

## **“Great Texts of the Bible”**

**A sermon series preached at Grace Baptist Church by Pastor Dave Lueloff**

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# Servant Forever

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**Deuteronomy 15:12** *And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.*

**Deuteronomy 15:13-14** *And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.*

**Deuteronomy 15:15-17** *And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day. And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee; Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust *it* through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.*

Here is an account of a slave in the O.T.

## Freedom of a Slave

The slave is not only to go free after six years of service, but is to be furnished by his master with the means of setting up a home for himself.

However, a slave may decide to continue to serve as a slave to his master – on the basis of

## Love for His Master

**Deuteronomy 15:16** *And it shall be, if he say unto thee, I will not go away from thee; because he loveth thee and thine house, because he is well with thee...*

Then the slave will stay to serve his master.

On the slave declaring to his master his unwillingness to go free, the master might take him before the judges, or magistrates (literally "gods") as witnesses, and perhaps registrars of the man's declaration, and might then reconduct him to his house, and by a significant ceremony mark him as his slave "for ever." The ceremony consisted in boring through one of his ears with an awl, and driving the awl into the door or doorpost of the house, thereby attaching him physically to the dwelling of which he became thenceforth a permanent inmate. PULPIT

## An Aul Thrust into His Ear – a Marked Man

**Deuteronomy 15:17** *Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust *it* through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.*

The custom of boring the ear as a mark of slavery appears to have been a common one in ancient times, observed in many nations. BARNES

What does any of this have to do with 2017?

**Deuteronomy 15:15** And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

Israel was in slavery - delivered by the Blood of the lamb applied to the door posts of the house.

We too, were enslaved to sin – salvation delivered us from the penalty of sin and one day will deliver us from the presence of sin.

### **We are liberated “in Christ”**

**Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

**Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

**John 8:32-36** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

### **We too can choose to be a servant / a slave of Jesus Christ**

This is a Bible concept: N.T. word for slave is *doulos* – those who are the slave of Jesus Christ are those who make an impact on this world.

Here are the N.T. people who were *doulos* for Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 2:7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle...

**Colossians 4:12** Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a servant of Christ...

**James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...

**2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ...

**Jude 1:1** Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James...

**Rev. 1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his **servant** John:

**Rev. 15:3** And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God...

## Why would anyone do that?

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**1 Corinthians 16:15** I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

- **It Must Be Willingly**

**Deuteronomy 15:12** *And* if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.

**Exodus 25:2** Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it **willingly with his heart** ye shall take my offering.

**Exodus 25:8** And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

**Acts 9:6** And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?** And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

- **It Must Be Motivated by Love**

**Luke 14:33** So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Why would anyone do this?

**Deuteronomy 15:15** And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in the land of Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee: therefore I command thee this thing to day.

I was slave to sin – now I ought to be a slave to Christ.

Christ delivered me from sin – I love my Master – I will willingly give my heart to Him / willingly be a slave to Him / willingly obey whatever He says

- **The Ear:** he was bound to hear all his master's orders, and to obey them punctually

**Deuteronomy 15:17** Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust *it* through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

**Isaiah 50:5** The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

**Revelation 2:7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

**Matthew 13:15** For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

- **The Door of the House**

**Deuteronomy 15:17** Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust *it* through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.

**1 Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- **Marked – a marked man / woman**

You will never be the same. Your ear is marked.

- **Excuses Luke 14**

Luke 14:16-23 – More important place, possession, person...

Difficult for a human being to let loose of the heart / Give your heart 100% to Lord – would take a supernatural help – and yes there is – the Holy Ghost will help you...if you take first step – by faith!

- **Few Will Give Their Ear**

Accounts of Jesus shortly after his resurrection - in each of 4 gospels

This is the cream of the crop of humanity:

**Matthew 28:16-17** Then the **eleven disciples went away into Galilee**, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. **And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.**

**Mark 16:9-11** Now when *Jesus* was risen early the first *day* of the week, **he appeared first to Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had cast seven devils. **And she went and told them** that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And **they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.**

**Mark 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.**

**Luke 24:9-11 (angels tell them he is risen)** **And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.** It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary *the mother* of James, and other *women that were* with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And **their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.**

**Luke 24:24-25** And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then **he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**

**John 20:24-25** But **Thomas**, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The **other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord.** But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Would you trust God with all your heart / with all your life? It is a rare person that will. We love ourselves / we want control of our lives / we don't really trust God completely / we have unbelief

The best life is a surrendered life. Yield your heart / give your heart / trust God ...

God does not look at what you do; nor listen to what you say – he looks at your heart. Is your heart right with God?

Have you given your heart to Christ for salvation?

After salvation – have you given all your heart to Christ – are you yielded to Him – your ear – does he have your ear? Whatever He says to you, you will obey?

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## So Great An Entrance 2 Pet. 1:8-11, 1 John 2:28

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Review:

Vs. 1 To the Saved – “Like Precious Faith”

Vs. 3-4 We have all we need

Vs. 5-7 All Diligence - Add graces – virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness & charity

There are only 2 responses to this: 1) I am adding to my faith or 2) I am not adding to my faith

Here is what the Bible says to you:

### 1) You are not adding to your faith

...**he that lacketh these things is blind**, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

You are blind – blinded to the Christian life – a life of growth / a life of relationship of loving the Lord Jesus Christ / a life of progress / a life of purpose / a life of spiritual discernment

...he that lacketh these things is blind, and **cannot see afar off**

**Revelation 3:16-17** So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Headed for heaven – yet only live for things of this life! Oh, my – what a regret there will be. Many ask – why should I serve God – that is a very selfish question. Heaven forever / sin paid for / you can be saved and very selfish – and Bible calls it BLIND! Same approach to life as an unsaved person.

...he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath **forgotten that he was purged from his old sins**

Can forget that you are even saved. Or may be that you just have never been born again. How can you tell the difference between a lost person and a worldly saved person – there is no difference! Both are blinded.

If you are lacking: virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness & charity

Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure:

**2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?



Many lost people – never been born again. Many saved people live like a lost person because they do not give all diligence to add to their faith.

It is job of pastor – to try to wake you up - Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence** to make your calling and election sure.

Or you could be in the second category

## **2) You are adding to your faith** (giving all diligence... vs. 5)

**if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that**

- *ye shall neither **be** barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**for if ye do these things,**

- **ye shall never fall**
- **For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

3 things are for you is you are adding... virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness & charity

**Neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**

Not be without purpose – will be fruitful in storing up treasures in heaven!

**Ye shall never fall**

Not stumble in this life – for the next life:

**Philippians 1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

**So an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom**

This describes the manner you will be received when 1) you die or 2) the Rapture occurs. You will either be glad you served the Lord or you will be ashamed.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear**, we may **have confidence**, and not be **ashamed before him** at his coming.

What kind of entrance in the everlasting kingdom will you have? You ultimately decide.

What other commentators say of this verse:

**2 Peter 1:11** For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

BARNES In this manner you shall be admitted into the kingdom of God.

BURKITT There are four sorts of persons spoken of in scripture:

- Some are said to be far from the kingdom of God, afar off from God, as Heathens and Infidels, who know not God.
- Others are said not to be far from the kingdom of God, who yet will never come there.
- Others are scarcely saved, saved with great difficulty, so as by fire, with much dross of error in judgment, and corruption in life.
- Others are said to have an abundant entrance administered to them into the everlasting kingdom, and these are the fruitful Christians, who are daily adding to their graces...

CLARKE ...an abundant, free, honorable, and triumphant entrance shall be ministered to you into the everlasting kingdom.

PULPIT ...the entrance shall be richly supplied. Peter seems to imply that there will be degrees of glory hereafter proportioned to our faithfulness in the use of God's gifts here.

WESLEY Ye shall go in full triumph to glory

How can I be ready for heaven? 2 Pet. Chapter 1 has the answer.

**2 Peter 1:5** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith...

**John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in him; that, **when he shall appear, we may have confidence,** and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

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\*\*\*\* Baptism Stacy \*\*\*\*

# Add to Your Faith... Part 1

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This part of a four-part series – 2 weeks – the faith that saves is...“all faith.” Peter walked on water with ‘all faith’ and began to sink – Jesus said – ‘O, ye of little faith.” Last week – add to your faith...

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Last week we covered adding these graces: Virtue / Knowledge / Temperance / Patience / Godliness  
Today – we will cover adding these graces: Brotherly Kindness & Charity

## Brotherly Kindness

- It is an evidence of salvation

**1 John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

**1 John 4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

If you love a parent – you will love their son / daughter ---

You say you love God – but don’t love His son / daughter?

- Testimony to the Lost

**John 13:34-35** A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men know that ye are my disciples*, if ye have love one to another.

People watch what you do – not what you say. We want people to listen to what we say...but the reality is you are noted for your actions.

“I love God” – don’t go to God’s house / don’t witness / don’t read Bible / don’t tithe / don’t love saved  
These are the Kindergarten of the Christian life

Every new Christian will pick up on these – let me say – I did...

You get born again / Christ lives in you / heaven is your home / and you don’t change? All I know is I got the real deal – it transformed my life – I just figure everyone else that gets it – God should do the same for them...

I may be expecting too much – I just know God worked on my life – figure He do same to you.

- Taught By God

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

How do you know to do this? Taught of God.

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; **and to brotherly kindness charity.**

### Charity

**1 Corinthians 13:13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

**The greatest of all graces** - Virtue / Knowledge / Temperance / Patience / Godliness / Brotherly Kindness **Is Charity** – all others are good, wonderful, needful....but charity is the greatest.

What is greatest thing you can do? Love – Love God, Love People.

“I love God, I just don’t like people...God so loved the world...God so loved you.

You love God – natural outcome is – you will love people.

**1 Corinthians 13:1** **Though** I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

An eloquent speaker without charity is NOISE.

**1 Corinthians 13:2** And **though** I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and **though** I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **and have not charity, I am nothing.**

Wonderful Gifts without charity are nothing

**1 Corinthians 13:3** And **though** I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, **and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.**

Great Sacrifice without charity is worthless.

### Without love = Nothing

- We are to love the unlovable

**Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- It is a fruit of the Spirit      **Gal. 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...

- It is the essence of Christ's life

Every act, every moment, every thought and every deed in life of Jesus Christ was accompanied and motivated by LOVE. WOW What a wonderful Saviour.

- Jesus summed up the entire O.T.

**Matthew 22:37-39** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

- Love is a command:

**Ephesians 5:2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

**Matthew 5:44** But I say unto you, Love your enemies

Those are both commands – you are to love – not an option – a command to love...

**Ephesians 5:1** Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

How do we become a follower of God? Eph. 5:1 --- read Eph. 5:2!

- The Example of Christ is found in the parable of the Good Samaritan

**Luke 10:30** A **certain man went down** from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, **leaving him half dead.**

Religious people passed by on other side – who cared for this person?

**Luke 10:33-34** But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion *on him*, And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

STORY IS ABOUT – LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR

**Luke 10:27-29** ...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; **and thy neighbour as thyself.** And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right...But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

**Luke 10:36-37** Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, **Go, and do thou likewise.**

Jesus loved us when we were unlovable – we are to “pass it on”

***One beggar telling another beggar where he found food***

## Add to Your Faith... Part 2

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This part of a three or four-part series – last week – the faith that saves is...“all faith.” Peter walked on water with ‘all faith’ and began to sink – Jesus said – ‘O, ye of little faith.’

If you are saved:

**2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Today – add to your faith:

**2 Peter 1:5-7** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

### **Faith is just the starting point**

John 3:3 is the start of a new life. Getting saved is not the end – it is just the beginning. Leaving Egypt via the Blood of the Passover Lamb applied to their door-posts of the house was not the end – it was just the beginning of a journey to the Promised Land.

We **are to add these graces** to our life. The Fruit of the Spirit come from living a Spirit-filled life. These are graces we are to add. **How can we do this?** Verse 3 and 4 tells us we have the tools to make it happen.

**2 Peter 1:3-4** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that **by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption** that is in the world through lust.

**God doesn't ask us to do something that we are incapable of doing.** He always provides us with help to make us “able to do.” You are supposed to witness for Jesus Christ:

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that **the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

God has given us what we need - Therefore – there is no excuse!

We have promises of God / indwelling Holy Spirit / very Word of God / new divine nature

All we need...

**2 Peter 1:5** And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

Give it your best effort / do your very best / not half-hearted / not on back burner

This is a matter of your testimony – who you are / This is your inner character / You can fool some of the people most of the time; most of the people some of the time; cannot fool all the people... can never fool God / don't listen to what someone says – watch their life – that is the real you.

You are to ADD to your faith these graces. They are to be cultivated / they are obtained by living by the grace of God / your life should progress / anything with life...grows

- **Virtue**

Uprightness; moral character; manly courage

**Joshua 1:9** Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee whithersoever thou goest.

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

- **Knowledge**

True Christian virtue will lead on to knowledge. Double-minded people waver between right and wrong; they profess to hate sin, but they have a lingering love for it; and so they do not attain to victory in the conflict against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

This knowledge should change your life. 1 day in eternity is as 1,000 years; 1,000 years as 1 day!

Knowledge & virtue go hand in hand. A lot of people want to tell others how to live their life – only one worthy of following is one who is leading by example.

**1 Corinthians 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Maxwell: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

- **Temperance**

Temperance (self-control) enables a man to govern his appetites, and to keep them under the sovereign rule of conscience. Without that self-control there is no unity of purpose.

The Christian must strive to devote his energies to the one thing needful; and to do that he must keep under his body and bring it into subjection.

Faith, Knowledge and Virtue sees earthly desires as fleeting and eternal things as that which truly matters.

**Colossians 3:1-2** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Treat members of the family of God ---- as family:

**1 Timothy 5:1-2** Rebuke not an elder, but intreat *him* as a father; *and* the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

- **Patience**

**Romans 8:25** But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

“Some of God's people have to wait for him in patient endurance, some to work for him in active labour. Both may serve him with equal faithfulness. It is not outward work in itself, but inner faithfulness of spirit, that wins the praise of God.” PULPIT HELPS

He who controls his appetites will learn to endure hardness. Patience – need patience

Paul's life:

**2 Timothy 3:10-12** But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

Your life:

**Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,



- **Godliness**

‘A godly man sets God always before him; the thought of God controls his whole life; his effort is to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, to live unto the Lord, to seek his glory only.

This holy reverence for the felt presence of God can only be maintained in the life of faith and self-control; in the worldly life of mere pleasure and business it cannot flourish.

To walk with God:

God is the center of a life of godliness; and to fix the eye of the soul on him we must learn the great lesson, love not the world.’ PULPIT HELPS

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

**2 Peter 3:11** *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

Faith – All Faith saves us

You change from the inside out

Add these graces:

Virtue / Knowledge / Temperance / Patience / Godliness

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# Peter Walks On Water = All Faith

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Text Matt. 14:22-32

The disciples got in to the ship – constrained by Jesus to go – Jesus compelled them.

Did Jesus know a storm was coming? Yes. Jesus was trying to teach them. Storms are a place to learn how to rest upon God's grace; to learn to trust God; to learn to live by faith.

So, what is Jesus doing – vs. 23-24? Jesus was praying for them in midst of a storm.

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

**Romans 8:27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

**Romans 8:34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Have a storm-tossed life? Who cares? Who is praying for you?

Re-read Romans 8:26-36. The Trinity is praying for you.

**Matthew 14:27** But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

If Jesus is there, there is peace / there is reason to believe, “Be of good cheer”

When did Jesus say, Be of good cheer?

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer;** I have overcome the world.

**Acts 23:10-11** And when there **arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them**, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring *him* into the castle. And the **night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul:** for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

In midst of huge storm called Euroclydon; twice Paul tells them to be of good cheer. Acts 27

Hey, heaven is for ever / heartache is only temporary. This is closest thing to hell for saved. Be of good cheer.

Jesus is walking on water.

**Matthew 14:25** And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

All the disciples saw Jesus walking on water – every last one of them that was in the ship – they all saw the same thing. Peter gets an idea.

Maybe I can walk on water too? If you had never read the Bible, you would laugh.

**Matt. 14:28** And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

Peter asks permission to do the impossible. He is given the “Ok” vs. 29 and goes for it.

**Peter stepped out of the boat.** But he did not foolishly step out of the boat – he got permission.

Faith must have a foundation. Faith must have a “rhyme and reason”

Heb. Ch 11 Great Faith chapter – all did the will of God for themselves. It was will of God for Noah to build an ark. It was will of God for Abraham to start walking...not knowing whether he went.

You need to be encouraged to step out of the boat – do something for God. Don’t come to this earth, fall in love with all the things of this earth – leave this earth – and never step out of the boat.

Just remember – before you step out of boat – get permission – permission from God

Faith – finding the will of God & doing it. Faith based upon the Bible

To be saved – it is in Bible – 2 Pet. 3:9 Faith rests upon the Bible

To tithe – don’t need a vision – Mal. 3:8-10 Faith rests upon Bible

To be faithful to church – Heb 10:25 Faith rests upon the Bible

You find the will of God – Plain teaching within the Bible

Nudging of the Holy Spirit to do something

Ask God for something unusual (Like Peter did)

King David – I’m going to build God a house

Paul – I’m going to Jerusalem

Peter – I’m going to walk on water – ok?

### **Faith must be All Faith**

There are extremes in Bible – Opposites:

Flesh / Spirit

Jesus / Judas

Lover of God / Lover of Money

Faith / Doubt

If you are to have Faith – it is to be All Faith – if doubt creeps in – it becomes Little Faith!

Peter went from **Faith** to **Little Faith** from vs. 29-31

## The Key to Faith is All Faith – Nothing Doubting

**James 1:6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

**Mustard Seed = All Mustard** Apple = skin, seeds, core, edible part / Banana = peel, nub, edible part

### Faith like Mustard Seed = All Faith

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**Matthew 17:20** And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Luke 17:6** And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

**1 Corinthians 13:2** And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. \*\*\*\*\*

### Faith & Doubt Not = All Faith

**Mark 11:23** For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

**Matthew 21:21** Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this *which is done* to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

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All Faith – Get permission / Step out of the Boat / Doubt not – just keep believing God

**Matthew 14:30** But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

**Matthew 14:32** And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

The storms were there to test Peter – he failed the test. God wants you to step out – and just trust Him.

Faith wavers: Reality hits you – doing something supernatural / unplanned storms / circumstances...

## **Few Walk on Water**

Have you ever stepped out of the boat?

Millions in wilderness – who would trust God to move forward and cross Jordan – or should we stay in our comfort zone? 3 believed God – only 3

Goliath – attacked the reputation of Jehovah – who would stand up and trust God? 1 David

Thousands in Babylonian Captivity – who will stand up for their core beliefs? Daniel & 3 Hebrew children.

Many disciples in ship – who would even consider to walk on water? 1 Peter

None of the other disciples joined in and said – hey maybe I can too.

There is no textbook on “How to walk on water”

### **You only have one life to do something for God.**

SEE Matt. 26:7-15 Contrast these 2 lives

Peter – only lived one time – I am sure he was glad he did what he could. He failed to – failed greatly. He denied the Lord three times, went out and wept; he preached at Pentecost... had ups and downs in life.

He died – upside down – crucified upside down for his faith.

You want no ups and downs – don’t do anything.

Want something great on the inside – get permission from God – then step out of the boat.

### **When Waves are Over Your Head; They’re Under His Feet**

**Matthew 14:30-31** But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

### **You may start to sink – but He won’t let you drown.**

It is my job as pastor – to challenge you / to lead you / to encourage you to

STEP OUT OF THE BOAT – just get permission first

You get the “OK” from God – now you are living by faith.

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# Friend of Sinners

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Jesus Christ – Friend of Sinners

**Luke 5:27-32** And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

**Luke 7:34** The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

**Luke 15:1-2** Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

Of all the names and titles of the Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps the most near and dear to your heart ought to be the title, Friend of Sinners. Because, truly you are a great sinner. The more you see the Lord as the holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, the more you see yourself for what you are – sinful.

If you refuse to acknowledge your sinfulness, one day, you will be speechless – as you will stand before a holy God and give an account of all your sins.

BTW – the only sin that will damn a soul is the sin of unbelief

**John 16:8** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:  
**John 16:9** Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Your sins have been paid for – Paid in full. So the sin of unbelief damns a soul – the rejection of the remedy for sins – the blood of Jesus Christ.

We that are saved know we have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ

**1 Peter 1:18-19** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**1 Corinthians 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**1 Corinthians 7:23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

But His Blood was shed for all sinners - ALL

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

**Hebrews 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily shall **bring in damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Jesus said: **Luke 5:31-32** And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

**Sinners = sick     Jesus = Physician**

How are you feeling – if feeling pretty good – no need for Jesus. If feeling sin-sick; there is a Doctor in the House – the Lord Jesus Christ is present today – to forgive!

When multitudes came near – Jesus preached --- Give God 100% / Be willing to give all

When those who heard were convicted – He then gave a simple message

SEE Luke 14:25 & Luke 15:1-2

If you are a sinner / you know you are a sinner / you are sorry for your sin against God – there is good news – you are the one that Jesus Christ will give a simplistic message:

- 100 sheep – 1 lost

**Luke 15:7** I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

- 10 pieces of silver – 1 lost

**Luke 15:10** Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- You ready to find forgiveness – John 3:16 / Rom 10:13

**Isaiah 45:22** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

**John 10:9** I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**Acts 16:31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

What will keep one away from forgiveness?

Pride / Willfulness / Self-righteousness / Unbelief / Holding onto a Sin

The Holy Spirit has worked – It doesn't matter what church you've been a member of; what you have done for the Lord; how long you have been in church... what does matter -

Have you met the Friend of Sinners?

He is ready to save	Willing to forgive	Wanting to forgive	Loves to forgive
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Come to Christ today – be forgiven

If unsaved – give your heart to God today – find Friend of Sinners

We will have an invitation – you are invited to come to an old fashioned altar and give your heart to Jesus Christ.

If saved – and not right with God – give your heart anew

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# Jesus is the Life

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**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

## Life started

**Genesis 1:27** So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

**Genesis 2:7** And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Life started about 4,200 years ago in the Garden of Eden. It was not an ameba that produced a bird and a fish and a snake and a spider and an ape and then a man – where did woman come in?

**Genesis 2:21-22** And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

## Why do we need “The Life?”

We are dead – what? How can one say we are dead?

**Ephesians 2:1** And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Dead in trespasses and sins

**Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

They ate – did they fall over dead? No. Did God lie? No. How can this be?

Their spirit died, their body was dying and their soul was going to die. But the immediate death is in the spirit. The spirit – the area where God intended to live – is dead.

**Romans 7:9** For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

A child is born in innocence – ever look into a baby’s eyes and see the innocence. It is there – they are innocent. But soon, their sin nature rears up – and Rom. 7:9 becomes a truism.

ILL – Josh – don’t touch the TV ... cry as he was walking to touch the TV. Our sin nature

Nature of dog to bark / nature of bird to fly / nature of you = sin

If unsaved – you need life.

God is Author of Life. Here is what Bible teaches about Life

### **Word of God has Life / Both Jesus & Bible are referred to as Word of Life**

**Philippians 2:16** Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

**1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Bible is alive –

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

When I got saved – I got ahold of a KJV Bible – it is alive ... soon thereafter it got a hold of me.

Alive – it will convict you of your sin / it will expose your deceit and sin / it will give you salvation

God uses the Word of God and the Spirit of God to save your soul

### **Spirit of God gives life**

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**John 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Are you saved? Life in your spirit or dead in sins? During preaching – what happens? Alive or dead

God speak to you or are you trying to quiet the still small voice.

Salvation = the blood of Jesus Christ quiets the voice of condemnation

### **In Jesus is life / eternal life**

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

### **Physical death does not end it all**

**John 11:25** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

No – there is a judgment – God the Creator means everyone is accountable to the Judge of all the earth.

If we came from evolution, no facing a judgment. If creation is true, then

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Rewards will be given - -

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Think of this mystery – if you die a physical death as a martyr – you get a Crown of Life!

**Revelation 2:10** Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

### **God is keeping track – in books**

**Revelation 20:11-12** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The Book of Life – is your name written down in heaven?

There's a new name written down in glory

And it's mine, oh yes its mine

And the white robed angels tell the story

A sinner has come home...

Life – the Holy Spirit give you life

Jesus – in Jesus is eternal life

Bible – Life / Alive – allow it to stir you

Death – waiting for the resurrection – Life

Book ... Book of Life

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# Jesus is the Truth

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**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, **the truth**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 1:14** And the **Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us**, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth**.

**John 1:17** For the law was given by Moses, *but* **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ**.

**Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

"There was but one way in which man could learn God, and that was by God becoming man. "The Word became flesh." We learn Divine truth in the ministry, the life, of God's Son. The truth as to God's character we read in the deeds of Immanuel, so gentle, yet so grand and God-like. The truth as to God's purposes of love we learn from Christ's sacrifice, from Christ's cross. The truth concerning our salvation we know when we witness Christ's victory over sin and death. It is the complete picture which portrays the complete original; he who would acquaint himself with the whole truth of God, as far as God is related to man, must take into his mind the perfect and glorious representation offered in the gospel. There is no other way in which the truth can be grasped and held by the finite, created nature. Know him who *is* the Truth; and then, then only, do you know the truth itself." PULPIT HELPS

The preacher ought to be – truth – preach the truth; live the truth; seek the truth; be truthful...

But we all fall short of the Truth – He is not only true, but truth itself – Christ embodies all that Truth is – I seek to be TRUTH – No LIE.... He is The way, The Truth...

**John 18:38** Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

## What is Truth?

Absolute -

Unchanging –

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and to-day, *yea* and for ever.

**Malachi 3:6** For I, Jehovah, change not; therefore ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed

**Psalms 119:89** For ever, O Jehovah, Thy word is settled in heaven.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

True in every language, culture, society and world – not only in this world, but in the world to come.

### Opposite of Truth - Lie

**John 8:44** Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because **there is no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **he is a liar, and the father of it**.

### Where Can Truth Be Found / Who is Truth? What or Who Embodies Truth?

Not a human being /sinner by nature – we can strive to be truthful / but we will fulfill & verify Rom. 3:23

### Holy Spirit

**John 14:17** *Even* the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the **Spirit of truth**, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

### Word of God

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth**.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but **as it is in truth**, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

### What will Truth do for you?

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Joh 8:32** *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

**Joh 8:33** They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

### RELIGIOUS

**Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*

**Joh 8:35** *And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.*

**Joh 8:36** *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

**Galatians 1:4** who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father:

**Truth is the answer to your sin problem.** Sin – you are slave to sin.

**You are servant to sin. It is your nature.** You can try to be good

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

**Romans 3:10** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Who will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone?

...the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars...

**Mark 7:21-22** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

You cannot fool God – Adam tried to hid from God; Jonah tried to run from God...

**Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

**Psalms 139:7-8** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*.

God is everywhere – He sees your heart. He is truth? What is in your heart?

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Warning – if you rebel against the truth

**Romans 2:8** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

**Galatians 4:16** Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

It is between you & God – don't resist the Holy Spirit – do you feel the tug on your spirit? Do you feel God Himself speaking to you? Yield to God.

**Philippians 2:10-11** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Bow the knee – an act of humility / act of surrender / act of honor / lowly sinner bowing before the Holy, Holy Holy Lord God Almighty

**1 Timothy 2:4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Thessalonians 2:10-11** And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

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## Jesus is the Way (Text Jn. 14:6; Acts 9:2)

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**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jesus is the **Way**: place along which one travels, *way, road, path, street, highway*; an act of traveling *journey, way, course*

Which WAY are you headed?

Only 1 of 2 ways – saved or lost / heaven bound or hell bound / forgiven or condemned

- **A Hated Way**

Jesus is THE Way / Christians follow THAT Way

**Acts 9:2** And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he **found any of this way**, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

**Acts 22:4** And I **persecuted this way unto the death**, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

**Acts 19:9** But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but **spake evil of that way...**

**Acts 19:23** And the same time there arose **no small stir about that way.**

- **The Only Way**

**Acts 4:12** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Only way to have sins forgiven – Jesus

- **The Narrow Way**

**Matthew 7:13-14** Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because **strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life**, and few there be that find it.

- **The Few Way**

**Matthew 7:14** Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, **and few there be that find it.**

**Matthew 7:21-22** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

**Matthew 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- **The Born Again Way**

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

A supernatural birth – a miracle – God gives your spirit a birth (life)

- **The Blood Pays for Your Sin Way**

**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Way to Holy God – each thru blood of Jesus**

**Mark 15:37-38** And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

**To Reject the Way of the Blood Brings Punishment**

**Hebrews 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

**Hebrews 10:28** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

**Hebrews 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

- **Not Will of God for You To Reject the Way**

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- **It is the Way to heaven**

What is way to heaven? Jesus – Got him? He said, I am the Way

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

- **It is the Way to peace**

**Ephesians 2:14** For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

- **It is the Way to purpose**

Gave my life direction – what gave my life direction? The Way – Jesus is the Way.

**God will give you understanding of spiritual things** – of the greatness of your sin – of need of Savior:

**Acts 24:22** And when Felix heard these things, having more perfect knowledge of *that* way, he deferred them, and said, When Lysias the chief captain shall come down, I will know the uttermost of your matter.

**Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

## **Response**

**Acts 24:25** And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

**Acts 17:4** And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

**Acts 28:24** And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

Would you be saved today? Not difficult – simplicity in the Way

Way: place along which one travels, *way, road, path, street, highway*; an act of traveling *journey, way, course*

Saved – stay along the Way – keep following Jesus – He is the Way

**Hebrews 4:13** Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

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# Last Days of Jesus

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**Matthew 26:3-4** Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*.

**Matthew 27:1-2** When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led *him* away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

2 Days until Passover Matt. 26:2

One day -- Seek to kill Him Matt. 26:4

Next Day – Matt. 26:17

Day After – Crucified Matt. 27:1

The Bible is THE BOOK about humanity. It is applicable for 2017. We can look at this chapter and see how it applies to us today. There are 4 things we will look at in this chapter:

- 1) Religious leaders seek to kill him
- 2) Judas betrays Jesus
- 3) False witnesses
- 4) Blood is shed for sins

- **Religious Leaders Seek to Kill Him**

**Matthew 26:3-4** Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*.

The religious rulers of Israel were the ones that sought to kill Jesus.

Religion has always been an enemy of Christianity.

Religion – do, do, do

I try to be good

Try to be saved by works

Self-effort

Christianity – It is done – I cannot do anything to be saved – it is done

I am no good – I am sinner

saved by grace – not of myself

nothing I can do – but Look to Christ

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- **Judas Betrays Jesus**

**Matthew 26:14-16** Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Judas sold his soul for 30 pieces of silver.

Judas died over his love of money. You may not be Judas, but whatever keeps you from being saved is what you are exchanging for your soul.

**Matthew 16:26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Holy Spirit will shine a light inside your heart & let you know what is keeping you from being saved:

Your will          Pride    Rebellion          Sin of immorality          Drugs or Alcohol

Love of Money          What people will think of you if you get saved

Look at what Jesus did for you:

**Matthew 26:39** And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.

**Matthew 26:42** He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

He gave His will to God, the Father / He yielded to God completely / Here He determined to yield to crucifixion.

I am so glad I yielded myself to God and got born again. Don't put it off.

- **False Witnesses**

**Matthew 26:59-60** Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

They twisted the words of Jesus.

**Matthew 26:61** And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

They quoted the Bible – but twisted it. There are false witnesses in 2017:

Only the elect can be saved                      Have to be baptized to be saved

No need to repent, just repeat this prayer

Jesus is not Deity, just a good man              Jesus is not Deity, just a god

LORD or LIAR -- if liar, 2 choices:

Knew it was a lie he died for that lie = foolish  
Did not know it was a lie = Lunatic

Hence – Lord, Liar or Lunatic

**He is Lord**

**Ponder this statement**

**Matthew 26:53** Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

If this is true, the nails did not hold Him to the cross – LOVE did.

- **Blood is Shed**

**Matthew 26:28** For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Before Jesus shed His blood – He had the Lord's Supper with His disciples. He took the cup... that cup represented His blood which was to be shed for sins... He took the cup...and gave thanks!

Thank you Father – this cup – represents my blood – will pay for sins of Dave Lueloff & sins of whole world. **Your sins have been paid for.**

**His blood was shed for all**

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**His blood was shed – even for false witnesses / for false prophets...**

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even **denying the Lord that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

## **His blood is your ticket to heaven**

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

**Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Hebrews 10:12** But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

**Hebrews 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

**Hebrews 10:27** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

**Hebrews 10:28** He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

**Hebrews 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**Hebrews 10:30** For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

**Hebrews 10:31** *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The Blood of Jesus Christ – the only solution for sins – there is no other message for SINS.

Trust Jesus Christ as Your Savior and put your faith in His blood today..

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation **through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

## **The Song in heaven**

**Revelation 5:9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for **thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

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# What Think Ye?

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**Matthew 22:42** Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son* of David.

What THINK ye? Thoughts come and go. Some of our choosing; some just come; some good; some evil...but ultimately, you choose your thoughts.

What THINK ye? You make the final call. You decide.

If I counted correctly, Jesus asked 15 questions in Matthew. I will ask you 3.

What think ye of Christ? What think ye of the Bible? What think ye of the Preacher?

- **What think ye of Christ?**

Jesus asked this question – after He was asked...

Sadducees – no resurrection – 22:23-28...whose wife shall she be?

Jesus answer – 22:29-32 – you misunderstand the resurrection

Pharisees – question 22:36

Answer - 22:37-39

Now Jesus has a question for them. He uses this question to show them that He is Deity.

You may be a skeptic; a doubter; you may have questions... consider this:

Vs. 42 He is Son of David

Vs. 43 David called Him Lord

Vs. 45 How is He Lord & his Son?

What think ye of Christ? He is Son of God – Deity...

If this is so, Receive Him as your personal Savior. Salvation is found--- not in a church; not in baptism; not in a creed; not in a belief system – but in a Person

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

- **What think ye of the Bible?**

**Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

**Luke 4:4** And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

**Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**Ephesians 6:17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

No need to defend the Word of God – preach it as it is & it defends itself. D.L. Moody said you defend the Bible like you defend a lion – let it loose and it defends itself.

What think ye of Christ? Jesus quoted the Bible.

His goal was not to win an argument – it was to present truth. Let each person accept or reject truth.

- **What think ye of the Preacher?**

O.T. God called men:

Moses called & anointed as prophet      Aaron called & anointed as H. Priest

David called & anointed as King

In N.T. God called men are called & anointed to Preach.

Want to know your attitude toward God? What think ye of Christ; Bible & Preacher.

The preacher preaches in the Stead of God – God does not preach Himself, so He calls a man.

Called & anointed to preach. You ought to be “all-in” at GBC.

Unity gives a church effectiveness.

**Genesis 11:6** And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

God has not called you to pastor – but you can receive a pastor’s crown...

**Matthew 10:41** He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward...

**Conclusion – to have an effective life:**

What think ye of Christ?

Saved

**Receive Him as Savior**

What think ye of the Bible?

KJV – God speaks to you **Believe it & Obey it**

What think ye of the Preacher?

Unite with GBC & get lost in cause of church that is lost in cause of worldwide missions **Pray for Preacher & Unite with Church**

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## God's Will for Humanity

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**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

**1 Timothy 2:4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Peter 2:1** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

The Blood bought all / paid for all:

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**Hebrews 10:26** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

**Hebrews 10:29** Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

# Time is Short

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**James 4:14** Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Put a bookmark in Luke chapter 12...

**James 4:13-15** Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Read James 4:13 is a commentary on life -- Generally speaking -- for most all in this life --- Life is about making life comfortable -- why you work a job -- to have money / to be able to live in a house / to have a cell phone / to have a car if possible - to have money for later in life...

Another words -- generally speaking life is: to buy and sell and get gain... Is this sin? NO. Is this morally wrong? NO. So what is the point?

**Need to keep one thing in mind -- your life is NOT in your hands. Your timing of death is NOT in your hands.... James 4:15**

This could be a parallel commentary on Luke 12:15-21

James 4:13 -- Luke 12:15

James 4:14 -- Luke 12:20

James 4:15 -- Luke 12:21

If you are not saved -- and your life is about getting money -- you need to stop and wake up --- ETERNITY is just around the corner.

**In BIBLE:            380 times "For Ever"            46 times "For Ever and Ever"**

Multitudes will play the Lotto -- because someone will win. Someone does win -- yet those same people will neglect their eternal destiny because death seems far away. Selah

Zig Ziglar said you need to make long term plans because you will be dead a lot longer than you will be alive.

Here we are at GBC -- the House of God. It is our responsibility to tell you how to get to heaven. Don't miss out.

Why is James 4:14 true?

**2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The very Word of God tells us God's viewpoint. We need to see time and eternity – as much as is humanly possible – thru the eyes of God.

You may think that death ends it all - BUT

**You will die a physical death – but there will be a resurrection from the dead.**

**Job 19:25-26** For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

**Daniel 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

**John 5:28-29** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**Acts 24:15** And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

**Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

You can be wrong about a lot of things – a lot of things. But to be wrong on YOUR eternal destiny --- and this is your responsibility.

**You control where you go.** How can that statement be made?

**Matthew 7:7** Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek, and ye shall find**; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

**Deuteronomy 4:29** But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find *him*, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

**Jeremiah 29:13** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

**You have been given time on this earth – you are still alive. Time to decide:**

**Hebrews 4:7** Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Proverbs 27:1** Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Eternity is a depth without any bottom; a sea without any shore;

Your soul is immortal and must be in eternity somewhere.

You are nearing eternity even while you sleep.

The rich man rolling along in his limousine / the beggar hobbling along on his cane

The old man / the child – all nearing their eternal destiny by each passing day.

**Time is Short    Death is Sure    Hell is Hot    Heaven is Blissful**

There are no far-off judgment days --- James 4:14

You have an appointment

**Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

### **3 Questions to consider:**

#### **1. Where will you be in 100 years?**

I got born again – didn't even know what the word meant. MY TESTIMONY

Shortly thereafter, as I was reading the Bible – I read James 4:14

Changed my life / gave me focus / why I am here today / it is my "life verse"

#### **2. What will you care what anyone else thinks about you – in 100 years?**

#### **3. Will you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior today?**

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# Your Body & The Holy Spirit

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**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Know ye not -1 Cor. 6:2, 6:3, 6:15, 6:16, 6:19 - designed to confirm and strengthen what he had just said.

Jesus & I – one body / one spirit / oneness

*Is one spirit.* That is, in a sense similar to that in which a man and his wife are one body. It is not to be taken literally; but the sense is, that there is a close and intimate union; they are united in feeling, spirit, intention, disposition. BARNES

**John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: (ONENESS)** He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

**The Temple.** In O.T. the literal Temple in Jerusalem. At time of Christ,  
**John 2:19** Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Today – 2017 – still the saved = the body of the saved is Temple of Holy Ghost.

Temple – place of holiness / Who lives here? HOLY Ghost

**James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

**1 John 2:15-16** Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Your body is Temple

- **Which is in you**

Inside your body – Holy Ghost. He tells you that you are saved / He lives inside you / His job is to guide you into all truth / He is to lead you in holiness – HOLY GHOST -- HOLY

Your body is unsaved. The Holy Ghost will make sure it gets saved.

**Eph 4:30** And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Today – you are a saved being living inside an unsaved body. The battle of the flesh is a greater battle than the devil or the world. The HOLY Ghost lives inside your body along with your sinful nature. NATURE.

If you believe you are a very bad sinner – good sign you have been born again. If you think you aren't that bad – probably do not have the Holy Ghost living inside you. The Holy Ghost shines a Light on your dark heart and reveals your true nature; your sinful ways...deceitful above all things! Selah.

Death / crucified with Christ is pathway to victory. Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 13:14; Gal. 5:16-17 should all be memory verses for the Christian.

- **which ye have of God, and**
- **ye are not your own? For**
- **ye are bought with a price**

I do not own myself.

**1 Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

A steward is a manager that manages for the Owner. I am a steward of my body, soul & spirit.

I did not create my body / I did not have any input into my mind / my soul was purchased by the Blood of Jesus Christ.

ILL This is my car – I earned money to buy it; I fix it... This is my invention

**Now – what part of you did you come up with?**

Your heart is not your own, but Christ's; your thoughts are not your own, but his who liveth in you; your time is not your own, but is redeemed for the Redeemer; your abilities and influence are not your own, but are to be consecrated to him to whom you owe both them and the bias which has been given them; your property is not your own, but his who claims your all. PULPIT HELPS

It is not yours – negative aspect. The positive aspect...

- **Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,**

Sunday is Lord's Day / Tithe is the Lord's

Both are true statements – actually everyday belongs to Him / everything I own is His / I am not on earth to live my life as I choose. I am not to do my will. I am not here for leisure, pleasure, fun, happiness...

While here, I can have fun, pleasure, leisure, happiness – but that is not my primary purpose. I am here to glorify God with my life – as I do that, happiness and contentment will result.

**John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Best life now // Best life here after.

**Know you are saved. Now what you know from Bible – it ought to change your life**

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# The Word of God

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**1 Timothy 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The Church – not all the saved – a local entity – GBC is the Church. God deals with all the saved on an individual basis. He deals with His church via the Pastor. The Pastor is the N.T. office that you are to follow. Obey and submit yourself to the Pastor. Heb. 13:17

The Church is...

- Church of the
- House of God – where God meets with humans on earth
- Church of the Living God – a supernatural institution created by the Creator – God meets here!
- The Pillar of the Truth
- The Ground of the Truth

The Truth – John 17:17 Word of God

Pillar – to support the Truth; it holds it up; it holds it together

Ground - Truth -- placed on a sure and solid foundation

We support and hold up the KJV and it is our foundation.

some of this message from Roy Thompson “The Word, The Word”

1950's all Baptist churches used KJV – only NCC, WCC used other verses. Today, people think churches that use the KJV are archaic. Today – perhaps over 100 different versions.

**1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The KJV not only Contains the Word of God, it is the very Word of God – word for word, the preserved Word of God - translated from the Greek Textus Receptus – just means, Received Text – received by born again Christians as the Word of God.

## In the Bible: The Living Word / The Written Word

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## Sameness of Jesus Christ & Word of God

- **Word of God**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- **Pure**

**1 John 3:3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**Psalms 19:8** The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

- **Holy**

**Mark 1:24** Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

**Romans 1:2** (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

- **Perfect**

**Hebrews 5:9** And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

**Psalms 19:7** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

- **Truth**

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- **For Ever**

**Psalms 119:89** LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

**John 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

The crux of matter – 2 different Greek texts / T.R. & Wescott & Hort text

Wescott & Hort text was revived around 1880. This text was lost and not used for over 1,000 years.

T.R. is rooted in Antioch – where they were first called Christians. W & H is rooted in Egypt.

“How do you explain the fact that the Received Text found its way into every corner of Christendom, was copied there and authenticated by persons and authorities who had no contact with any others – while your so-called ‘Neutral Text’ is found virtually nowhere but Egypt and Caesarea?” BURGEON

**“They all say the same”                      No, there are 2 complete different Greek texts**

- If I accused Jesus Christ of being less than perfect, that He had some flaws – not serious ones, would you fellowship with me? Yet, they will do the same thing to the Word of God.
- If I found a sin in Jesus Christ, would you fellowship with me?

**Jesus got angry:**

**Matthew 21:12** And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

**Mark 3:5** And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched *it* out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

**John 2:15** And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

**KJV Matthew 5:22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

**ASV Matthew 5:22** but I say unto you, that **every one who is angry with his brother** shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire.

εἰκη --- without a cause

**All versions that follow the Wescott / Hort corrupt text indirectly state that Jesus Christ sinned.**

Why is KJV / T.R. such a minority view? 1) Greek departments of Bible colleges; 2) Non-study by pastors; 3) Fear of church members – typically better educated and wealthier that have attended colleges that were taught in the Greek dept. the corrupt text.

## How highly God prizes His Word

**Psalms 138:2** I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

The whole world curses the name of Jesus. Do you think it bothers God when they change the Word of God?

GBC trusts the KJV / T.R.

**Ps 12:6** The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

**Ps 12:7** Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

“There exists no reason for supposing that the Divine Agent, who in the first instance thus gave to mankind the Scriptures of Truth, immediately abdicated His office and took no further care of His work; that He abandoned those precious Writings.”<sup>1</sup>

“If God could providentially guard the canon of Scriptures, so that only those Books which He inspired were chosen, and if He determined beforehand how many hairs would be on your head, why is it thought incredible to you that God has guided His devoted children to constantly watch over His God-breathed Words? The Scriptures say that Satan blinds the minds of his servants (II Cor. 4:4), and causes them to do his will. Yet you say that God cannot be thought to have been able to enlighten the minds of His servants so as to cause them to do His will in sorting out the corrupt manuscripts, and duplication the authentic ones. Is there not a crisis of belief apparent in such a contradictory stand?”<sup>2</sup>

## Pillar & Ground of Truth

Pillar – to support the Truth; it holds it up; it holds it together

Ground - Truth is placed on a sure and solid foundation

GBC – a church that stands upon the KJV / T.R.

- Know you can trust the Book in your hands
- Know that the Holy Spirit uses the preaching of it
- Know the value God places on it
- Be accepted by God at the JSC

KJV / T.R. Text received for 2000 years – and still trustworthy. You can trust your eternal destiny upon this Book. Unforgiven? Jesus’ shed His blood for your sins.

John 3:3

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<sup>1</sup> Unholy Hands On The Bible p. 7

<sup>2</sup> Ibid p. xxvi-xxvii

# Death & Life

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**John 12:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

- **Nature's Death, New Life & Fruitfulness**

All the beauty and richness of the *harvest* results from the fact that the grain had *died*. If it had not died it would never have germinated or produced the glory of the yellow harvest.

Death of seeds produces corn on the cob. Death of seeds produce apples, pears, peaches, potatoes....

Even so it is with Christ. He is referring to his own death in John 12:23-24.

- **Christ's Death & Fruitfulness**

**John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The only way He could 'go away' was to die. He died and sent the Holy Spirit. They did greater works that Jesus.

**John 14:12** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

**Colossians 1:23** If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Greater works – the whole world got the gospel in 30 years.

Just as one apple can produce an apple tree that can produce apple trees that can produce an apple orchard that can produce apple orchards – all done thru death. Even so, thru the death of Jesus Christ, churches planted churches that planted churches and the whole world got the gospel.

- **Salvation – Death & Life in Spirit**

If you want to come to Christ for salvation – don't come with your "life;" come with death. Come to the altar and die – die to self – tell Jesus Christ – I have nothing to offer – I die.

Life comes from death. John 12:24.

**1 John 5:11-12** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

**John 3:6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- **Death & Fruitfulness**

This is the essence of the Christian life – Christ living in & thru you.

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Christ helping you live out the Christian life. Anyone can hate their enemies; anyone can be mean and hateful; anyone can hoard up and love self. Only a supernatural life of love; of love for others; of love for God can come from “Christ in You.”

**Colossians 1:27** ...which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Death to self & life that is already there.

**Romans 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

We gain by losing. We get by death. Live for yourself, you lose. Lose your life and die, you gain:

**John 12:25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

- **Our Death & Resurrection**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-36** But some *man* will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou* fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

**1 Corinthians 15:37-38** And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other *grain*: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

One minute after you die – you will understand why the Bible calls it “Sleep” – death will have been an easy event – like going to sleep. Up to death may be difficult, but death itself will be ‘sleep.’

All this is prefaced by “Verily verily” -- An expression denoting the great importance of what he was about to say.

What could you hear today of more importance than that which we have heard. Verily verily...you need to take heed.

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# The Blood

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**Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

There is only one way to forgive sins – Blood.

**Leviticus 17:11** For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it *is* the blood *that* maketh an atonement for the soul.

When Jesus gave His blood – He gave His life.

We could preach and teach for a very long time about the Blood. The Bible has a lot to say of the matter. There are 3 words concerning the Blood of Jesus Christ that we will look at: Application of the Blood; Propitiation of the Blood; and Fellowship by the Blood.

## 1. Application of the Blood

Our great problem we have – sin. What will you do with your sin. You need application of the Blood.

To apply it to your heart.

**1 Corinthians 5:7** ...For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

When Israel was leaving Egypt; they were commanded to kill the innocent Lamb and

**Exodus 12:7** And they **shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses**, wherein they shall eat it.

**Exodus 12:13** And the **blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye *are*: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you**, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy *you*, when I smite the land of Egypt.

The Blood of the Lamb had to be applied... to the door posts of their house.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb – the innocent Lamb that shed His blood for your sins. In fact,

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Is the whole world saved? No. Are the sins of the whole world paid for? Yes. Each needs to apply the blood to their own heart – application of the blood. Apply it by faith.

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through **faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

You need to let God speak to your heart. To delay is to risk your eternal future.

ILL – some think they can wait until they are on their death bed. 1) You may die suddenly 2) It is likely you will not change as you near death.

I marvel – as a human approaches death – knows death is near – yet their response to the gospel does not change one iota.

## **2. Propitiation of the Blood**

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

The word *propitiation* is a Bible word. It is mentioned only 3 times in the Bible.

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**1 John 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Defined: To appease wrath of God and obtain His favor.

His wrath is appeased by Jesus Christ.

Rom. 3:25... Whom      1 John 2:2 He is the propitiation      1 John 4:10 Son to be the propitiation

Sin separates you from God.

**John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The Propitiation – appease / satisfy the wrath of God. From sinner to saint

**1 John 3:1** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

## **3. Fellowship by the Blood**

After we are saved – we will sin. Our fellowship with God is broken by our sin.

The blood of Jesus Christ is still the only way to restore our fellowship:

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.



We cannot escape the truth of God is holy & I am sinful.

We cannot escape the nature – God’s nature is holiness / our nature is – we are sinners

It was the Love of God that He provided a way for us – a path of forgiveness.

Remind you – it was the Son of God that gave His blood – gave His life

**John 15:13** Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**1 John 4:10** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

What does this message mean to me?

- 1) Have you applied the blood of Jesus Christ to your heart.
  - A) It is applied by faith
  - B) “When I see the blood, I will pass over you
  
- 2) The Propitiation of the Blood
  - A) If saved, God’s wrath has been satisfied
  - B) God accepts you now as a Son of God
  
- 3) If saved, you need the blood to restore fellowship with God when you sin
  - A) It is not...if you will sin; but when you sin
  - B) Don’t put off asking for forgiveness
  - C) God wants to forgive

**Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Mercy is found in the Blood.

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# The Blessed Hope

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**TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**We are living in the end times** -- Just before the wrath of God

What will happen just before the wrath of God? The Rapture

**1 Thessalonians 5:9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Many attacks on the Rapture today -- no rapture, mid-trib rapture, pre-wrath rapture... we don't have time to teach this today... but there is only one truth – and that truth is a pre-tribulation rapture. Taught on Wed pm and on booklet page online... The Bible teaches dogmatically the Rapture first, then Antichrist – who signs a 7-year covenant to start the Tribulation Period. Hence Rapture Before Trib.

**The Rapture described – what will happen:**

the Lord himself shall descend from heaven  
with a shout,  
with the voice of the archangel, and  
with the trump of God: and  
the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**Then**

we which are alive *and* remain shall be  
caught up together with them in the clouds, (WITH THE DEAD IN CHRIST)  
to meet the Lord in the air: and (OUR BODY IS SAVED)  
so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**What brings the wrath of God? Look at the FLOOD & CANAANITES for answers:**

- The Flood -- **wickedness of man due to his thoughts:**

Flood – Noah preacher for 120 years / only 8 saved Reason for the Judgment of God:

**Genesis 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

- Canaanites – **Judgment of God came upon them – sinful actions**

Reason for the Judgment of God is found in Lev. 18 - ACTIONS

Word *nakedness* is found 24 times in Lev. 18

**Sins listed that brought Judgment of God in Lev. 18**

Pornography 18:19; Adultery 18:20; Homosexuality 18:22; Bestiality 18:23; Killing Babies 18:21

## Description of End Times

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be:

lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Does this describe today? The wrath of God will soon come to this earth.

Character of God = Longsuffering      Character of Mankind = Not believe it until too late

- Sodom & Gomorrah – Angels sent and said:

**Genesis 19:13** For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

**Genesis 19:14** And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

## The Surety of the Rapture:

**1 Thessalonians 4:15** For this we say unto you **by the word of the Lord**, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Why human beings would not believe and give their heart to God?  
Jer. 17:9; willful; rebellion; pride; sin; unbelief...

ANSWER IS: the heart & Word of God – give your heart to Jesus Christ BEFORE it is too late.

## RAPTURE VERSE FOR SAVED:

**1 John 3:2-3** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

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# My Father's House

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**John 14:1** Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

**John 14:2-3** In my Father's house are many mansions:

if *it were* not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you,

I will come again, and receive you unto myself;

that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Let not your heart (innermost self; seat of emotional life) be troubled (agitated; upset)...

In my Father's house are many mansions.

Jesus' Father is God, the Creator of heaven and earth. He is Jehovah, the Almighty, the True and Living God. In that house – many mansions.

What kind of place will that be? Jesus said, I go to prepare a place – a place... a parceled off area just for you. My real home is the one I will live in forever.

Do the math – you will be dead a whole lot longer than you will be alive. Eternity is a long time to be wrong. Truth is absolute.  $2 + 2 = 4$ . That is truth – it will never change.

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

To have the same Father that Jesus has – you must be born into that family – it is called “born again.”

Some say, I believe. Ye must be born again.

**James 2:19** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

If you are not born again – your heart should be troubled. Cannot fool God. God will not violate His Word. We are living in the end times. If not saved, you should be afraid, you should be troubled, you should be concerned. BUT, if you are saved...

Let not your heart be troubled.

You're only going to live in heaven forever.

Heaven is your real home

Where Jesus is forever – is where you will be forever

If it were not so, I would have told you.... Hence, I told you so

You can trust God to save you – cause He told you so

You can live by faith – cause He told you so

You can put God first – cause He told you so

You can look to Christ, and forsake the things of this world – cause He told you so...

I have difficult times in my life. That is just the time you need verses like this. Jesus gave them John 14 when it was just 2 days before his rejection and crucifixion. The death of a loved one / in this case the death of the one who loved them more than anyone could – was going to die.

You can become despondent / depressed / without hope / you need to be encouraged.

**John 14:27** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Troubled

One was a devil – Judas 13:21

Jesus was to leave them and they could not come along 13:36

Simon Peter was to deny him thrice 13:38

Remember

He is gone (TO prepare a place for you)

He is coming again (TO receive you unto Himself)

That where He is – THERE you may be also. Forever you will be with the Savior.

Are you saved?

**Psalms 23:1** A Psalm of David. The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

If so, where you are headed

**Psalms 23:6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Lastly – it is personal

**John 14:2-3** In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told **you**. I go to prepare a place for **you**. And if I go and prepare a place for **you**, I will come again, and receive **you** unto myself; that where I am, *there ye* may be also.

# The Solid Rock

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**Psalms 40:2** He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

Where I was?

Horrible Pit – out of prison of sin; out of misery; out of confusion; out of miry clay

Miry Clay – sinking sand – clay – what this earth is made of; before salvation, I was EARTHY

Rock – set my feet upon --- from sinking sand; from a pit TO a Rock. It is not that I am a good person – it is I have a solid Rock / Wonderful Savior / Stability of a Rock under me

## He brought me up also out of Vs. 2

Salvation – Jesus Christ came to:

- A) Deliver us from past sins – Justification
- B) Deliver us from presence of sin – Sanctification
- C) Deliver us from future sins – Glorification

**A) Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**B) Galatians 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

**C) Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**Set my feet upon a Rock**                      Stability

## Established my Goings

Gave me a future  
Gave me direction  
Gave me purpose

## Gave me a Testimony

**Psalms 40:3** And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Singing is fruit of Holy Spirit dwelling within. If you do not enjoy singing about the Lord and about your salvation, you are not right with God.

Here is what the Holy Ghost gives you:

**Ephesians 5:19** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Your song reveals your heart. A dog's tail never lies. Your tongue reveals your heart.

- Does your life reflect the fact that you are going to live forever in heaven?

"many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

**It is not: Happy people are thankful      It is: Thankful people are Happy**

**He assesses his life**

**Psalms 40:5** Many, O LORD my God, *are* thy wonderful works *which* thou hast done, and thy thoughts *which are* to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.

Thank you God for all you have done. What has God done -

**The reason for all this – found in vs. 6-9**

**Psalms 40:6-9** Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest.

**Hebrews 10:5-9** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Vs. 6    Jesus Christ came as a sacrifice & offering FOR SIN.

Vs. 7    Jesus Christ came to earth – fulfillment of O.T.

Vs. 8    Jesus Christ came to do the will of God

**Heb. 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who **for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It is ALL because of Jesus Christ & what He did – WHO HE IS & WHAT HE DID:

**Hebrews 1:3 (Who Jesus Is)** Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, **(What Jesus Did)** when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**Ps 40 – written by David – oh, he must be a good person. No, He has a good Savior.**

Paul, the great man:

**Romans 7:18** For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

**Romans 7:24** O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

David – is he now good?

**Psalms 40:17** But I *am* poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

What is innumerable?

Stars in sky / sand on sea / dust of earth / hairs on head / evils that compass about – vs. 12  
thoughts of God toward you – vs. 5b / your sins - vs. 12b

**Saved = Forgiven**

**Saved = Evils compass you about vs. 12a**

**Romans 5:1-3** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Tribulation – word in Greek = Pressure

The Ministry in the Church

**Acts 14:22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Tribulation – word in Greek = Pressure

You get saved – you get peace with God (Rom. 5:1) / you get forgiven / you get blessed / you get feet on rock / you get new song in your mouth / God thinks about you all the time / ALSO pressure, tribulation...

God saved you by grace; you approach that pressure by resting on the grace of God. Saved by grace, live by grace, die by grace. Dying grace when that time comes – until LIVING grace for now. Rest upon the grace of God.

**1 Corinthians 15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me...

**Psalms 40:17** But I *am* poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou *art* my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

**Conclusion: Psalms 40:16** Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

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# The Sower & The Seed

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**Great multitudes were gathered and Jesus spoke:**

**Luke 8:5** A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

**Luke 8:11** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

This is a parable. A parable is a story that represents something in real life from which a moral is drawn or from which one may learn instruction.

We are to take heed to this:

**Luke 8:8** And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. **And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

What are we to learn from this?

- **We are to Sow the Word of God**

**Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

The emphasis is always on that which can save / that which can change the heart – the very Word of God.

- **The Ground is the Heart of Man**

**4 types of ground / 4 kinds of heart toward the Word of God**

1. Don't understand the Bible – devil takes it away

**Luke 8:12** Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

2. Word doesn't take root – not able to find a resting place

**Luke 8:13** They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

3. Word is choked by (Matt; Mark; Luke)

Cares / Riches; Deceitfulness of Riches / Pleasures of this Life / Lust of other things

**Luke 8:14** And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Choked – and not bring fruit / not bring “Born Again” ...

4. Honest & Good Heart

Sincere with God / Would you be honest ---

**God, if you speak to my heart, I will obey / God, if you speak to my heart, I will do what you want.**

A person’s heart is like soil – the Word of God is like seed. Soil must be softened, tilled and willing to receive seed for “life” to occur.

We cannot control the results – the results are between God and a man’s heart. The gospel still works.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

- **Fruit is result of seed received**

Some 100 fold; some 60 fold; some 30 fold – but all produce fruit.

Evidence of salvation - Fruit

Fruit is same fruit as the seed - apple seeds produce apples... **after its kind**

**Genesis 1:11-12** And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, *and* herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed *was* in itself, after his kind: and God saw that *it was* good.

Get saved – get Fruit – apple seeds produce apples. The seed is the Word of God; the fruit is:

**Seed: 1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**Fruit: Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

**2Ki 19:30** And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take **root downward**, and bear fruit upward.

**Isa 37:31** And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take **root downward**, and bear fruit upward:

- **Bible & God – all about the heart**

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

What you know does not change your heart. Allowing the seed of the Word of God changes your heart.

**Charity Edifieth – without Bible salvation = nothing**

**1 Corinthians 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

**1 Corinthians 13:2** And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

**1 Corinthians 13:3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

**No change = No salvation**

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

**Romans 6:22** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

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# New Jerusalem

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**Revelation 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

This occurs after the M.S.L. / after the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ / after the Millennial Reign of Christ after the Great White Throne Judgment / and after the new heaven and new earth.

Note the continuity of the Bible – Isaiah (700 B.C.), Peter (60 A.D.) & John (90 A.D.) all wrote – in a Book with one author – the Holy Ghost:

**Isaiah 65:17** For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

**Isaiah 66:22** For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

**2 Peter 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

**Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The heavens have been polluted with demonic activity / the earth has been polluted by mankind – murders of adults, murders of babies, perverse actions and vile activity. They will be renovated by fire. Fire purifies.

THEN: New Jerusalem

**Revelation 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

I am sure when you arrive there, you will find that today's message woefully inadequately describes this place. We will do the best we can.

Similar to describing to someone raised in a hut in a third world country – and you trying to describe to them: electricity, refrigerator, electric stove, microwave, cell phone, Internet service, air conditioners...

BTW – this will be my dwelling place. I will live in this city. I will look back to 17376 Martin Rd. – earth has been burned with fire – cannot find Roseville – but I can find New Jerusalem.

Jerusalem on earth is God's capital city. The future earthly Jerusalem is found in

**Ezekiel 48:35** *It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.*

That earthly Jerusalem is for Israel. The Church / the N.T. church has a heavenly New Jerusalem. The bride of Jesus Christ from Rev. 19:7-9 will inhabit this city.

**Revelation 21:9-10** And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, **I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God,

- City vs. 2
- Splendor vs. 11
- Gates vs. 12 Giant pearls named for 12 tribes
- Foundation vs. 14
- Size vs. 16 1500 miles x 1500 miles x 1500 miles (Cube or Pyramid)
- Walls vs. 18 216 feet high
- Temple vs. 22 God & Lamb are its Temple
- Light vs. 23 glory of God & Lamb
- People vs. 24 nations that are saved
- Access vs. 25 gates are never closed
- Activity vs. 25 no night there
- Purity vs. 27 no liars, no abomination

**Revelation 21:19** And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* Jasper (glass with a gold cast to it); the second, Sapphire (Blue in color & similar to a diamond); the third, a Chalcedony (agate stone sky blue in color, thought to have other colors running thru it); the fourth, an Emerald (bright green color);

**Revelation 21:20** The fifth, Sardonyx (red & white stone); the sixth, Sardius (reddish color jewel); the seventh, Chrysolite (transparent stone, golden in color); the eighth, Beryl (Sea green); the ninth, a Topaz (yellow-green and transparent) ; the tenth, a Chrysoprasus (another shade of green); the eleventh, a Jacinth (violet color); the twelfth, an Amethyst (commonly purple).

**Revelation 21:21** And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the **street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.** WOW

The greatest quality of this city?

**Revelation 22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign **for ever and ever**.

We go to MSL – greatest thing is “Til death do us part” – we will never die / Jesus will never die – hence, it is forever and ever.

For ever and ever – this the time & place to discover your True Wealth / your True Marriage – groom is Jesus Christ / your True Father – God / your True Home. True because it is permanent.

If you are saved, you are – Bible calls you an overcomer. What will you get as an overcomer?

**Revelation 3:12** Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and **I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem**, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name*.

You go visit some distant galaxy – and you not sure how to get back home – just look at some angel – they will look at your forehead – New Jerusalem – just head that way...

This will be the future home of the saved! Will it be your home?

**Invitation given:**

**Revelation 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Saved**

**Revelation 21:7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

**Lost**

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Who wants me to be there?

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Come to Christ today – today be saved / today be forgiven / today

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# No Respector of Persons

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**Romans 2:11** For there is no respect of persons with God.

**This is a Bible principle. God gives His promises in the Bible – and WHOSOEVER can claim them.**

<b>Deuteronomy 10:17</b>	For the <b>LORD your God...which regardeth not persons</b> , nor taketh reward:
<b>2 Chronicles 19:7</b>	<b>LORD our God, nor respect of persons</b> , nor taking of gifts.
<b>Acts 10:34</b>	<b>God is no respector of persons:</b>
<b>Galatians 2:6</b>	<b>God accepteth no man's person</b>
<b>Ephesians 6:9</b>	<b>neither is there respect of persons with him.</b>
<b>1 Peter 1:17</b>	<b>Father, who without respect of persons</b>

God will judge men as they *ought* to be judged; according to their character and deserts; and not contrary to their character, or by partiality.

You cannot bribe God, influence Him with – He will Judge each according to the Light they have

**Romans 2:12** For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

To us – who have the Word of God, we will be judged by the Word of God.

We have the Word of God. So let us look at what this means to us.

- Daniel was a man **greatly beloved**.

**Daniel 9:23** At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew *thee*; for **thou art greatly beloved**: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

**Daniel 10:11** And he said unto me, O **Daniel, a man greatly beloved**, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

**Daniel 10:19** And said, **O man greatly beloved**, fear not: peace *be* unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

**What made Daniel a man greatly beloved?** He stood alone for God – alone when he purposed that he would not defile himself with King's meat / alone when he prayed against the law / alone when he was thrown into the lion's den.

**Ezekiel 14:14** Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver *but* their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

Noah – stood alone in society

Daniel – stood alone in attack

Job – stood alone in trial

If Daniel is called a man **greatly beloved**, and God is no respecter of persons, YOU too can be a person greatly beloved by God.

- **Abraham was called the friend of God.**

**James 2:23** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, **Abraham** believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was **called the Friend of God**.

**2 Chronicles 20:7** *Art* not thou our God, *who* didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of **Abraham thy friend for ever?**

**Isaiah 41:8** But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of **Abraham my friend**.

**What made Abraham a Friend of God?** He obeyed...by faith

**Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

If Abraham is called the Friend of God, and God is no respecter of persons, YOU too can be a Friend of God.

**John 15:14-15** Ye are my **friends**, *if ye do whatsoever I command you*. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

- Enoch & Noah walked with God

**Genesis 5:23** And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

**Genesis 6:9** These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Noah walked with God in the End Times – the time just before the Flood. That time is described

**Genesis 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

If Noah walked with God, and God is no respecter of persons, YOU too can walk with God.

- **You can draw nigh to God**

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.



The “Ball is in your court” – it is a choice you make:

**2 Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

**Romans 2:11** For there is no respect of persons with God.

- What about the Unsaved?

God is no respecter of persons. You will decide if you will get saved or not. It will be YOUR choice.

**Romans 2:6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Each will get what they CHOOSE:

**Romans 2:7** To them **who** by patient continuance in well doing **seek** for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: SAVED

**Romans 2:8-9** But unto **them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; UNSAVED

**Romans 2:11** For there is no respect of persons with God.

**Romans 10:8-9** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

**Deuteronomy 30:14** But the word *is* very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

**Deuteronomy 30:19** I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **therefore choose life**, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Plead with you – CHOOSE Life                      Choose to be saved

Choose to walk with God / Choose to be a Friend of God / Choose to be Greatly Beloved

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# Looking Ahead

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**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Look ahead – don't look back

**Luke 9:61-62** And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

**Luke 17:32** Remember Lot's wife.

She was in love with Sodom. She looked back – her heart was still there. Where is your heart?

**Matthew 6:20-21** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Are you living for things of this earth – or things of the next life. Faith vs. Sight / Are you in love with things of this earth or things of the next life.

Not trying to make you feel guilty, just presenting to you the reality:

**2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, **be not ignorant** of this **one thing**, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

What do you love?

ILL Elephant and chain – later a rope – don't let your past hold you back. You are not held back by your upbringing; your environment; your scars of life – you are held back by your choices in life.

## This One Thing I do

- **Attitude**

**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

**2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

- **Current Living**

**Luke 10:42** But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

- **Church & Eternal Future**

**Psalms 27:4** One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

- **Knowledge of Things of Life**

**1 Corinthians 2:2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

**Matthew 6:24** No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

### **One thing – Salvation / Know God**

**John 17:3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

One thing – Trust Lord / Serve Him in Church = makes your efforts count in a united way  
One thing – Keep one eye on Jesus – One eye on heaven – One eye on eternity

### **One Thing gives Focus**

Lion and 4-proned chair – the four legs of the chair paralyzes the lion.

Good is the enemy of best. Focus on Best / what is Best / I will not do good; so I can do Best

Paul:

**Acts 20:24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Focus the sun thru a magnifying glass and you can light paper on fire.

Focus a church on reaching the world thru its missions program and millions will get the gospel.

Focus your life on that which counts for eternity and you will be a wealthy man/woman when you stand at the Bema Seat of Jesus Christ. (Bema Seat – reward seat for their Olympic games)

## **We Give our All while we focus**

**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and **reaching forth** unto those things which are before,

*Reaching forth.* ...this word -- it means that the athlete throws himself forward in the race with all his energies strained to the very utmost.

The runner – reaches forth – eyes on finish line...

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith...

Great effort is also necessary. The Christian must put forth all his energies. His life is a battle, a wrestling, a race.

## **We never truly obtain all that we seek after – so keep seeking**

**Philippians 3:13** Brethren, **I count not myself to have apprehended:** but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

## **One day we will obtain**

**Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Then we will look back – and rightly so – Did I live wisely? Did my life matter? Did my life count for something? The time to prepare for that day...is today.

Where do I start?

Salvation / Faithful to GBC / Faithful to Tithe / Faithful to Personal Devotion – Bible & Prayer with you & God / Faithful to Use Tracts / Use your testimony / Ask God what He would have you give to missions

You will be surprised what you can do - as you move forward by faith.

# The Greatest Verse in the Bible

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**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The greatest verse in the Bible... probably the first verse a child memorizes. A verse that encompasses all one needs to know to be saved. If you had only one verse to take to this lost world, this would be the one.

The greatness of God's love – gave His only begotten Son – love gives – would you be willing to give your son's life for another? God did

**Romans 5:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The extent of God's love... the world – each and every sinner has had his/her sin paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ.

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.

That blood must be applied – by faith – for you to receive that eternal life.

**Romans 3:25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Your eternal destiny – John 3:16 -- perish / have everlasting life rests with you...whosoever believeth...

The Simplicity of being born again...Believeth!

As – is key word for us to see the simplicity of this.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**John 3:14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

The comparison

Moses lifted up the serpent	the Son of man was lifted up
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## The Problem

**Numbers 21:5-7** And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for *there is* no bread, neither *is there any* water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

## The Solution

**Numbers 21:8-9** And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Each was lifted up / Solution the same LOOK & LIVE

O.T. Physical look                      N.T. Look – a Look of Faith

Simplicity of faith – look to Christ and be saved

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**Acts 16:31** And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Your Problem – sin              The Solution – look to Christ

**John 3:15** That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Your solution – if unsaved today – look to Christ and be saved.

**Isaiah 45:22** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

**If this is so simple, why do so many stay lost?**

### 1) Not fully understand

One must know how to be saved in order to be lost – may the pulpit of GBC never tell you that salvation is difficult – it is easy to be saved.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

So simple, a child can understand

## **2) “It cannot be that simple”**

It is...

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Do you think the Creator of heaven and earth would make the path to approach Him a difficult one?

He did not.

## **3) Not repent**

**Luke 13:3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Illustrated in Prodigal Son – willing to turn from sin – this is what keeps drunkards from salvation

Give all you heart / Leave all behind – no strings attached

III – Hot Air Balloon

## **4) Unbelief**

**Hebrews 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

Step out by faith – Ok – I will trust God. Explain faith – Step out and trust God.

“That is scary” – No – because Who you are trusting!

## **5) Holy Ghost not working**

The Holy Ghost must be the One that gives new birth. You cannot be talked into being saved. You cannot be manipulated into being saved.

You can be encouraged, pleaded with, asked...but never forced.

**2 Corinthians 5:11** Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...

## **6) Pride**

Pride in good works

**Luke 18:11-12** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

Pride – opposite of humility

**Mark 10:15** Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. (Luke 18:17 – exact same thing)

God will conquer you – humble to the Creator

## 7) Rebellion

These last 2 are the real dangerous ones – rebel against God

God – leave me alone – I resist you – No, I rebel against you wanting me to be saved.

**1 Samuel 15:23** For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

## 8) Willful

Reason this is so dangerous – it is like Lucifer / Like Antichrist

**Isaiah 14:12-14** How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer**, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou **hast said in thine heart, I will ascend** into heaven, **I will exalt my** throne above the stars of God: **I will sit also** upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I **will ascend above** the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.**

Judas – lover of money                      Jesus – lover of souls

Antichrist – willful king                      Jesus – not my will be done, but thine

Don't be willful – submit to God / humble yourself

Pride, rebellion and willfulness will lead to destruction.

## SONG

Have thine own way Lord, have thine own way,  
Thou art the potter, I am the Clay....

Just as I am without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me...

Pass me not, Oh gentle Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others thou are calling, do not pass me by...  
Savior, Savior, hear my humble, while on others thou are calling, do not pass me by.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is simple – step out – by faith

And be saved / forgiven / home in heaven    INV      INV



# The Book of Isaiah is a Miniature Bible

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66 chapters in Isaiah

39 chapters deal with law & judgment

Ch 1-39 correspond with the O.T.

66 books in Bible

27 chapters deal with grace & salvation

Ch. 40-66 correspond with the N.T.

**Isaiah 40:3** The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Matthew 3:3** For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Ch. 40-66 are 27 chapters arranged in 3 groups of 9 chapters.

**Ch. 40-48      The Supremacy of Jehovah**

**Ch. 49-57      The Servant of Jehovah**

**Ch. 58-66      The Challenge of Jehovah**

**The end verse** of each group is marked by a sobering statement:

**Isaiah 48:22** *There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*

**Isaiah 57:21** *There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*

**Isaiah 66:24** And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

**The middle** section of Ch. 40-66 is Ch. 49-57. The middle chapter of this section is Ch. 53.

Thus, the middle chapter of the middle section is the great chapter of the Lamb.

There are 12 verses in Chapter 53 so the middle verses would be these 2 verses:

**Isaiah 53:6-7** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the **LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: **he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter,** and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**The last chapter** of Isaiah corresponds with the book of Revelation.

**Isaiah 66:22** For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

**Revelation 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

## Final Warning

**Isaiah 66:24** And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their **worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched;** and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

**Mark 9:43-44** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the **fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

**Matt. 25:46** And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment:** but the **righteous into life eternal**

- **Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matt. 25:46 are words of Jesus Christ. If one believes in heaven; then must also believe in hell. Cannot have one without the other.

### **The final warnings of the 3 groups**

**Isaiah 48:22** *There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*

**Isaiah 57:21** *There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.*

**Isaiah 66:24** And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

### **Paul give the description of a lost sinner:**

**Romans 3:17** And the way of peace have they not known:

- **Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.

### **Jesus gives the description of eternity of a lost sinner:**

**Mark 9:43-44** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

**Mark 9:45-46** And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

**Mark 9:47-48** And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

- **Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

### **Hell in the Bible**

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

**Revelation 14:10** The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

**Revelation 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

- **Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

## Hell

**Revelation 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Christian Science church defines hell as an error of the mind.

The Jehovah Witnesses teach that the wicked will simple be annihilated.

The Mormons believe in hell, but not as an eternal existence.

The Seventh-Day Adventists claim that God will someday blot out all sin and sinners and establish a clean universe again.

Bhuddists believe in Nirvana – the spiritual goal

Hindus follow reincarnation

The Bible teaches that Hades is a temporary holding place for the lost and that the Lake of Fire - Gehenna is the final abode.

**Hell – unquenchable fire / place of memory – Son, remember... / Misery & Pain / Thirst**

**Weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth – Why?**

**Frustration and Anger**

**Mt 8:12** But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Mt 13:42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Mt 13:50** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Mt 22:13** Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Mt 24:51** And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Mt 25:30** And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth.

**Lu 13:28** There shall be weeping and **gnashing** of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

**Worst thing about Hell? It is ... Forever...**

- **Matthew 25:46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Everlasting & Eternal are words beyond human description.

**Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God.

The Author of everlasting – God

The Hinge of your eternal destiny is the Blood of Jesus Christ

The method of obtaining heaven:

**1 John 5:11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**1 John 5:12** He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Do you have the Son of God? Or should I say – does He have you?

Give your heart to Jesus Christ – you will never regret it

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# Seek Ye the Lord

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**Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

**Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found

It is implied here:

1. That God may now be found.
2. That the time will come when it will be impossible to obtain his favor

There are times and factors that are more favorable for seeking him at some periods than others.

- 1) Preaching of the Word of God – in church service
- 2) In God's divine providence, your conscience is stirred by guilt of sin
- 3) Death of a loved one
- 4) Sickness confronts us
- 5) True revival
- 6) Someone close to you gets saved
- 7) Pleading of a friend – for your salvation
- 8) The Holy Ghost makes salvation plain as day – the light bulb comes on – if this occurs and you reject – it is a dangerous event. Don't reject the plainness of God speaking to you.

**John 6:44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

You get saved in God's timing – when God deals with you. You may bargain with God – but He does not always work the way we want Him to. Isa. 55:8

The proper response:

**Psalms 27:8** *When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.*

If unsaved, you should be on a quest for God / for truth / for purpose of life...which should end in finding God / finding Truth John 14:6 / finding purpose.

I found it 36 yrs. ago – changed my life – forever. I plead with you to seek the Lord. The time will come when you will not be able to.

**Proverbs 29:1** He, that being often reproved hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

**Psalms 73:18-19** Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

“Steve” saved, serving, then out of church... wrote me – I am going on a trip... when I get back, I will return to church and the Lord. It was the only time in my life I was truly happy.

Death came – he was saved – but the time to seek the Lord was in God’s time; God’s timing, not his own time.

**Isaiah 55:8** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

How are God’s thoughts unlike our thoughts?

- God forgives; man tends to resist forgiveness

All that God knows about your words, actions and thoughts – if we were to broadcast them to the whole world – no one would want to forgive you – yet God delights in forgiveness!

- God is giving; man tends to be selfish

Not that we are incapable of generosity, but the prevailing and penetrating spirit which runs through our mind is that of self-love, self-interest. What will it profit me? What shall I gain by it? How will it affect *my* interests?

- God loves His enemies; man tends to be *vindictive*.

Men tend to wish ill to those who have in any way done them an injury. Men are secretly if not openly glad when any harm happens to those who have successfully opposed them.

Ill Presidential election – labor strikes – divorce

Those who have wronged us – we tend to be vindictive.

- Compare the fruit of the Spirit to the intents of humans.

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance... these are supernatural traits – as they do not come from naturally in life of sinful human being.

- God’s thoughts toward salvation – how to get to heaven.

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

**Proverbs 16:25** There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

We would think if we do enough good to outweigh our bad... Bible teaches that the Blood of Jesus Christ is only forgiveness of sins.

God's thoughts – will God forgive me? Is that not the big question.

**Isaiah 55:9** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Psalms 103:11** For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

**Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

God uses the degree of separation of heaven to earth to show how greatly He wants you to be forgiven.

**Isaiah 55:6** Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

**Isaiah 55:7** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Isaiah 55:8** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

**Isaiah 55:9** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

I can say today – the God of the Bible is the True and Living God

He is the God that loves you; wants you to be saved --- today.

#### **AFTER SALVATION**

- God's thoughts on success and prosperity

Many think success – certain career; financial status; retirement plan; house and car;

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

True success: Not getting but investing in next life

**Matthew 6:19-20** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

**Wealth is sum total of what you have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away**

### **Finding & following the will of God**

For me – Pastor – to find which church is God’s will and then stay there

For you – to find which church is God’s will and then stay there.

**Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

- God’s thoughts on greatness

**Matthew 20:26** But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

**Matthew 23:11** But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

**Mark 10:43-45** But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- God’s thoughts on being strong

**2 Corinthians 12:10** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for **when I am weak, then am I strong.**

Unsaved –	I am strong – good try to be good – my best effort Convicted of sin – I am weak – need Savior – get saved-in your weakness, you are strong
Saved -	I am strong – doing good, serving Lord – my best effort – convict of how sinful you really are



Go thru trials convicted of sin, shown how weak you really are – confess your weakness... now in your weakness, you are strong

God will allow your heart to be bruised thru trials. One said, “God will not use one greatly until He has hurt him / her deeply.

Why? Your bruised, crushed heart now beats with the heart of God – God sees humanity – He is broken over sin, state of affairs of this life...

**Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

# The Word of God Works

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**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Compare time to eternity. Isa. 40:6-8...all flesh is grass (vs. 6); the people is grass (vs.7)... all goodness of it is as flower (vs. 6)

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

**James 4:14** Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

You will be here for 70 years – perhaps 80 years – perhaps 100 years... but you will die.

**Psalms 119:89** LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

**1 Peter 1:24-25** For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The Word of God – made in heaven / a perfect Bible / nothing added to it / still as sharp as ever

Can change the hardest of hearts – Saul / infallible, inexhaustible, incorruptible / the Sword of the Spirit

- **This is the Word preached**

**2 Timothy 4:1-2** I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Bible preaching – what we have to offer at GBC. We are not here to entertain. Why is preaching so important?

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

- **This is the Word meditated upon**

**Psalms 1:2** But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Who would delight themselves in the Word of God? Those found in Ps. 1:1

You want to be a success?

**Joshua 1:8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

What will meditating upon the Word of God do?

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

It will work in your life – it will change you – it will comfort you – it will give you faith

**Romans 10:17** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Why is meditating so important?

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

- **This is the Word that convicts – it is alive**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God Himself speaks to you – during church here at GBC – with the Word of God.

**2 Peter 1:17-18** For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

**2 Peter 1:19** We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

How can the Bible be alive? It will never die

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

**This is the Word that will be your Judge**

**John 12:48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

**Revelation 20:11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

**Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

**1 Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

God has given us His Word. You are here today face to face with it.

Believer – you should be face to face with Bible everyday

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Unsaved – turn to Christ today – if not – one day you will again come face to face with it.

The Bible is the perfect, holy Word of God.

We are sinners, unholy, imperfect --- in need of a Savior.

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# Perfect Peace

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**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Recently did Isa. 1:18; 6:5; 9:6; now 26:3

Peace – Priceless / The world seeks after peace / individuals seek after peace

If found – priceless / the true source of peace: Thou... 26:3

True peace is from the Creator

True peace is unseen, but fully known by the one that has it

Peace is irrespective of circumstances

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

**Man is separated from God by sin.** If you are unsaved, you do not have true peace.

**Romans 3:10-12** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

**Romans 3:16-18** Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

**Sin brings unrest**

**Isaiah 48:22** *There is* no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

**Isaiah 57:20-21** But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. *There is* no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

**Peace found:**

- **Salvation**

**Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- **In Person of Jesus Christ**

**Ephesians 2:14** For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*;

- **In Blood of Jesus Christ**

**Colossians 1:20** And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

- **Holy Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Peace **with God** at salvation / Peace **of God** – being right with God:

**Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

**Romans 8:6** For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

**Saved person sharing your heart with the Creator brings peace in heart & mind**

**Philippians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

**Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Isa 26:3 Hebrew Shalom = peace

Isa 26:3 says in Hebrew: thou will keep him in ... Shalom Shalom --- Peace, peace

Double emphasis / peace upon peace / peace in this world & peace in world to come

**True peace is not agitated by trials.**

**Romans 5:3-5** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Problems are opportunities for God to work on your behalf.

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

**1 Peter 2:23** Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

**Peace for the Christian is based upon the foundation of Trust.**

**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Paul trusted Father – why he stated in 2 Cor. 12:9-10

Jesus trusted Father – why 1 Pet. 2:23

**This is learned – we learn to trust God.**

**Philippians 4:11** Not that I speak in respect of want: **for I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

**Hebrews 5:7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

**Hebrews 5:8** Though he were a Son, **yet learned he obedience** by the things which he suffered;

Trust = submission to Sovereign God = Obedience

Military – submit to command – obey without asking

Military – break down your pride; remove your will – build Marine pride in you

Christ – wants you to willingly trust; willingly submit; willingly obey.

What do I get out of it?

**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

Job:

**Job 23:10** But he knoweth the way that I take: *when* he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

**Job 1:21** And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Peace is found – in God. Name of Jesus (Prince of Peace).

How can I have peace?

**Isa 26:3** Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

## His Name Shall Be Called...

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**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and **his name** shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Isa. 9:6 is a prophecy of the Lord Jesus Christ – written 700 years before his birth. His name... called:

Wonderful,  
Counsellor,  
The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.

Well, what is His name - - - - all of them - - - and then some.

- **Consider His name at His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming**

**Matthew 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call **his name** JESUS

**Matthew 1:23** Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call **his name** Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- **Consider His name at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**

**Revelation 19:13** And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and **his name** is called **The Word of God**.

**Revelation 19:16** And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh **a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**.

**Revelation 19:12** His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, **that no man knew, but he himself**.

- **Consider this name – 4 times in the Book of Revelation, this name is used:**

**Revelation 22:13** I am **Alpha and Omega**, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Alpha – letter “A” in the Greek alphabet    Omega is letter “Z” in the Greek alphabet

**His name is   A   to   Z**



➤ **Author & Finisher of our faith**

**Hebrews 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

➤ **Advocate**

**1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

➤ **Bread of Life**

**John 6:35** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

➤ **Chief Cornerstone**

**1 Peter 2:6** Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

➤ **Counselor** Isa 9:6

➤ **Door**

**John 10:9** I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

➤ **Everlasting Father** Isa 9:6

➤ **Faithful & True**

**Revelation 19:11** And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

**Revelation 3:14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, **the faithful and true witness**, the beginning of the creation of God;

➤ **Friend of Sinners**

**Matthew 11:19** The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.

➤ **Gift of God**

**John 4:10** Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

➤ **God**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

➤ **Heir of All Things**

**Hebrews 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

➤ **High Priest**

**Hebrews 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

➤ **I AM**

**John 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

➤ **Jesus**

**Matthew 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

➤ **Just One**

**Acts 3:14** But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

➤ **King of Kings**

**Revelation 19:16** And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

➤ **Lamb of God**

**John 1:29** The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

➤ **Light of the World**

**John 8:12** Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

➤ **Man of Sorrows**

**Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

➤ **Mighty to Save**

**Isaiah 63:1** Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

➤ **Nazarene**

**Matthew 2:23** And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

➤ **Only Begotten**

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

➤ **Passover**

**1 Corinthians 5:7** Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

➤ **Prince of Peace** Isa 9:6

➤ **Resurrection & the Life**

**John 11:25** Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

➤ **Rock**

**1 Corinthians 10:4** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

➤ **Savior**

**Luke 2:11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Is He your Savior?

➤ **Son of God**

**Mark 1:1** The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

➤ Son of Man

**Matthew 8:20** And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

**Matthew 12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

➤ Truth

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

➤ Unspeakable Gift

**2 Corinthians 9:15** Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

➤ Vine

**John 15:5** I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

➤ Way

**John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

➤ Wonderful    Isa 9:6

➤    X    Y    Z

**Xactly what you need**

**Y?**

**Zero we can do to get to heaven**

**Zero we can do to be forgiven**

**If you find Jesus Christ, You have found Him who is Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace and all the other names mentioned.**

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# Let Us Reason Together

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**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

The Nation of Israel was sinful vs. 2-4

Similar to our day: LGBT, gay marriage, pornography on TV, Internet has porn available to children with a phone, financial frauds at all levels, liars head up politics of our day

Individually: outwardly they were doing good things. Vs. 11,13,14,15

It was sins of the heart Vs. 16

Bible tells us our problem – Sin

Bible tells us – all have sinned

Bible tells us where sin comes from:

**Mark 7:21-23** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**Isaiah 1:16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

**Romans 14:12** So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

**Romans 2:16** In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

How can we stand before a holy God

**Revelation 20:11** And I saw a great **white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

White – pure spotless, sinless, perfect...

How? Rom 4:6 last week – righteousness of Christ is put on our account – hence in heaven, we will wear white robes – not because we are good – but because we have a good Savior.

**Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

I plead – I am a sinner saved by grace. Chiefest of sinners – greatest of Saviors. He is able to save to the uttermost.

**Romans 5:20** Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

You got a lot of sin – he has more than enough grace.

What will you do with all that sin in your heart? Don't you feel the weight of it? If saved, you feel the freedom of forgiveness.

**John 8:32** And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Like a Judge in Court of Law:

**Isaiah 1:17** Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Here it denotes the kind of contention, or argumentation, which occurs in a court of justice, where the parties reciprocally state the grounds of their cause. God had been addressing magistrates particularly, and commanding them to seek judgment, to relieve the oppressed, to do justice to the orphan and widow; all of which terms are taken from courts of law. He here continues the language, and addresses them as accustomed to the proceedings of courts, and proposes to submit the case as if on trial.

Then Isa. 1:18-20 ... He then brings forward the principles on which he is willing to bestow pardon on them; and submits the case to them, assured that those principles will commend themselves to their reason and sober judgment.

Let us Reason:

Plea 1 (Pulpit commentary)

"Thou art the great God, inhabiting eternity, whose Name is Holy; who art of purer eyes than to look upon iniquity. I am afraid thou wouldst not concern thyself about the sin, much less about the forgiveness, of such creatures as we are."

What is God's answer?

"I have a great interest in that little world where you dwell. I have given you many proofs of it. I have hidden my great sun to shine on you, and quicken life and beauty everywhere around you. I am coming down continually in the rains and winds that provide food for you, coming down to attend your steps and ward off evils from you. It is quite true that by me even 'the very hairs of your head are all numbered.' If I take such interest in you, should I not concern myself about your sin, the worst of the evils that gather about you? Do you think I could temper the storms and the sunshine, keep away pestilence and blight, and not strive to take away sin? And there is something more: 'I am merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and of great kindness.' You know that I am Light, Power, Majesty, King, Judge. But you do not really know me till you know that I am Love, and love will spend itself until every stain is cleansed from those whom it loves. My love sends forth streams that wash away sins."

Come to Christ and be forgiven – it is reasonable

## Plea 2

"I read 'The Law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.' Thou hast said, 'The soul that sinneth, it shall die.' I do not see how thou canst keep thy justice and thy truth, and yet blot out my scarlet, my crimson sins." What is the reply?

"It is indeed the mystery of mysteries, but love has solved it. I can be just and justifying. I have set forth my dear Son as your Sin-bearer, your Substitute, the Propitiation for your sin. In his righteous life, by his vicarious death, my Law is magnified and shown to be honorable. Not a stain can even seem to be upon it after such an obedience as Christ rendered, if I did gather every sinful creature into my love and heaven. I have myself put such an eternal honor upon Law by permitting my Son to submit to it, that none can ever doubt the transcendent glory of my justice."

## Plea 3

"But my sins are so great, it seems to me as though such sins as mine cannot even be atoned for; even if atoned for, I think I should never be able to hold up my head for very shame." Some of us know what scarlet sins mean, crimson sins, sins of deepest die. What is God's reply?

"I have provided for the uttermost of sin in the infinite merit of my Son. His worth outweighs all sin; it can cover and blot out the deepest crimson stains. His sacrifice sends up such a fragrant incense to me that I can freely pardon all your iniquity. If his robe of righteousness cover you, I shall not see any of those stains; I shall accept you in him."

#### Plea 4

"But my sins are not just acts of willfulness and rebellion, they are the habits of my life, the neglectings and self-servings of my life. I hear of rolling sin as a sweet morsel under the tongue, and that is just the way with me. If I were forgiven, I fear I should just go on sinning still."

But God answers,

"I have provided also for this. I will pour out of my Spirit upon you; and to them that have no might he shall increase strength. He shall be Teacher, Guide, Comforter, Earnest, and Seal. He shall be with you always."

It is not us reaching up to heaven – it is heaven reaching down to earth. We can never attain. Christ has paid it all.

**Isaiah 1:18** Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

God wants to forgive! God desires to forgive! God is waiting to forgive!

He just won't make you.

**Isaiah 1:19** If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

**Isaiah 1:20** But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

The ball is in your court.

Unsaved – your problem is sin – the solution: Jesus Christ, Savior of the World

Saved – your problem is sin – the solution: 1 John 1:9

A person right with God is most contented / at peace with His Creator and himself / ready to meet the Lord.

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# Put On Your Account

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**Romans 4:6** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

Imputeth: To put on one's account

Credit card statement – what is put on your account.

God has imputeth righteousness without works

What? You can have God impute righteousness without works? Is that so.

- **The Bible teaches salvation is by faith**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Many think – if I do more good than bad, I will be ok. If I get baptized, I will be ok. If I go to church, I will be ok.

**Prov. 16:25** There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

This is Romans chapter 4.

Ch. 1-3 All have sinned – Jews, Gentiles, Heathen, Hypocrite

All have sinned Rom. 3:10, 3:23,

Faith is needed for forgiveness Rom. 3:28

Saved by grace Rom. 3:24, 4:16a

Faith...in what? Blood of Jesus is only forgiveness for sins Rom. 3:25

- **Examples of Faith**

## 1) **Abraham** Rom. 4:3

Abraham is the great Bible example of faith. He found out what God wanted and Did it.

**Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**Romans 4:20-21** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Consider that – Found out what God wanted / Did it = Faith

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

**Luke 13:3** I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

**2 Peter 3:9** The **Lord is not** slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not **willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

**John 5:24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**

**Isaiah 45:22** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for *I am* God, and *there is* none else.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

**John 6:37** All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

## **2) David** Rom. 4:6-8

Abraham – great example of faith / David – great example that God loves sinners.

He was murderer and adulterer

**Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

One of titles of Jesus – Friend of Sinners. Are you a sinner? You are qualified for forgiveness.

Sinners can experience blessedness!

- **Blessedness comes from forgiveness**

Some think they will be happy with more money; a spouse; a better job; moving; better house... you find Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and you will find blessedness.

37 years ago – for me – still blessedness. Greatest thing ever happened in my life – Find eternal life.

What is greatest thing ever happened to you? If not saved, will it matter in 100 years.

- **How can God Impute Righteousness?**

Is it just to give a sinner a free pass into heaven? Is it just that God would forgive Son of Sam? Is it just that God would forgive Saul, the one that hated and persecuted Christians?

How can this be?

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

- A) Our sins were imputed on Christ – for all. That is how this can be just.
- B) Righteousness is imputed to those who believe – the righteousness of Jesus!

A is true for all / B is true for those who exercise faith

What sin sends one to hell? Sin of unbelief. Your sins have been paid for.

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

**John 16:9** Of sin, because they believe not on me;

**John 8:24** I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.

Only one solution for your sins... Faith

- **How can I have this Faith – follow example of Abraham:**

**Romans 4:20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

**1) Believe God will do what He says**

**Romans 4:21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

**2) Then Abraham acted upon it**

**Colossians 1:14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Faith acts upon what the Bible says. Faith Rests upon the Bible

What does God want you to do? If you know – Faith acts upon it / Fear, doubt, unbelief is hellish. You need to exercise faith.

**If you know what Bible says / you know what you need to do / Now – today have faith and Believe**

**You** can experience the blessedness David spoke of

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# The Comforter

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**John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

H. Spirit's coming was foretold... referred to in the Bible:

2 x "Promise of the Spirit "

2 x "Gift of the Holy Ghost"

3 x "Promise of the Father"

5 x "Pour out the Spirit"

6 x "Baptize with the Spirit"

John 7:39, 15:26, 16:7-8...

The Holy Ghost came to indwell believers –

In Acts 2 Jews / Acts 8 Samaritans (½ Jew. ½ Gentile) / Acts 10 Gentiles

\*\*\* Today – He indwells every believer \*\*\* Rom. 8:9

**He** – a personality – not just a *spirit*

**Another** – "of the same kind" – just like Jesus

"I wish Jesus was with me all the time" / "I wish God could help me all the time" Oh, the wonder of God's plan!

**Abide with you forever** – Eph 4:30 cannot lost salvation – one of the reasons – the work of the H. Spirit

What He does / gives

1. **Fruit** – for you personally inside

Love, Joy, Peace – all three are described as indescribable

If saved, you know what I am talking about – if unsaved, salvation is priceless. Seek it until you find it

## 2. **He teaches you truth** John 17:17 – understand Bible in a “spiritual food” way

Bread is to be partaken, slowly consumed... Bible is not to be analyzed... it can be analyzed, looked at from perspective of history, read with intelligence, but primarily the Bible is to be used to change you – change in a positive way – change to make you more Christ-like.

## 3. **He convicts us of sin**

Do you think I should drink? Prov. 20:1

Conviction is for ME – not to regulate the lives of others / not to be critical of others...

The Holy Spirit will do a fine job – if you ignore Him, He may just ignore you.

## 4. **He helps you to witness**

**Acts 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

This is the primary reason He indwells. Jesus gave a command: Mark 16:15

God does not give us something to do without enabling us to do it.

Clean window – need spray bottle & cloth / Wash car – need water & soap...

Holy Ghost does give us inner help; guide you into truth; convict you of sin – but the main purpose of His indwelling – to take gospel to 7 billion people.

He wants to use your hands, feet and mouth to take the gospel to others here

He wants to use your faith and pocketbook to take the gospel to others around the world

Acts 1:8 includes the world / John 3:16 includes the world

The heart of God is eternal souls – yours

You get saved / you are saved – He gives you the Holy Spirit to use you to give the gospel.

**Acts 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

**Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

**Acts 20:21-23** Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

How does the Holy Ghost witness in every city? Through the mouth of Paul and others.

**How can I do that? Holy Ghost enables you Acts 1:8**

**Acts 19:2** He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Some don't even know about the Holy Ghost? These people probably not saved. They get salvation explained:

**Acts 19:4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Then they get saved...

I may ask you – Does the Holy Spirit dwell in you?

Not saved – you get something priceless. The Holy Ghost now / Heaven forever

Saved – you need to know there is a “He” / a personality that indwells you

He will

- Give you fruit
- Teach you Bible
- Convict you of sin
- Help you witness

A progression of the Christian life. **One never arrives at any of these four areas.** We all need to work on each of them. How do we improve?

**John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

The Comforter has come. Cultivate your relationship with him.

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and **the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.** Amen.

# A New Creature

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**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

➤ **If any man**

If – it available to all

**2 Corinthians 5:15** And *that* he died for all... See end of vs. 14

Jesus Christ' blood was shed for your sins – yes all your sins.

“If” means you can be saved.

“If” means whosoever...

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Romans 10:13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

*Whosoever* is found 110 times in the N.T.

You can be saved. No one too bad; too sinful; too lost; too good; too old; too young – if God the Holy Spirit is speaking to you – you are a *Whosoever*.

➤ **If any man be in Christ...** means that not every man is “In Christ”

If not In Christ / then In Adam

- What are you “In Adam?”

Sinner / Disobedience / Condemnation / Death

How did you get In Adam? By birth – you may say, I didn’t ask to be born...

We are all here today – we are all in this together – I am fellow sinner / I know how sinful we are – I have met a Savior – you need Him too.

- What are you “In Christ?”

Gift of Grace / Life / Justification / Obedience / Righteous / Life

How does one get In Christ? By birth – Ye must be born again.

Only one that knows you are born again – you. What is the new birth? What do you mean be born again?

➤ **New Creature** (literally – creation)

**Creature:**

Divine power in the conversion of the sinner is similar to the act of creating the world out of nothing.

A sinner gets the Holy Ghost to give Life of God imparted – the Lord Jesus Christ comes to reside inside your spirit. A New Creature – literally creation!

God makes a saint out of a sinner / God makes one into a child of God out of a child of the devil

God makes one's future home in heaven rather than eternity in hell

**New:**

New nature – the nature of God / partakers of the divine nature / Christ in you

New desires – love brethren / love missions / love souls / love to give!

New inner fruit – Love, Joy, Peace... Joy is shown on the expression of one's face

New home – heaven forever – you learn to live for your real home and put things of this earth into its proper perspective

New family – the saved are your brother and sister / earthly brothers may part after death; but death cannot separate your real brothers and sisters

New focus – God gives you purpose / Mine changed with James 4:14

New affections – you learn to love what God loves / as you mature, your heart beats with His heart – this is a lifelong process – but it all starts with:

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Are you In Christ? "If any man be in Christ" means you can be in Christ.

As the Holy Spirit tugs on your heart, the best decision you will make is to give all your heart today  
Be saved today / be born again today      **INV      As piano plays – come to Christ today**



# All Things New

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**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

**Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

## When will all this happen?

After the Rapture / after the 7-year tribulation / after the 1000 year reign of King Jesus / after the Great White Throne Judgment of Rev. 20:11-15...

then 1) Rev. 21:1 new heaven and new earth... then 2) eternity begins

## Who will be there?

God & His people Vs. 3

God is in heaven, He has never left heaven, He will still be there – the question is will you join Him? Will you be where He is?

How does one become one of His people?

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

You must be born into the family of God. Not being good; not being church member; not getting baptized... by giving your heart to Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit tugs on your heart and you respond – and the Holy Ghost gives you a new birth.

If you ever get born again – you will never be the same. It is sooo supernatural. If preaching stirs you; comforts you; convicts you; challenges you and thrills you – good sign you are saved. If during the preaching, you tense up; are uncomfortable; try to distract yourself – good sign you are not saved

Not only that – your battle is not with yourself and your inner conflict – you are resisting the One who wants to see you in Rev. 21:3. God loves you and cares about you and wants to forgive... in love, He asks for your heart.

I want to see you there – one of main reasons we have church today – to tell you of good news. Please come to Christ today.

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

If He dwells in you on earth – He will dwell with you – forever. Where God is – is heaven.

### **What will happen?**

**Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

- **God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes**

These are not tears shed on earth. You have already wiped them away. If you die and there are tears on your body, the mortician will wipe them away. So, where are these tears from?

Those in heaven will witness Rev. 20:11-15. All the lost of all the ages witness

**Revelation 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

You will have regret, pain, sorrow, crying, heartache as you witness this. How can the words of a preacher; how can the human tongue describe this awful day? You will cry in heaven – weep probably until there is no more power to weep.

I am so glad Rev. 21:4a is followed by Rev. 21:4b and 5

- **There shall be no more death**

Death – one never gets over death, we just learn to deal with it better. Time helps to heal but does not take away the pain of death.

- **Neither sorrow, nor crying**

Sorrow – sometimes from life; from where raised; people from your youth; self-inflicted; unwise decisions; 2<sup>nd</sup> hand suffering – someone else gives you heartache... You suffer because of someone else has affected you.

Why is there so much sin and heartache today? ILL Rock music and radio – youth with 1 ear plug.

Today – radio, TV, Internet – source of sin, sin and more sin.

Life is filled with things and events that causes one to cry and have sorrow.

There is coming a day – Rev. 21:4

- **Neither shall there be any more pain**

Ill health, pain in physical health, pain in emotional health, pain in mental health, pain in the heart?

GONE

- **For the former things are passed away**

Gone, gone, gone. How can this happen?

**Isaiah 65:17** For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Only God can renovate the mind. He will renovate the earth by fire:

**2 Peter 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

God can fulfill Rev. 21:4 and Isa. 65:17.

### **What will change everything?**

**Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

### **Is this so?**

**Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: **for these words are true and faithful.**

Mark it down. Just as sure as August 27, 2016 (yesterday) has come and gone,  
Rev. 21:1-4 will come and go, and  
Rev. 21:5 will come and stay.

### **Life your life with the assurance that these words are true and faithful**

Saved? Live for Christ today. Make plans for eternity – lay up for yourself treasure in heaven

Unsaved? Come to Christ today – give Him your heart

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# Sin For Us

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**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Thank God for His wonderful plan. I owe Him all I have. Here is why:

## God and Jesus – the satisfaction of a holy God

What can satisfy the demands of a holy God?

God is the One who decides what we need to do. The opinion of one human being is just that. I preach what I believe the Word of God teaches. You will stand before God for yourself. You decide for you. Don't believe me... Search the Scriptures for yourself.

**John 5:39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**2 Cor. 5:21 is the ultimate description of reconciliation (See 2 Cor. 5:18-20 for this word)**

## Jesus – the legitimate sacrifice – sinless

**1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

**1 Peter 2:22** Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin...

**Hebrews 7:26** For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

**Hebrews 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

One who had sin could not be made an offering for sin. It had to be a sinless person to take our sin upon himself. It had to be God, as only God could forgive sins.

**Luke 5:20-24** And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them,

What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

**Luke 7:47-49** Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

### **Sin for us: God the Father hath made God the Son to be sin for us**

In the midst of an excruciating physical death, all the sins of the whole world were placed upon Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

God the Father would not help God the Son at this time, as Jesus Christ was to be made sin for us:

**Matthew 27:46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** Why? To be sin for us.

Marvel at this verse:

**Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

**Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, **when he had by himself purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**Ephesians 5:2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

### **The exchange – a sinner made righteous – only an all wise God could do this.**

What will you do with your sins?

The price has been paid – ye are bought with the blood of Jesus Christ:

**1 Corinthians 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**1 Corinthians 7:23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**1 Peter 1:18-19** Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**1 John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

The Exchange – you give your heart to Christ... He takes your sins / You get His righteousness

**Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Romans 4:6** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

**Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

**1 Corinthians 1:30** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

He was treated *as if* he were a sinner, though he was perfectly holy and pure--we are treated as if we were righteous, though we are defiled and depraved

God is filling up heaven with sinners – saved forgiven sinners. Will you be there?

What a deal – 36 years ago, I gave my heart to Jesus Christ. He took my sins; I received His righteousness. What He did for me, He will do for you.

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