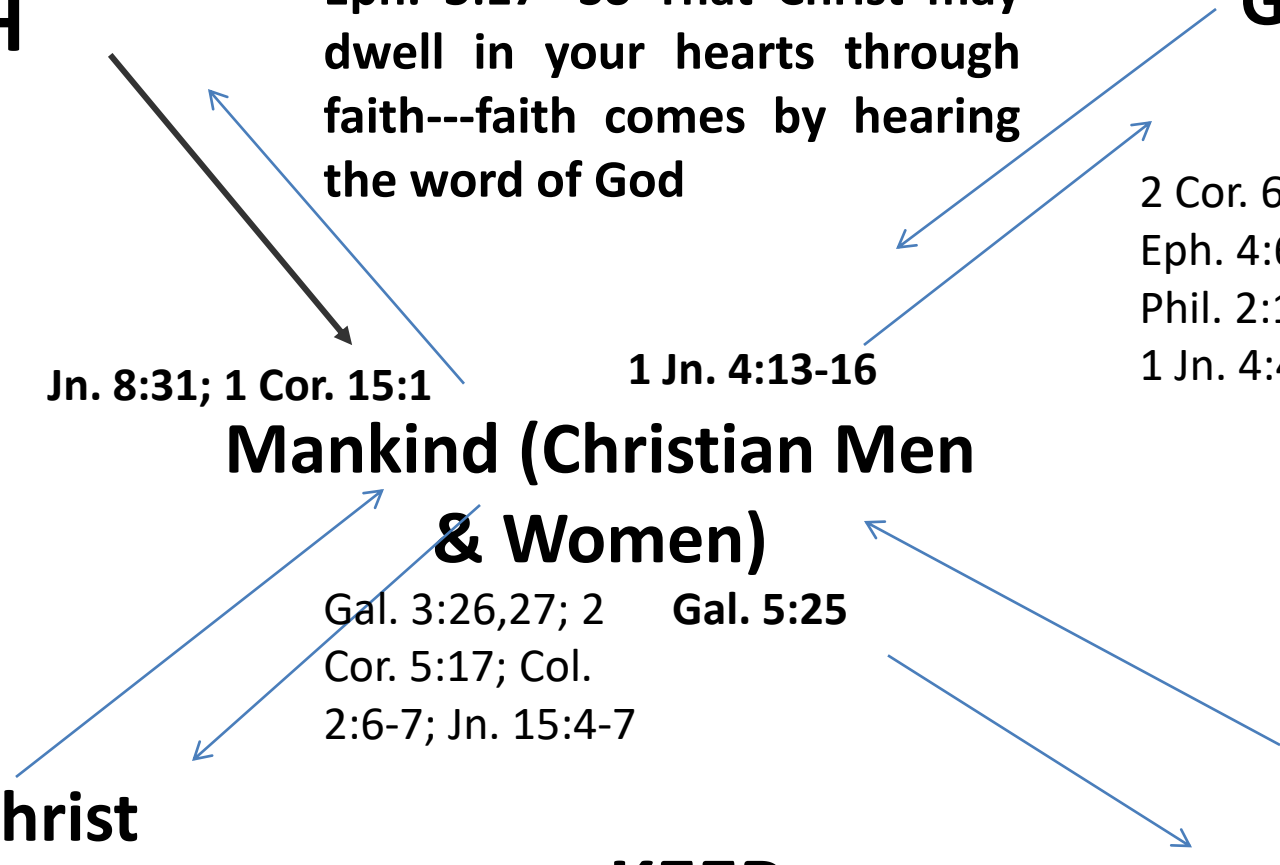
GOD-SON-Christ

Jn. 6:56; 15:4-5; 17:23,26; Rom. 8:10;
2 Cor. 4:10-11; 13:5; Gal. 2:20; 4:19;
Eph. 3:17; Phil. 1:20; Col. 1:27; 3:11;
1 Pet. 3:15

GOD-Holy Spirit

Rom. 8:9,11; 1 Cor.
3:16; 6:19; 2 Tim.
1:14; Eph. 3:16; Gal.
4:6; 1 Thess. 4:8

**KEEP
COMMANDS-
1 Jn. 3:4**



How The Holy Spirit Dwells

- Since the Godhead functions united, if we can learn how Deity or the Godhead or any member of the Godhead acts or indwells a person, then we can know how the other members of the Godhead act and indwell.
- Christ is said to “dwell in our hearts by faith” (Eph. 3:17). Paul said “Christ liveth in me” (Gal. 2:20). But how did Christ live in Paul?
- By faith- Paul said- Gal. 3:2- “the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” “receive ye the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?” The necessary implication of Gal. 3:2 is that the Spirit was received by the hearing of faith. See Rom. 10:17- Faith comes by hearing the Word.
- Why should not the other members of the Godhead dwell in the Christian the same way? By Faith that comes through hearing the Word.

Truth Dwells In The Christian

- Bible teaches that Truth (the word of God) dwells in the Christian.
- Jn. 15:7- “my words abide in you..”
- Jn. 5:38- “ye have not this word abiding in you.
- 1 Jn. 2:14- “the word of God abideth in you.”
- 2 Jn. 2-“for the truth’s sake, which dwelleth in us.”
- Does anyone believe that when the truth dwells in the Christian, a NT is literally in the body of that Christian? No, of course not.

The Christian Dwells In Truth

- The New Testament teaches that the Christian dwells in truth.
- Jn. 8:31- “if ye continue in my words, then are ye my disciples indeed.”
- 1 Cor. 15:1- “I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand.”
- Does anyone think when a Christian is in truth or stands therein, that he is personally and literally standing in a large copy of the NT? NO. The word of God has such a strong influence on him and he is in such close communion with it that they are said to dwell in each other.

God-Father Dwells In The Christian

- The New Testament says God dwells in the Christian.
- 2 Cor. 6:16- “God has said, I will dwell in them and walk in them...”
- Eph. 4:6- “One God and Father of all who is above all through all and in you all...”
- Phil. 2:13- “For it is God which works in you.”
- 1 Jn. 4:4- “greater is he that is in you...”
- 1 Jn. 4:12- “God dwells in us” ; 4:13- “He in us”; 4:15- “God dwells in him”; 4:16- “God in him”
- No one thinks that the Father has left heaven and is literally inside their body.

Christians Dwell In God-The Father

- 1 Jn. 4:13- of Christians John says, “hereby we know that we dwell in him (speaking of God).
- 1 Jn. 4:15- “whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God”
- 1 Jn. 4:16- “he who dwells in love dwells in God.”
- No one thinks that Christians are really bodily dwelling within the being of God the Father. If so where is God’s body on earth where Christians are? Or have Christians gone to heaven to be in the body of God the Father?

Christ Dwells In The Christian

- John 6:56- “he that eats my flesh and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him.”
- John 15:4-5- “He that abides in me and I in him...”
- John 17:23,26- “I in them”
- Romans 8:10- “If Christ be in you”
- 2 Cor. 4:10-11- “that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body...the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our mortal flesh.”
- 2 Cor. 13:5- “know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you?”
- Gal. 2:20- “Christ lives in me” 4:19- “until Christ be formed in you.”
- Eph. 3:17- “that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.”
- 1 Pet. 3:15- “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts.”
- Col. 3:11- Christ is all and in all”

The Christian Dwells In Christ

- John 6:56- “he that eats my flesh and drinks my blood, dwells in me...”
- John 15:4-7- “Abide in me...he that abides in me...if a man abide not in me. He is cast forth as a branch...If ye abide in me.”
- 2 Cor. 5:17- “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.”
- Gal. 3:27- “as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
- Col. 2:6-7- “As ye have received Christ, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith.”
- Does anyone think when one is baptized into Christ that he is personally and bodily put into the literal, personal body of Christ?”

The Holy Spirit Dwells In The Christian

Romans 8:9- “the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

Rom. 8:11- “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.”

1 Cor. 3:16- “the Spirit of God dwells in you”

1 Cor. 6:19- “know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which dwells in you.”

2 Timothy 1:14- “The Holy Spirit which dwells in us.

Eph. 3:16- “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man.”

1 Thess. 4:8- “God has also given unto us his Holy Spirit.”

Passages Teach Indwelling Of Spirit

- These passages teach that the Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of the Christian.
- Where do these passages say that the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of a Christian literally and personally. The text does not say this.
- To infer that from these passages is not taking these passages in context of what the rest of the Bible says about indwelling.

The Christian Dwells In The Holy Spirit

- Gal. 5:25- “if we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
- Does anyone think they personally and literally live and walk inside the Spirit bodily?
- If not then why would anyone think the Holy Spirit literally indwells the Christian?
- If we can understand that when the Bible says the Word, God and Christ dwell in the Christian that they do not do so literally, then why do people make up a different doctrine when it comes to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Where Is The Passage?

- There is no passage that teaches that God, Christ or the Holy Spirit indwell the body of the Christian literally, personally and bodily.
- Eph. 3:17- Christ dwells in the heart of the Christian through faith.
- Eph. 5:18,19- Christians are to filled with the Spirit v. 18, shown by speaking to our selves in psalms hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart unto the Lord. v. 19.
- Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom. When the word of Christ dwells in one richly they are filled with the Spirit—when they are filled with the Spirit or the Spirit dwells in them the word of God dwells in them.

The Holy Spirit Dwells In The Christian

- He does this through influence of the word and the activation of it in the life of the Christian through faith.
- The Holy Spirit is not the Word of God and the word of God is not the Holy Spirit.
- The Word of God is the **sword or agent of the Holy Spirit** (Eph. 5:17-be not unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.).
- My father, mother and also tv and music personalities can come into our homes without coming into them literally.
- They come into our homes through agents (TV, Radio, computer, life lessons and example).
- Just so when one listens to the Word of God, revealed by Christ, in language the Holy Spirit has selected (1 Cor. 2:10-16), one can be said to have the Holy Spirit dwelling in him.

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

- “but God has revealed them unto us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things even the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of the man which is in him even so the things of God no man knows but the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given us of God. Which things also we speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Illustrations of Agency & Influence

- My parents dwell in me, and I dwell in my parents.
- We mutually do this through our influence.
- We are the product of our influences (environment).
- The agency or influence through which Deity dwells in us and we dwell in Deity is through the Word of God. No other way.
- My father and mother are both deceased as are all my grandparents, but they live on in me and by extension in my family through influence (of their words and lifestyle).

How Can We Know?

- Most people who claim the Spirit indwells them personally cannot tell you how it happened – it just did (one man said recently)
- Christ dwells there by faith (Eph. 3:17)
- Rom. 10:17- faith comes by hearing the Word
- This does not mean we just accept that the Spirit dwells in us through the Word without evidence.

Scriptural Evidence

- 1 John 3:24- “and he that keeps his commandments dwells in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.” This is speaking of Christ dwelling in us. In 1 Jn. 4:13 essentially the same thing is said of God.
- We know if Deity dwells in our heart by whether we “keep his commandments” (1 Jn. 3:24). To claim to know God and not keep his commandment makes one a liar and the truth does not abide in that one (1 Jn. 2:3-5).

Does Deity (Father-Son-Holy Spirit) Dwell In You?

- They do if you follow the teachings revealed to you through the Word of God. It was revealed by God through the Holy Spirit who Christ sent to “guide into all truth”. If we do not dwell in the teachings revealed through the Holy Spirit and written down in God’s Word then we do not have the Holy Spirit- the Son- or the Father dwelling in us.

Romans 8

- V. 1,4- individuals walk after the Spirit
- V. 5- one minds the things of the Spirit.
- V. 9- individuals are said to be in the Spirit, yet the Spirit is said to dwell in the Christians.
- Vs. 11-12- one can choose to live either after the flesh or after the Spirit.
- V. 14- says the Spirit leads. This is all described in v. 6 as being “spiritually minded” and in v. 7 as being “subject to the law of God.”
- If one is spiritually minded, is subject to the law of God, is walking after the Spirit, is minding the things of the Spirit, is living after the Spirit, is being led by the Spirit, then the Spirit is dwelling in that Christian.

Holy Spirit—Action---Word Of God

Gal. 5:22	Faith	Rom. 10:17
John 3:5,6	Born	1Co. 4:15;1P.1:23
1P 3:18;Jn. 6:63	Quickens	Ps. 119:50
Titus 3:5	Saves	James 1 :21
Rom. 15:16	Sanctifies	John 17:17
Rom. 8:9	Dwells In	Col. 3:16
Rom. 8:14;Gal. 5:18	Leads	Psalm 43:3
Act 9:31	Comforts	1Th. 4:18
Acts 7:51	Resists	2Ti. 3:8
Eph. 3:16	Strengthens	Ps. 119:28
Neh. 9:20	Instructs	2 Ti. 3:16-17
1 Co. 6:11	Cleanses	Jn. 15:3

Holy Spirit---Action---Word Of God

Rom. 15:13	Power	Heb. 1:3; Rom.1:16
Jn. 16:8	Convicts	Titus 1:9
Jn. 15:26	Testifies	Jn. 5:39
1 Co. 2:13	Teaches	2 Ti. 3:16,17
Jn. 16:8	Reproves	2 Ti. 4:2
1 Co. 6:11	Justifies	Gal. 2:16; Ro. 3:28
Rom. 8:11	Raised	Jn. 5:28,29
Rom. 8:16	Witness	1 Jn.5:6-8

Conclusion

- Deity dwells in the Christian through the Word of God. As we obey the Words revealed by Deity to us, we dwell in Deity and Deity dwells in us. This is not a personal indwelling literally
- 2 Timothy 3:16,17- The man of God is made perfect, thoroughly furnished unto every good work.
- **What would a personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us do for us or to us that the Word does not already accomplish in us as we abide in it?** The Word of God is the agent through which Deity dwells in us and we dwell in Deity. We know how to walk in the light through God's revealed Word to us.
- God's Word has settled this difficult issue? See how easy it is when we go to the right source?

What Did Jesus Say About Salvation?

Hear-

Luke 11:28

Believe –

John 8:24

Repent –

Luke 13:3

Confess -

Matthew 10:32

Be Baptized –

Mark 16:16

Remain Faithful –

Matthew 10:22

What is the result of hearing the word of God?
Hear the word of God and keep it.

Hear

Luke

B

John

But he said, Yea rather,
blessed are they that hear
the word of God, and
keep it.

(Luke 11:28)

Repent –

Luke 13:3

Remain Faithful –

Matthew 10:22

What is the result of faith? –

Hear

Luke

B

John

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:24)

Repent –

Luke 13:3

...faithful –

Matthew 10:22

What is the condition?

Hear

Luke

B

John

Repent

Luke 13:3

...ful –

I tell you, no; but
unless you repent you
will all likewise perish.
(Luke 13:3)

Matthew 10:22

What is the result of confession?

Hear

Luke

“Therefore whoever
confesses Me before men,
him I will also confess
before My Father who is in
heaven. (Matthew 10:32)

Repent

Luke 13:3

and –

Matthew 10:22

What is the condition?

Hear

Luke

He who believes and is
baptized will be saved;
but he who does not
believe will be
condemned. (Mark 16:16)

Repent

Luke 13:3

at -

matthew 10:22

What is the result of this persecution?

Hear

Luke

John

Repe

Luke 13:3

at -

And ye shall be hated
of all men for my
name's sake: but he
that endures to the end
shall be saved.

(Matt 10:22)

matthew 10:22