

Book # 2 in the series ...

**TOOLBOX BOOKS PRESENTS**

**"CHRISTIANITY IN CHEWABLE FORM"**

# **CRYPTO- LEGANOMICS**

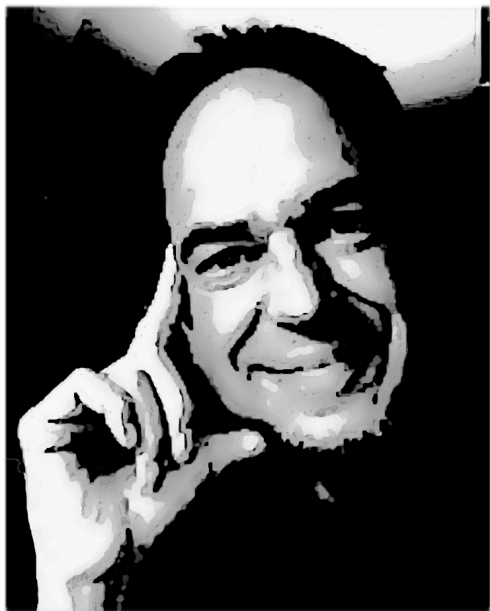
(KRIPT-OH-LEEG-UH-NOM-IKS)

**The SECRET of why JESUS is the ONLY way...**

"The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the Law of sin and death."

**LIFE-PROVOKING PRINCIPLES FOR TWEENS**  
WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED by **ALAN ROOT!**

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY (by-AWG-ruh-fee)



### **short biography**

Alan Root is a rock & roll musicianary to older kids. He's taller than he looks in this picture. He enjoys reading books like Treasure Island and Nero Wolfe mysteries and of course J.R.R. Tolkien and CS Lewis. He likes microwave popcorn, hiking, watercolor, musical techno toys, strong coffee, and basketball. He has a B.S. and has done graduate studies in Geological Sciences at the University of Tennessee. For more than 20 years he's been traveling the U.S. ministering the gospel of Jesus using an electric guitar. He's done music for Wrigley's, Kellogg's, the Billy

Graham Children's Crusade, and Dr. Seuss, won 3 Telly awards, and has tons of CDs and DVDs and books for kids, families and tweens available at **[www.alanroot.com](http://www.alanroot.com)**.

He even drew the pictures for this book all by himself.

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TITLE PAGE (TYE-tull-payj)

# CRYPTOLEGANOMICS

written especially for tweens by the  
perspicacious, loquacious, and ubiquitous ALAN ROOT

## crypt•o•leg•a•nom•ics

[KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks]

### noun

- 1 *the secret of why Jesus is the ONLY way.*
- 2 *why all the other religions in the whole world put together aren't worth a hill of beans when it counts.*
- 3 *a word your friends struggle to pronounce*

\*\*\*\*\*

We'll use the Scriptures extensively in our study. Why? Here's why: the Bible is the measuring stick of truth. Next to Jesus Christ himself, it's the clearest revelation of truth we have.

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:16,

**"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."**

## NOTE TO TEACHERS (TEE-churz)

### Note to teachers!!! **how to use this book.**

This book is perfect for small groups; for reading out loud with discussion sessions. **Schedule:** 1 week for the intro and 2 weeks for each of the 5 chapters equals 11 weeks. The last week can be a party with a special guest testimony, cake and ice cream. **Daily Readings:** Get a book for each student. Have them write their name in the book and bring it each week. Strongly encourage them to read a couple of pages a day at breakfast, writing questions and notes in the wide margins. Give them highlighters. Give them bookmarks you've made to remind them of things the Lord impresses on your heart concerning this material. Designate a "designated designator" each week to choose readers. Each chapter has: **Black Boxes:** Brain starters. **Q&A:** Have your kids pencil in their own answers. Then check the first appendix for what I thought the answers were. This is great stuff for weekly review. And **PRAYER:** To let the kids "own" the transformational ideas they just studied. In the appendix: **How to be saved** along with a written prayer of salvation. **Kinetic chapter activities:** Suggestions for full-contact kinetic learning. **Digging Deeper:** Some kids will be sufficiently challenged by what's in the chapters, but some will want to dig deeper. Send those kids to Appendix 4 and ask them to report back to the whole class.

*Other terrific books for tweens in the toolbox books series:*

1. **Designamentals** (*creation, absolutes, authority*)
2. **Cryptoleganomics** (*why Jesus is the ONLY way*)
3. **Salvificology** (*salvation is much more than a ticket to heaven*)
4. **Disciplification** (*practical tips on living the Christian life*)
5. **Bibliotectonics** (*the world's most earthshaking book*)
6. **Orthodoxtrines** (*what all Christians everywhere believe*)
7. **Alienpilgrimometry** (*your faith slams into your daily life*)

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(not "appendixes," that's an internal organ)

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PSSSST! HEY YOU (hay-YUE)

## **PSSSST! HEY YOU**

If you're sure you've surrendered your life to Jesus, skip this page. But if you're NOT so sure, I suggest you read this page very carefully. It's a matter of life and death.

*EVER HAD TO LEAVE SOMEONE'S HOUSE  
BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T PART OF THEIR  
FAMILY? THE PROBLEM'S NOT THAT THEY  
DON'T LIKE YOU - IT'S JUST THAT YOU  
DIDN'T BELONG THERE. BYE BYE.*

How do you "belong" in this world? Easy. You were **born**. How will you "belong" in the Kingdom of God? You'll have to be **born again**. And it has to happen now. Today's the day. Obey the command of Jesus to follow him and be born again. Head for **page 76** where you'll find stuff that will help you to be born again. Alright?

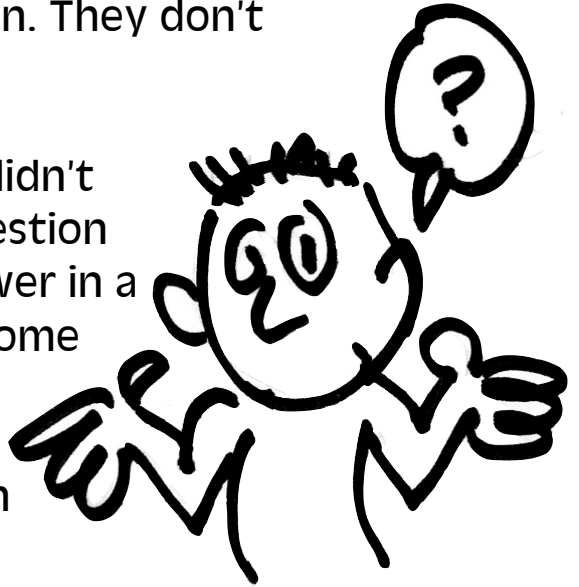
INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

**INTRODUCTION: CRYPT-O- what??!!**

Cryptoleganomics. There's one thing all world religions have in common. They don't work. Are you gettin' this?

If I asked you a question, but didn't actually tell you WHAT the question was, you'd NEVER get the answer in a million years. Sure you could come up with some biffy answers.

**But you have to know the question**, or all the answers in the world don't mean squat.



So what IS the question? Because if we can answer the question of what's the question, we have a chance of answering the answer to what's the question. If you need to reread that last sentence, I'll wait. Bottom line is, **Cryptoleganomics tackles the secret of why Jesus is the ONLY way to have real life.** Every other answer is a fake.

Romans 8:2 says, "**The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.**" Now listen. You wanna know the secret of life? You just now read it. This book is about THAT secret, and the secret is: **the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ.** Slow down a little and think about it. This is the ultimate practical idea. Read on!

*WHAT IF YOU POSSESSED A DOCUMENT  
THAT TOLD YOU THE RIGHT ANSWER FOR  
EVERY TEST YOU'D EVER TAKE IN SCHOOL?*

A key that unlocks every door. The password for every file. The entrance code for every gate. Would that be valuable? What would you give to have it? Not the fake stuff some people try to scam you with, but the real thing? **Jesus himself** is the **key** to life, the **password**, the entrance **code**. Legitimate. True. One and only. The real deal.



## INTRODUCTION (in-trow-DUCK-shun)

What is this **Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus**? It's the antidote to the Law of sin and death which says, if you do anything wrong, you have to die. I don't like the Law of sin and death. Trouble is, I don't get to make the laws. If we think it's cruel to have to die for doing wrong, think of how horrible it would be if we worshiped a God who didn't care how people behave. Ever been around a dog whose owner didn't even try to train it?

It's a good thing that there IS a Law of sin and death. But it's a better thing that there's another law. The Law of the Spirit of life in Christ is really what we've all been looking for. Live **connected** to the Holy Spirit. Learn to walk minute by minute **dialed-in** with Jesus. Heartfelt **obedience**. Antennae up. On the alert. "**Yes, Lord,**" our favorite prayer. This law results in life at it's most satisfying and nourishing level. What life was always supposed to be. Oh buddy, this is good stuff.

**What's this book about?** Listen up...

Lord Jesus, please  
teach me more  
about the Law of  
the Spirit of life in  
you, to learn to live  
by that law, not  
the Law of  
sin and death.

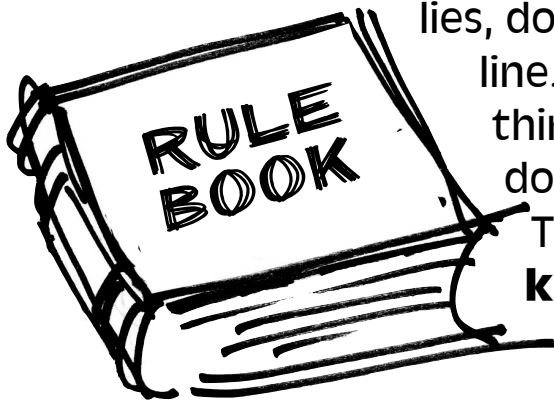
## CHAPTER ONE

# THE RIGHT WRONG CONUNDRUM

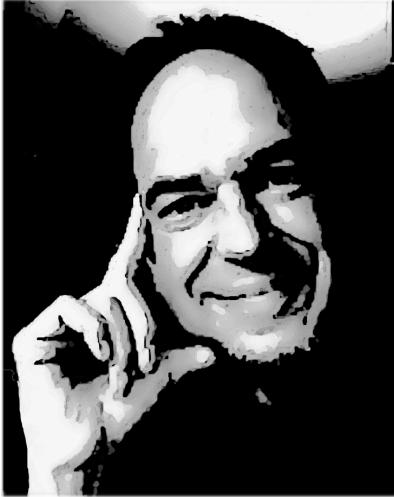
## WE KNOW WHAT WE OUGHTA DO. SO?

"Conundrum" is a fun word. It means a riddle, a quandary, a puzzle, a dilemma. So what's "the right wrong conundrum?" Simple. **Quite often, we do the very things we know we shouldn't do.** Example. We shouldn't talk behind someone's back. But have you heard about so-and-so and what they said to this other person? We shouldn't gossip but we still do. That's goofy.

For some odd reason, we all know the rules: don't disobey your parents, don't tell lies, don't be selfish, don't cut in line. Do people do these things? More to the point, do YOU do these things? That's the conundrum. We **know** right. We **do** wrong.



## CRYPTOLEGANOMICS (KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks)



C.S. LEWIS, WRITER OF THE LION THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, EXPLAINS THIS PROBLEM FURTHER. HE ASKS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DROP A STONE. IT OBEYS THE LAW OF GRAVITY AND FALLS. EVERY TIME. ACTUALLY, THE LAW OF GRAVITY IS SIMPLY A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THE STONE DOES

WHEN YOU HOLD IT UP AND LET GO. THE STONE DOESN'T SAY, "UMMM, I'VE GOT TO FALL!" IT OBEYS THE LAW OF GRAVITY NO QUESTIONS ASKED. NOT SO WITH US. ALTHOUGH WE KNOW NOT TO DO SOMETHING, WE STILL GO RIGHT AHEAD AND DO IT. HUMAN BEINGS ARE UNIQUE IN HAVING LAWS OF MORALITY WE ALL ACCEPT BUT THEN DECIDE TO BREAK. LAWS WE CHOOSE TO DISOBEY.

WHAT A CONUNDRUM.

## CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENCE

More than just not doing what we should, we end up doing the opposite. This condition is so odd, that many people today have given up and just said that there's no such thing as wrong behavior. How nice. Simply announce there IS no right and wrong and you can never again be accused of doing either one!

*WHAT IF YOU COULD DRIVE ON ANY PART OF THE ROAD, ANY DIRECTION AND ANY SPEED YOU WISHED? THAT WOULD BE FINE EXCEPT FOR THE OTHER CARS...*

Right and wrong are NOT a preference. They are not just a perspective. They're more real than the ground below us. They existed before the world began. And they're so totally IRRITATING. We keep finding ourselves violating the rules of right and wrong. The Biblical name for this rule is the Law of sin and **death**. Not a great law to break, huh?

**Genesis 2:15-17: "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die..."**

If I told you not to jump off a bridge or you'd die, would you still do it? You'd think that with these kinds of choices, we'd chose to do the things we get to live through. Not so much. Adam and Eve decided to do the very thing God promised would kill them.

Did they know? Yes. Did that matter? Apparently not.

Was that smart? I mean, you tell me. You don't have to have a university degree to know not to do those things that result in death.



## CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENCE

Wait. If God's so big on us doing right, maybe we can **bargain** with him. Maybe if we do enough right things, he'll HAVE to let us get into heaven. Here's the deal, God, I'm going to pet this cat instead of kicking it, so you have to let me through the pearly gates. As stupid as that sounds, there are still tons of people who believe that's how it works.

*WHAT IF A STRANGER WALKED UP TO YOUR DOOR AND TOLD YOU THEY DIDN'T STEAL A PENCIL SO YOU HAVE TO LET THEM COME INTO YOUR HOUSE AND LIVE? HELLO.*

God doesn't need us. He doesn't need our goodness or good deeds. **God doesn't need anything.** We have no bargaining power with God. Whether we're good or bad, God is still God. He can do as he pleases. The truth is, God made the Law of sin and death to warn us about doing things that will kill us.

CRYPTOLEGANOMICS (KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks)

**James 1:13-15 "God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, gives birth to death."**

Apparently, we're our own worst enemy. We cry out, "It wasn't me! The DEVIL made me do it!" But nobody buys that. It's a conundrum. We know how we ought to behave and then we turn around and don't even attempt to behave that way. And it's KILLING us.

**Romans 7:15,18 & 19 "I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it... I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway." [NLT]**



## CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENCE

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

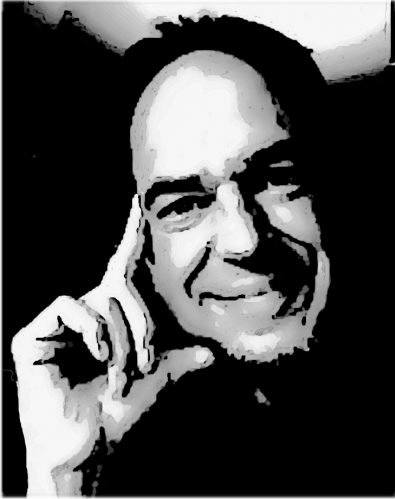
Genesis 3:6-11

## CRYPTOLEGANOMICS (KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks)

The **innocence** is gone. The reality is that we deliberately do wrong things. We can't claim we didn't know, unlike the song lyric that says, "Whatever I said, whatever I did, I didn't mean it!" We know EXACTLY what we said and exactly what we did, and we did it knowing it was wrong. The result? We've lost touch with God. Cut off from God, the source of life, how can we survive?

Remember the stone we talked about on page 12? It obeys the law. It never thinks otherwise. What strange creatures we humans are! Stupid rocks behave better! We have rules of behavior but we don't have the sense to obey them. You think I'm talking about this conundrum too much? The truth is, nobody talks about it at all these days. The law of sin and death is so obvious that it takes really clever people to overlook it. And everyone knows, you can't fix a problem until you know what the problem actually is.

## CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENCE



THERE WILL BE PEOPLE WHO'LL TRY TO TELL YOU THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD IS THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE OR THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE. SOME WILL SAY THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD IS MONEY OR GREED. SOME SAY IT'S MEN, SOME SAY IT'S WOMEN. SOME WILL SAY

THAT THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD IS THAT THERE'S NOT ENOUGH LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING. SOME WILL SAY THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD IS THAT WE NEED TO JUST DO WHATEVER WE FEEL LIKE DOING AND NOT HOLD BACK. THE PEOPLE WHO SAY ALL THESE THINGS ARE FULL OF OATMEAL. YOU KNOW BETTER. THE PROBLEM WITH THE WORLD IS THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

PERIOD. END OF STORY.

CRYPTOLEGANOMICS (KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks)

Romans 7:21 **"It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong."** [NLT]

*WHAT IF YOU DROPPED A ROCK AND THE ROCK WOULDN'T FALL? YOU ASK THE ROCK WHY IT WON'T FALL AND THE ROCK SAYS, I DON'T FEEL LIKE FALLING, WHAT KIND OF WORLD WOULD THAT BE?*

The bottom line? We have a rule we can't get around called the Law of sin and death. **Do right and live, do wrong and die.** We all mean to do right, but we all end up doing wrong. What an odd thing to know that if we behave a certain way that we'll die, and then we go ahead and behave that way. Nothing else in the universe breaks the law the way we do. You'd think we were not very bright. But it's not that we ARE dumb, it's that **we ACT like we're dumb!** It's a real problem.

CHAPTER 1: THE PRINCIPLE OF **CONSCIENCE**

**Q&A 1**

Q What's a conundrum? As the human race, what's our specific conundrum?

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Q What's "the Law of sin and death?" Is it real? What happens when you disobey it?

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Q Are you sure we can't just do a bunch of right things to cancel out the wrong ones?

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CRYPTOLEGANOMICS (KRIPT-oh-LEEG-uh-NOM-iks)

**PRAYER** (be sure to say it your own way)

Lord Jesus, I have a  
problem. I want to  
do the right things,  
but I seem to mess  
up all the time. I  
don't want to do  
wrong. Help me!

If you like this book, you might like more of what Alan's done for older kids and their families:

AVAILABLE AT ALAN'S WEBSITE

**[www.alanroot.com](http://www.alanroot.com)**

### **CDs**

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Beyond the Farthest Star

At the Rescue of Me

We're Not in Kansas Anymore

Lift Him Up

Fortunate Recipient

The Maker and the Master

### **DVD**

Saturday Morning All Week Long

### **BOOKS**

The Toolbox Books series (see page 4)!

**DON'T FORGET JESUS LOVES YOU,  
FOR REAL AND FOR KEEPS.**