

*In human behaviour, to deny a clear reality (denialism), is the preferred way to avoid a psychologically uncomfortable truth. It is also called 'wilful ignorance. In the bible, God uses terms like 'blind', 'foolish', 'mockers', etc., for the negative views expressed towards his creation and gospel. JER 5:21 Hear now this, O foolish people, and without **understanding**; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:*

What have you come to see and hear? MAT 11:2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, **3** And said unto him, **Art thou he that should come**, or do we look for another? **4** Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: **5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.** **6** And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. *Jesus never got upset because of their uncertainty (both of friend or stranger)... he simply answered their questions.* **7** And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? *If you are genuinely seeking truth and evidence, what is your expectation? A reed shaken with the wind? A person who sways under pressure, or one who bends with every new doctrine.* **8** But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment (*seems important*)? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. **9** But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. **10** For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. **11** Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. *Jesus confirmed John's baptism and gospel message; he needed to be obeyed!*

No amount of evidence is good enough for some people. MAT 12:39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: *Lets keep in mind that they had already seen countless miracles on a daily basis, when Jesus was challenged... the evidence was not good enough for them. There were signs, but they wanted something else... God give; obvious and clear signs were not good enough for them. They were in denial.*

The same is true of the church today. MAR 16:14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. **15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. *The need for signs to follow true believers is demanded by Jesus. Some like to quote the previous scripture in Mat 12 to try and deny the vital, God given evidence promised in the gospel. However, Mat 12:39 is a different question to the one relating to the signs that would follow true believers. Also, we have clearly reasoned that there were already numerous miracles.*

Even for those who believe, the bible is full of good directions that often go ignored. 2THE 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not **the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. *The aim of all true Christians should be the development of a love of the truth, as opposed to selective or comfortable understandings. This comes about through continuous prayer, reading, fellowship and ministering to the saved and unsaved as opportunities arise. This is also done through the operation of the voice gifts and by the sharing of our testimonies.*

Who suffers should we refuse to do what God says? ROM 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? *This is an appeal to our spiritual love... the Lord doesn't want us to ignore this. It is also an appeal to take the whole armour of God and fully conform to the role of the church on the earth. We should not be selective and take on board that which is easy or appealing alone... that is also a form of self denial which God is not fond of. God has a far better life planned for you here and now... let him do it!*

If we are expected to shine a light in the darkness, the first place it must shine is in our own hearts. TIT 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. **16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate. *There are many who choose to be blind in the church as well. Let's assist one another and shine a light on the true gospel of life, together.*