

*Mark 8:22-30*  
*You Are the Christ!*

*"We may see strange things on every side at the present day. Christ and His gospel are just as little understood in reality and are the subject of just as many different opinions as they were eighteen hundred years ago. Many know the name of Christ, acknowledge Him as one who came into the world to save sinners, and regularly worship in buildings set apart for His service. Few thoroughly realize that He is very God, the one Mediator, the one High Priest, the only source of life and peace, their own Shepherd, and their own Friend. Vague ideas about Christ are very common. **Intelligent experimental acquaintance with Christ is still very rare.** May we never rest until we can say of Christ, 'My beloved is mine, and I am his' (Song of Solomon 2:16). This is saving knowledge. This is life eternal." J.C. Ryle*

- I. The Lord has given us His Holy Spirit to enable us to think clearly in a world consumed with Satan's deceptive ways. Therefore, we must make sure that we continue to think God's way as we fight the enemies of our sin nature, this evil world system, and Satan. It is essential that we hold onto a biblical worldview lest we falter and find ourselves confused, defeated, or compromised by the ways of the world. If we expect to live holy and godly lives as we look forward to the day of God and speed its coming, then we must understand what it means to know Jesus.

Mark 8:17b

Isa. 24:1-6

2 Peter 3:11-12

**1 John 5:20** *"And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life".*



- II. It takes the touch of Jesus to the eyes of our heart, the spittle of his love, grace and mercy so to speak, to help us see clearly. Before his wonderful life saving touch, we were hopelessly blind to Him and His ways. The miracle He performed in our lives was our salvation. He gave us understanding, and we must be very careful not squander that away through a heart that can be deceitfully wicked if we're not careful. That wickedness can be very subtle and seemingly innocuous, but its affect on our lives can be devastating. Victory can only come through a life of humble submission and repentance before Him as we keep in step with the Spirit.

Mark 8:22-26

Matt. 11:20-23

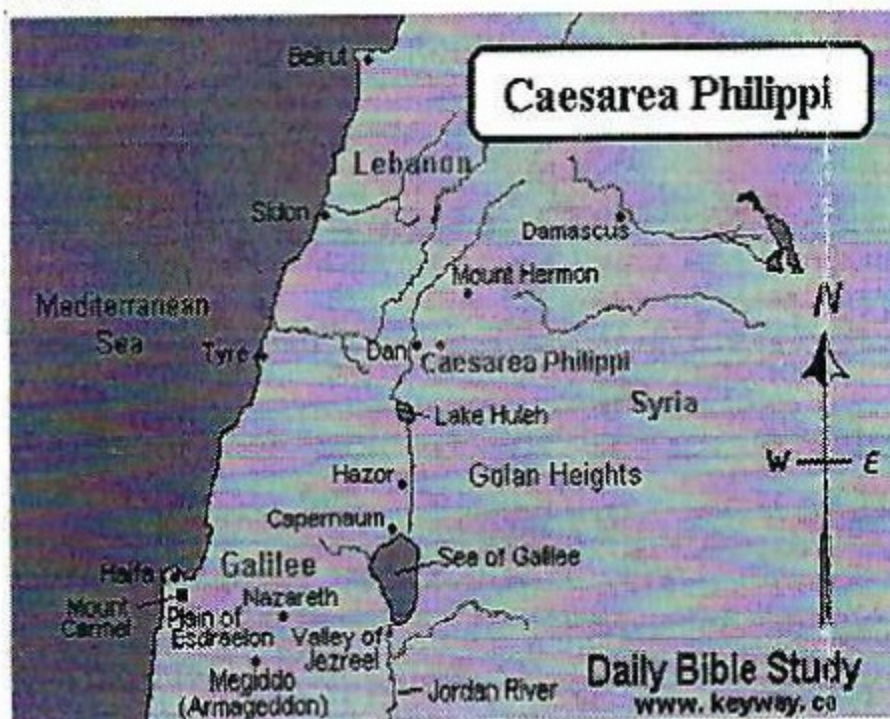
**Jeremiah 17:9-10** *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."*

**Galatians 5:25** *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

- III. God revealed something to Peter that only God can do, he revealed to him that Jesus is the anointed Son of the living God. That is the truth that has been revealed to all of us who know him. Not only that, we, the **ekklēsia** of Christ, have an anointing from the Holy One that empowers us to know the truth and live by it. The fact that we have been given the keys to heaven and the gates of hell will never prevail against us, should make us even more determined to stand firmly in the faith.

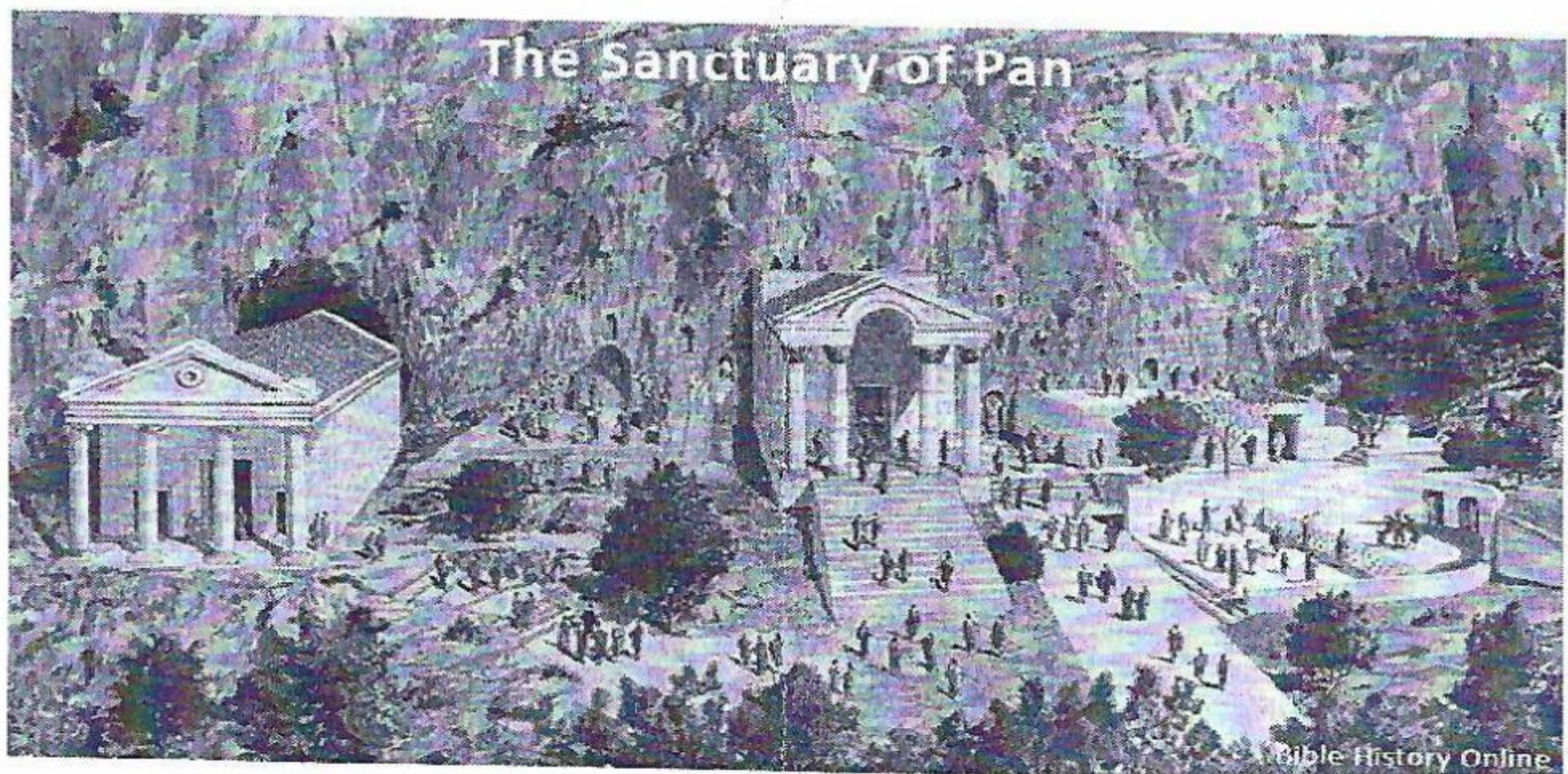
Mark 8:27b-30

Matt. 16:17-19



**1 John 2:20-21** *20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. 21 I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth.*





Reconstruction Painting of the Sanctuary of Pan at the site of Ancient Paneas, Caesarea Philippi in Israel

In this Painting of the First Century Sanctuary of Pan there is depicted from left to right:

1. The Temple of Augustus Called the Augusteum (On the Left)
2. The Grotto or Cave of the God Pan (Behind the Temple of Augustus)
3. The Court of Pan and the Nymphs (To the Right of the Temple of Augustus)
4. The Temple of Zeus (In the Middle)
5. The Court of Nemesis (To the Right of the Temple of Zeus)
6. The Tomb Temple of the Sacred Goats (Upper Right)
7. The Temple of Pan and the Dancing Goats (Bottom Right)

