

RESPONDING TO THE LOVE OF GOD



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Preface

The following describes a very basic understanding of God's moral character and how, through faith and reason, man responds in trust and obedience. One's perception of who God is determines greatly as to how one interprets the scriptures and one's relationship with God and fellowman. God is love! This divine love is illustrated in God's faithfulness, grace and righteousness. Man, as created in God's moral image, had a perfect relationship with God. The Bible says that "we will be like Him"¹, and this image is like unto God's divine morality. It is encouraged that each scripture reference be carefully and prayerfully examined to determine context, interpretation and application. Each scripture reference may be read as listed in the last pages of this book. It is purposed in this writing that the reader will find Biblical truth as relates to the person of God, and who we are created to be in Him.

¹ (1 Jn. 3:2)

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GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL

God's love is true and steadfast. God's love is gracious in mercy and forgiveness; righteous in virtue and justice. If no mortal has seen God the Father, then how can one know His nature and morality? Understanding comes through experience, reason and faith. Experience in that the Holy Spirit speaks, comforts; and through faith, works in visible and miraculous ways within the life of the believer. Knowing the history, the prophecies and the person of Jesus Christ reveals the nature and morality of the Father. Reason, in that the holy scriptures reveal God's thought toward man and His desire to re-establish relationship with man who is created in His image.

"And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, **The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.**"²

A word to the wise is sufficient.

If one does not know history, they doomed to repeat it. To learn from the mistakes of others helps prevent learning the 'hard way'. Those who do not know God and His true nature will be more repulsed by misconceptions than by being drawn to Him. Those who die without ever having a relationship with the Father in heaven are those to whom He will say: "**...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.**"³



² (Ex. 34:5-7)

³ (Matt. 7:23)

Here Comes the Bride

The divine allegory of marriage between God and His bride, the church, is shown in The Song of Solomon. Believers are looking for the coming of that day of the Lord. We shall be enabled to look forward to death and judgment without fear. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.⁴ To attempt to describe God and His nature and person is certainly limited by our experiences in life. We look through the “dark glass”⁵ of humanity, each with limited knowledge, but through faith believing in the unseen. However, we may assert as others have: “I once was blind but now I see”; “I once was lame but now I walk”; “I once was lost, but now I’m found.” To limit one’s perception of God to only experience without faith would be quite a narrow view.



The Blind Men and the Elephant⁶

*It was six men of Indostan, to learning much inclined,
who went to see the elephant (Though all of them were blind),
that each by observation, might satisfy his mind.*

*The first approached the elephant, and, happening to fall,
against his broad and sturdy side, at once began to bawl:
'God bless me! but the elephant, is nothing but a wall!'*

*The second feeling of the tusk, cried: 'Ho! what have we here,
so very round and smooth and sharp? To me tis mighty clear,
this wonder of an elephant, is very like a spear!'*

⁴ (2 Tim. 4:8)

⁵ (1 Cor. 13:12)

⁶ (The Blind Man and The Elephant - Poem by John Godfrey Saxe)

*The third approached the animal, and, happening to take,
the squirming trunk within his hands, 'I see,' quoth he,
the elephant is very like a snake!*

*The fourth reached out his eager hand, and felt about the knee:
'What most this wondrous beast is like, is mighty plain,' quoth he;
'Tis clear enough the elephant is very like a tree.'*

*The fifth, who chanced to touch the ear, Said; 'E'en the blindest man
can tell what this resembles most; Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an elephant, is very like a fan!'*

*The sixth no sooner had begun, about the beast to grope,
than, seizing on the swinging tail, that fell within his scope,
'I see,' quoth he, 'the elephant is very like a rope!'*

*And so these men of Indostan, disputed loud and long,
each in his own opinion, exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!*

*So, oft in theologic wars, the disputants, I ween,
tread on in utter ignorance, of what each other mean,
and prate about the elephant, not one of them has seen!*

We, as the blind men, have a limited view of God. Through faith in His word we are given evidence of God's person, nature and morality. As being created in His 'moral' image, we may be 'like Him', but only God is all-knowing, unchangeable, ever present, and all-powerful.

Only God is Creator, self-existent, and eternal, but 'in His image' the 'born-again' will be: Faithful; Steadfast; Gracious; Forgiving; Righteous and Just. These are the moral attributes that characterize the child of God. One gives their heart to God legitimately when seeing God for who He is; revealing who they are in light of His glory.

God's morality and character is shown as Paul describes God's unconditional 'agape' love. (Love): "beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things, suffereth long, and is kind; envieth not; vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."⁷

GOD'S LOVE IS FAITHFUL IN TRUTH

⁷ (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

How is God Faithful in Truth and Steadfastness?

Truth is that which agrees with final reality. Since God is the beginning and the end, the First and the Last; is was and ever shall be, then He Is the final reality. To know God and His word is to know the ultimate, absolute truth about ourselves and creation. The Holy Spirit leads and instructs bringing freedom and purity to the soul, changing one's very nature and attitude concerning life and eternity.

The Paradigm of the Cross



(The Logos became Sarx)

“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.”⁸ “That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”⁹ The word of God is written in many languages. To rightly divide this word requires an understanding as given by the Holy Spirit and a knowledge of the context and content that reveal the spiritual applications. The new testament uses English translation to interpret Greek words to describe Hebrew thought to illustrate God's Word which the Holy Spirit speaks into our heart.

⁸ (John 1:14)

⁹ (Col. 2:2,3)

When the Word became flesh in Jesus, we beheld His glory⁷, and for the first time since Adam, could touch Him¹⁰; listen to Him; and experience God first-hand through His Son.¹¹

How Does God's Truth Provide Freedom?

"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

A believer must exercise their faith, fully trusting in God's faithfulness. Just as a loving father will coax his child to jump into his arms, our heavenly Father bids us to take that leap of faith. Peter took a step of faith out of the boat, out of the familiar comfort zone, and into the threatening storm. "And (Jesus) said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 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?**"¹² David's position, as he stood facing the giant was "in the name of the Lord." "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied."¹³

The spirit of liberty and freedom is in and unto duty. As the gospel message is applied to one's life, it will begin to transform one into the image of God. It's not people trying to be good; now they are actually sons¹ and daughters of the Most High.

It is people putting away selfishness and self-centeredness and becoming the active love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, giving of their own life because something so amazing has been given.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."¹⁴ "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament."¹⁵ For a "surety" Jesus has become the covenant (guarantee), our mediator; our intercessor; our advocate; that man may now fulfil his side of the covenant. Our response is our thankfulness for God's faithfulness to us.

How does God's Truth Provide Purity for the Believer?

¹⁰ (Luke 1:30,31)

¹¹ (John 14:9)

¹² (Matt. 14:29-31)

¹³ (1 Sam. 17: 45)

¹⁴ (2 Tim. 2:24)

¹⁵ (Heb. 7:22)

“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.”¹⁶ “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”¹⁷



Heart Transplant

God’s morality and character is given as Paul describes Agape’ Love.¹⁸ As children of God, walking in His image, we must have a heart to love with these attributes.



Not to Decide is to Decide

¹⁶ (Acts 15:8-11)

¹⁷ (1 Thess. 5:23)

¹⁸ (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

One must make a choice, a spiritual decision, when encountering the pure love of God. One's attitude will never be the same when conversion of the soul occurs. To be born of God is to be inwardly renewed by the power of the Spirit of God. Renewing grace is not only an abiding principle but the essential reality of life. True conversion results in a new nature that shines with that divine Light, revealing the evil and malignity of sin. Now there is conviction and repentance for sin when committed. They are righteous before God as a justified, atoned believer, who is taught and motivated by the Holy Spirit. **"He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"**¹⁹ If we resist, He persists; If we fail, He forgives; If we lose our faith, He remains faithful.²⁰

From the Bottom of My Heart!

The conscientious Christian will examine their spirit regularly to determine right attitude and spirit. What are the true motives for the things we do? Are our actions and purposes directed toward the glory of the Father? Life before God based on religious achievement and self-edification, does not bring one into right relationship with God²¹ but to alienation from Him.²²

Faith Exercised in Love

The child of God must read the Bible objectively without influence of personal feelings, opinions or traditions of men. The heart's desire will be to become more and more transformed into the Image of God. Thankfully God accepts our repentance unconditionally and we may come to Him just as we are; sinful and defiled. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."²³ "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"²⁴

God has always, and will always keep His covenant promises. Because God is and has always been faithful, we are compelled, and resolved to keep our promises; trying to always pay debts and keep our word.

¹⁹ (Rev. 2:18-26)

²⁰ (2 Timothy 2:13)

²¹ (Galatians 2:16; 3:3)

²² (Galatians 5:4)

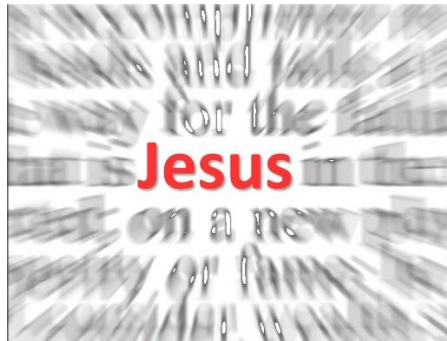
²³ (Rom. 12:2)

²⁴ (Eph. 4:14)

Our family and acquaintances will not question our love for them and will know that we will be there for them. “Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.”²⁵ “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised”²⁶

“Grace says: “Believe in this One, and forthwith everything is done.”²⁷

God our Father, loves His children, thus giving freedom to make moral choices. Along with this free will is the risk of making bad decisions. But as the loving Father,²⁸ God gives responsibility, and when fulfilled by the faithful results in spiritual growth and maturity. Thank God today that He is longsuffering!



Calibrated Focus

Law cannot be substituted for grace or achievement for faith. The focus must always be on Christ. We don’t keep the gospel; the gospel keeps us. We do not read the word of God; it reads us. The Bible, being the mirror of our lives, shows our need to rely upon God for strength, guidance and trust in our loving heavenly Father. How should one respond to God’s faithfulness in His provision of the truth of His word?

STEADFASTNESS

²⁵ (Lam. 3:19-25)

²⁶ (Heb. 10:23)

²⁷ (Martin Luther)

²⁸ (Jer. 29:11)

Determined Endeavor

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off of the goal.”²⁹

We are made righteous by belief. “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”³⁰ “I said in my haste, All men are liars. What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.”³¹ Nothing about our self should be idolized, including self-made holiness and self-righteousness. Focus is entirely on God and His glory. There is no room to boast.³² The attempt to be ‘sinless’ within one’s own strength is futile, self-centered and an abomination to God. The God-centered will not dominate over the faith of others as did the Nicolaitans;

“But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.” (Rev. 2:6) Being steadfast in our faith means a continual reliance upon God and trust in Christ’s finished work to be accomplished in our life.

How should one respond to God’s Steadfastness?

The Path That Leads to Life

The temptations of Jesus in the wilderness represented natural desires of hunger, influence and power. The true temptation was to attempt to satisfy these legitimate desires in illegitimate ways. These are the same temptations we face today. For the presence of God in the Holy Spirit to work and manifest, we must ‘get self out of the way’ and get in ‘the way of the Lord’. Then there will be souls saved, sicknesses healed, deliverance from bondages and divine fellowship restored. Then the love of God will be shed abroad in the heart of every man! The ‘legitimate’ motives we must have are exemplified in Jesus’ replies to Satan’s temptations: (Matt. 4:1-11) “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”; “Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”; “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

²⁹ (Henry Ford)

³⁰ (Rom. 3:22-24)

³¹ (Ps. 116:11-13)

³² (Rom. 3:27)

Who Are You?

Salvation is based on who we are authentically.

Stand Still, Trust and Persevere

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”³³ The Christians’ salvation is based on the work Christ accomplished. Nothing can be added to His Grace or finished work on the cross.

That which we are doing or have done for God can be no substitute for our relationship with Christ. It is only in Christ that the work of the kingdom can be done. It is in Christ alone that we can trust in all things.



**Grace is getting something we don't deserve;
Mercy is not getting what we deserve.**

How is God's Grace Shown in His Mercy and Forgiveness?

Chosen by God

God's grace and mercy is demonstrated in His divine election and regeneration of the believer. We are chosen by God, and drawn by His Holy Spirit.³⁴ “Thus saith the LORD, The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.

The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”³⁵ God's love draws men to Him rather than by authoritarian control, coercion or manipulation.

³³ (Ex. 14:13,14)

³⁴ (Jn. 6:44)

³⁵ (Jer. 31:2,3)

“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”³⁶

Many times, we've failed, and still Your mercy is there; and when we fall again, we're saved by Your grace. Grace is God's favor shown to those of us who don't deserve it, cannot earn it and will never be able to repay it. To reject God's grace³⁷ brings about a life of bondage³⁸ and the curse of death.³⁹

Regeneration

God's grace is a moral quality which operates in the believer to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtue, and to impart strength to endure trials and to resist temptation. God's Son, Jesus Christ, was the Lamb that was slain to take away the sins of the world.⁴⁰ This perfect sacrifice offers spiritual redemption to all of mankind. Renewal, revival, recovery and new birth may be used to describe spiritual regeneration. Regeneration is made possible because we have been reconciled. Substitution is the means by which we were reconciled: “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”⁴¹ It is the means of expiation: “...Be ye reconciled to God. 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.”⁴² Whereas expiation refers to the removal of our sins, and propitiation refers to the removal of God's wrath, reconciliation refers to the removal of our alienation from God.

How can we totally depend upon the saving merits of Jesus Christ?

³⁶ (Rom. 5:17-20)

³⁷ (Galatians 2:21)

³⁸ (Galatians 4:9, 21; 5:1)

³⁹ (Galatians 3:10-13)

⁴⁰ (John 1:29)

⁴¹ (1 Peter 3:18)

⁴² (2 Cor. 5: 20,21)

It is only by understanding the complete hopelessness of our efforts to escape our doomed situation that we can see the good news of the Gospel; Jesus Christ, for who He is. Christ is the only door⁴³ that leads to reconciliation with God—not any other, and certainly not our best attempts to improve ourselves. We do good works, then, not as a means of obtaining or keeping salvation but as a way of showing gratitude for all the blessings God has given us.⁴⁴ The Bible tells us we were created to do good works through Jesus Christ⁴⁵ and that through Him, we serve as a witness to the world.⁴⁶ “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”⁴⁷ “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”⁴⁸

The punishment we deserved, Christ took for us. “Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Selah. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth.”⁴⁹ Jesus was beyond recognition because that’s what sin did to us. “His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”⁵⁰ Because Christ lived a sinless life and died on the cross in place of each believer, He has accomplished something extraordinary that nobody else has ever accomplished, or ever will, or ever could. By taking upon Himself the judgment each of us deserve, He acts as our substitute meaning our sins have been paid for by His death and that His sinless life of perfect obedience to God becomes our sinless life of perfect obedience in God's sight.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 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. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”⁵¹

⁴³ (Luke 11:9, Matthew 7:13, John 14:6)

⁴⁴ (Proverbs 3:1-4, Colossians 3:1-17, Ephesians 5:15-20)

⁴⁵ (Ephesians 2:8-10)

⁴⁶ (John 14:21, 1 John 2:3-6)

⁴⁷ (Heb. 2:17)

⁴⁸ (1 Jn. 2:2)

⁴⁹ (Ps. 88:6-8)

⁵⁰ (Is. 52:14)

⁵¹ (Rom. 5:8-12)



The Escape Plan

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”⁵²

Surprise in Heaven

*I dreamt death came the other night;
And Heaven's gate swung wide.
An angel with a halo bright;
Ushered me inside.*

*And there! To my astonishment;
Stood folks I'd judged and labeled;
As "quite unfit", "of little worth";
And "spiritually disabled".*

*Indignant words rose to my lips;
But never were set free.
For every face showed stunned surprise;
Not one expected me!*

⁵² (1 Cor. 10:13)

God's Redemption At Christ's Expense

Experiencing God's grace and mercy, the born-again will understand God's peace and freedom. The reconciled soul desires to be Christ-like and finds joy in obedience to His word.⁵³ We must seek the LORD "while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 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. 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.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater."⁵⁴

**"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,
whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."⁵⁵**



The Battle Cry

The solas (only or alone) of the Protestant Reformation are a set of principles held by theologians and churchmen to be central to that period of change in the western Christian church. Each of these solas can be seen both as a corrective to the excesses of the Roman Catholic Church at the start of the Reformation and as a positive biblical declaration emphasizing grace as the reason for our salvation. Salvation comes from what God has done rather than what we do.

⁵³ (Luke 7:37-47)

⁵⁴ (Is. 55:6-10)

⁵⁵ (Eph. 4:30)

The battle cry of the Protestant Reformation was commonly expressed as the “Five Solas” which summarize our salvation:

Sola Scriptura, Salvation is revealed in Scripture alone;
 Solus Christus, Salvation is found in Christ alone;
 Sola Gratia, Salvation is entirely by grace alone;
 Sola Fide, Salvation is received by faith alone;
 Soli Deo Gloria, Salvation is given for the glory of God alone.

The Spiritual Pace-maker

God wants His children to be heart motivated. New Covenant obedience springs forth from grateful recipients of salvation on whose hearts God's laws are written. Salvation is secured by faith and grace alone. If atonement is limited it is limited by man's resistance and lack of faith. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.”⁵⁶ “And he said unto them, **Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.**”⁵⁷ The Christian life is a relationship. Religion is based upon performance, but Christianity is based on the person; Jesus Christ.



What is the Liberty that Makes Us Free?

One may go to church, yet not in love to God or to their worship, but from regard to reputation, hope, or conscience. One must come by faith into that liberty with which Christ makes his people free.

⁵⁶ (Ps. 66:18-20)

⁵⁷ (Luke 16:15)

The burden of the "contract" between God and man is placed on Jesus Christ! The gospel message places the burden of the "contact" between God and man on Christians. Christians have the commission of spreading the gospel.⁵⁸ Our salvation is based on a simple response. We know that God loves us, and we respond to that love. Spreading the gospel is based on a simple response to that same love. We respond to that love by sharing it with others "regarding no one according to the flesh"⁵⁹

What is the Ministry of Reconciliation?⁶⁰

One doesn't live right to be saved; one is saved to live right. There is a vast chasm between obedience that is grace motivated and obedience that is law motivated. "We have to fear as the greatest and nearest danger, lest Satan take from us this doctrine of faith, and bring into the church again the doctrine of works and of men's traditions."⁶¹

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."⁶² God creates us then recedes. He backs up, withholds His power, and allows us freedom of choice.

The Compound Singularity An Affirmation of the Unity of the Godhead



"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him,

⁵⁸ (Matt. 28:19,20)

⁵⁹ (2 Cor. 5:16)

⁶⁰ (2 Cor. 5:14-21)

⁶¹ (Martin Luther)

⁶² (John 1:3)

and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"⁶³

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know"⁶⁴. "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."⁶⁵ **"When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself, but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."**⁶⁶

Forgiveness: An Act of Pardon Repentance

God is gracious in forgiveness but this merciful act can not occur until there is repentance. Repentance means to "change one's mind." "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."¹⁰⁸ "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us".⁶⁷ "For the wages of sin is death".⁶⁸ "The soul that sins, it shall die".⁶⁹ God has provided a pardon; one He makes available to us all.



The Man Who Refused A Pardon

⁶³ (Matt. 3:16,17)

⁶⁴ (Acts 2:22)

⁶⁵ (Acts 10:38)

⁶⁶ (John 8:28)

⁶⁷ (1 John 1:8)

⁶⁸ (Romans 6:23)

⁶⁹ (Ezekiel 18:4)

In 1829 two men, George Wilson and James Porter, robbed a United States mail carrier. Both were subsequently captured and tried in a court of law. In May 1830 both men were found guilty of six charges, including robbery of the mail “and putting the life of the driver in jeopardy.” Both Wilson and Porter received their sentences: Execution by hanging, to be carried out on July 2.

Porter was executed on schedule, but Wilson was not. Influential friends pleaded for mercy to the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, on his behalf. President Jackson issued a formal pardon, dropping all charges. Wilson would have to serve only a prison term of 20 years for his other crimes. Incredibly, George Wilson refused the pardon!

An official report stated Wilson chose to “waive and decline any advantage or protection which might be supposed to arise from the pardon....” Wilson also stated he “...had nothing to say, and did not wish in any manner to avail himself in order to avoid sentence....” The U.S. Supreme Court determined that “The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon, unless he claims the benefit of it.... It is a grant to him: it is his property; and he may accept it or not as he pleases.” Chief Justice John Marshall wrote, “A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws.... (But) delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered, and...we have no power in a court to force it on him.”

George Wilson committed a crime, was tried and found guilty. He was sentenced for execution, but a presidential decree granted him a full pardon. When he chose to refuse that pardon, he chose to die. Reading this amazing story, we might wonder, “How could anyone refuse a pardon for the death sentence?”

Grace Imparted

A normal response to redemption would be to forgive others and to seek spiritual cleansing. To be Spirit filled requires a perfectly sinless condition which is impossible to attain through self-effort. “And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai.”⁷⁰ The sanctification mentioned here in Exodus is symbolic of Christ’s work within us to atone and to cleanse.

⁷⁰ (Ex. 19:10)

God imparts righteousness to us by giving us enabling grace, i.e., by giving us the moral power to obey the law's commands through his work of regeneration and sanctification. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."⁷¹ When even one sin is committed, it is recorded that we owe to God the penalty of the 2nd death.⁷² "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."⁷³ No good deed that we do is able to counteract this debt.⁷⁴

Christ transfers His own righteousness to us; and He does this in two ways. These two ways correspond to the two parts of the "double cure" of salvation. God 'imparts' righteousness to us by giving us enabling grace and by giving us the moral power to obey the law's commands through his work of regeneration and sanctification. When God's grace empowers us to live a holy life, this holiness is regarded as having been 'imparted' to us by God because it is His power working within us that enables us to produce it.⁶⁶



The Promise

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise.... He is patient; not wanting anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance."⁷⁵ "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."⁷⁶ "Whoever believes in him is not condemned: but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son".⁷⁷ "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."⁷⁸

⁷¹ (Phil 2:13)

⁷² (Matt. 10:28)

⁷³ (James 2:10)

⁷⁴ (Lk. 17:9,10)

⁷⁵ (2 Peter 3:9)

⁷⁶ (1 John 1:9)

⁷⁷ (John 3:18)

⁷⁸ (Eph. 4:30)



Where Do We Stand? Rock or Sand?

All of our sins are forgiven “positionally” the moment we receive Christ as Savior and our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life⁷⁹. Relational forgiveness is based on the fact that when we sin, we offend God and grieve His Spirit.

God Hates the What, Not the Who⁸⁰

Jesus humbled Himself, submitted to the Father’s will, to leave His throne in heaven and come to Earth. Here He would feel our pain and afflictions and in every way be tempted, but without sin. He obeyed God in dying on the cross to take upon Himself our sin, guilt and shame. He became servant to all that we might be called brethren and sons of God.⁸¹



Why did He grieve in the Garden of Gethsemane? Why was He sorrowful unto death? Because He knew He would take the beating of a lifetime and not even be able to die.

⁷⁹ (Rev. 21:27)

⁸⁰ (Rev. 2:6)

⁸¹ (Phil. 2:6-8)

He had to suffer every blow until the price was paid in full that we could go free, yet He endured the pain and shame because of the joy set before Him. God's love is a love that never fails. Adam sinned and death entered the earth and because all sinned all died. Jesus never sinned – He was the pure spotless holy Lamb of God. It was not until the Father laid sin upon Him that death came and He yielded to it so that we could live forever.

His blood removes the act of our sin. His body removes the effects of that sin. He was beaten beyond description. His visage was marred more than any of the sons of men.

When sin got done with us we were unrecognizable from what we'd been in the beginning. He became what we were so we could take back our rightful spiritual appearance. He came and was wronged with sin and clothed with the unrighteousness of it so we could go free. "It pleased the Father to do that to His Son"⁸² Allowing Jesus Christ to suffer under the full weight of mankind's sinfulness and rebellion, even unto death by our hands, is how God put Jesus to grief. What happened as a result of that decision by God, ultimately resulted in the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem the creation, and that was pleasing in God's sight.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."⁸³

God's love has offered forgiveness of sins through redemption; releasing the repentant from the curse of the law and from the guilt and power of sin. "Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.**"⁸⁴

What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit: Abides; Anoints; Bears witness; Baptizes; Brings unity and peace; Builds up; Can be grieved; Comforts; Commands; Commits; Dwells; Communes; Conceived; Cerates; Cries; Compels; Directs; Empowers; Enables us to pray; Forbids; Gives access; Gives gifts; Glorifies Christ; Guides; Helps; Inspires; Leads; Liberates; Ministers; Purifies; Regenerates; Renews; Resurrects; Reveals; Purchased; Seals; Sheds God's love; Seeks; Sends; Strengthens; Strives; Teaches; Testifies of Jesus; Washes and Justifies; Sanctifies; and Wills.

⁸² (Is. 53:10)

⁸³ (Is. 53:4,5)

⁸⁴ (Luke 23:34)

The Holy Spirit is a person of the Godhead and our request should always be: “How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?”

What should be one’s response to God’s offer of forgiveness?

God’s moral character is perfect, unconditional love which results in gracious mercy and forgiveness. The believers’ response is to give the same mercy and forgiveness to others.⁸⁵

Reconciliation Through Redemption Christ’s redeeming blood makes man compatible with God.

“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: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”⁸⁶ The limitations Christ imposed upon Himself rendered His sacrifice upon the cross real, authentic and acceptable for the complete redemption of mankind.

One shows gratitude for that gift through a changed life; A life of service to God and others. But your gratitude is a response to God's love, not a payment for it. Our works are a sign of our faith.⁸⁷ “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”⁸⁸ We are not simply redeemed from the guilt of sin; to be redeemed from the power of sin means that our slavery to sin is broken. We are now free to live to righteousness. Our redemption from the power of sin is thus the basis of our ability to live holy lives.

Only Jesus could bear the all the sins of all for all time! “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: That the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”⁸⁹

⁸⁵ (Luke 7:47)

⁸⁶ (1 Peter 1:18-21)

⁸⁷ (Eph 2:8-9)

⁸⁸ (Heb. 9:12-14)

⁸⁹ (Gal. 3:13,14)

The Ministry of Reconciliation Freedom from sin; Freedom to serve

“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.”⁹⁰ To “love one another” as Christ has commanded, requires focusing on what Christ has done; then the right spirit and actions will follow.

Dying to Self

Our response to the Love of God is a humble spirit. The root word is Humus (soil) from which man was made. The reasoning of the humble spirit is “down to earth”. Human: (Taken from the ground; from the dust of the ground); “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.”⁹¹ Spiritual humility is a recognition of self in relation to God. Humility is a virtue which centers on low self-preoccupation, or unwillingness to put oneself forward. It contrasts with narcissism and other forms of pride.

The Ministry of Absorption The Servitude Attitude

Dying to self is: Being forgotten or neglected and the heart is still happy. When advice is disregarded, opinions ridiculed, anger does not rise in the heart; Humility lovingly and patiently bears disorder, irregularity, tardiness, and annoyance and endures as Jesus endured. The humble attitude never cares to refer to self in conversation or record one’s good works. The humble spirit sees a brother prosper and can honestly rejoice with him, and feel no envy. The humble servant wants God to have control more than to keep it yourself.

Priorities of the ‘good and faithful servant’: Jesus, Others, Yourself

Dying to self means letting go of what’s not good to accept what is.

⁹⁰ (Jn. 13:34,35)

⁹¹ (Gen. 2: 7)

This self-denial empties self of all ambition and allows God to reshape us into useful vessels for God. “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”⁹²

Yielded, Filled and Spilled

Yielded to God’s will; Filled with His Spirit; and Spilled over to Fellow Man

“The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation.”⁹³

“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”⁹⁴

God’s love is righteous in virtue; imputing His holiness,
which gives perfect peace and joy.

RIGHTEOUS VIRTUE AND JUSTICE

God’s love is righteous in virtue which is given through the holiness of Christ bringing peace and joy to mankind. The imparted holiness of Christ provides freedom from the defilement of sin, guilt and shame. God’s atonement becomes reality to us when God’s moral standards become our own.



Atonement ‘At One’ with God

⁹² (Mark 8:34)

⁹³ (C. Spurgeon)

⁹⁴ (Jn. 5:30)

Atonement is the spiritual process by which God provided a means to remove the penalty for human sin while still extending mercy to all people. This spiritual process of reconciliation is represented in the entire word of God from Genesis to Revelation; God's pursuit of man to bring him back into fellowship and 'good standing'. The Means to satisfy the curse of sin is in the sacrifice of The Lamb of God.^{95, 96} "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."⁹⁷ "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 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."⁹⁸ Sin may be described as a 'character flaw'. When our moral image does not match up with His moral image, we fall short of the glory of God.

Not Hand Made

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."⁹⁹ "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ (John 1:29)

⁹⁶ (Gal. 3:13)

⁹⁷ (1 Jn. 4:10)

⁹⁸ (Rom. 5:10,11)

⁹⁹ (Heb. 9:24-26)

¹⁰⁰ (Ps. 103:12)



**Jesus at the Door;
Bringing salvation, freedom and peace.**

The Great Exchange; The Great Commission

God loves us unconditionally. Salvation is received by faith that God's grace is "sufficient"¹⁰¹ to save and to keep.¹⁰² Grace means we don't have to earn God's love. The covering blood of Christ gives us favor with God.¹⁰³ God's approval of us is secured by what Christ has done. Our favorable position is solely in the grace of God. To be "in Him" is our position in Christ. This "position" was given as a result of God's grace when He became our "representative" and our "substitute" in making the new covenant in His blood. It is the blood-covenant that produces the "great exchange".¹⁰⁴

When receiving God into our life we are adopted as sons of God, receiving the inheritance of the promise. We're bought with a price, sealed by the Holy Spirit.¹⁰⁵ "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."¹⁰⁶ "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."¹⁰⁷

¹⁰¹ (2 Cor. 12:9)

¹⁰² (Rom. 15:13; 8:38, 39)

¹⁰³ (Exodus 12:13)

¹⁰⁴ (Rom. 8:1)

¹⁰⁵ (Rom. 8:38,39)

¹⁰⁶ (Ps. 32:1,2)

¹⁰⁷ (Heb. 10:12-14)

The redeeming blood of Christ cleanses the repentant of all sin. Now this atonement covers the saved and they have been made favorable and acceptable to God. We have been set free from the bondage of sin, praise God!

The Eternal Present

God's omnipresence views time as an eternal present. Linear time is not relative to God; He is everywhere and 'every when'. As the born-again believer's life is transformed into the image of Christ and covered by His atoning blood, God sees us as a finished product. Our carnality is hidden in Jesus; a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable.^{108, 109, 110}

Righteousness Imputed

The sin of Adam is 'imputed' to all his descendants so Adam's sin is reckoned as theirs, and they are dealt with therefore as guilty. The righteousness of Christ is 'imputed' to them that believe in Him and then considered as their own. Our sins are 'imputed' to Christ, thus undertaking the demands of justice for our sins.^{111, 50}

**"Be of sin, the Double Cure;
Save from wrath, and make me pure."**

Justification and Sanctification

Substitution

Substitution is the means by which we were ransomed: **"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."**¹¹² The 'scape goat' came back with the sins but Jesus comes back without them, procuring our justification!

Propitiation

A propitiation is a sacrifice that removes wrath and turns it into favor.

¹⁰⁸ (Rom. 3:23)

¹⁰⁹ (Jn. 1:12,13); (Gal.4:4-7);
(Eph. 1:13,14)

¹¹⁰(2 Cor. 1:21,22); (Jn. 6:37-40)

¹¹¹ (Rom. 5:12-19; Philemon
1:18, 19)

¹¹² (Matthew 20:28)

“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; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”¹¹³

Expiation

Expiation means the removal of our sin and guilt. Christ’s death removes — expiates — our sin and guilt. The guilt of our sin was taken away from us and placed on Christ, who discharged it by his death. “John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”¹¹⁴ “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.”¹¹⁵ “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.”¹¹⁶ By dying in our place for our sins, Christ removed the wrath of God that we justly deserved.

Sanctified Holy Unto the Lord

The ‘blood washed are set apart and declared as holy; consecrated unto God. Sanctification is a “state of proper functioning.” “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”¹¹⁷

How should one respond to God’s gracious love in our justification?

How is God’s Love Shown in His Righteous Virtue and Justice?



¹¹³ (Rom. 3:25,26)

¹¹⁴ (Jn. 1:29)

¹¹⁵ (Is. 53:6)

¹¹⁶ (Is. 1:18)

¹¹⁷ (1 Peter 1:15,16)

Getting Past our Past

When Jesus pays our sin debt there is no after reckoning. The slate is completely and perfectly clean and no one can avenge or bring punishment because of past mistakes or misdeeds. Jesus bore our shame and guilt; carried it to the cross, removed it completely and forgot about it. "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."¹¹⁸ Jesus paid our sin debt in full! There is no abatement or reduction; but total eradication. Christ took upon Himself the punishment we deserved. He absorbed all of our guilt and shame and the penalty of our transgressions. He set us free. This liberty enables the born-again to function without the chains of the law.

No Condemnation

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."¹¹⁹

Freedom from the bondage of sin enables the child of God to work in the fields of the Lord, preaching the Good News to a lost and dying world. "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. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."¹²⁰

The Power of Godliness

The state of Christianity today has returned to the same condition that Israel was in during the time of the judges. This statement in Judges 17:6 and 21:25 is not a positive statement about Israel, but a negative one. This sin of "doing that which was right in (their) own eyes" was what accounted for the sin of Micah in continuing in idol worship.

¹¹⁸ (1 Jn. 2:28)

¹¹⁹ (Rom. 8:1-4)

¹²⁰ (Jn. 14:12-14)

There were no judges in the land to point out this sin or restrain the people from it. The law of God had been forsaken and replaced. Christianity is being remade in the image of imaginations of men.¹²¹



The 'Powerless' Form

What is the 'form' that denies the power of God? This 'form of godliness' is religion that focus on self-improvement more than upon God. It will include boasting of works done, attempting to convince others of a high status with God; Using scriptures that support commandments of men while avoiding scriptures that oppose their own thinking and traditions. Such a religion thrives where there is no accountability and the 'spirit of control' is in play. **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."**¹²² "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. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."¹²³

¹²¹ (Rom. 1:21)

¹²² (Matt. 7:15)

¹²³ (2 Tim. 3:1-7)



“And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.”¹²⁴ This ‘second beast’ is the United States who in the past has appeared to represent the church but now has failed to proclaim the gospel in its fullness. Churches in America have lost the vision of its’ founders and have become more ‘politically correct’ and are “speaking more like the dragon than the Lamb. Allowances have been made for the gratification of impure lusts and desires.

He that abides in Christ, continues not in the practice of sin. To be born of God is to be inwardly renewed by the power of the Spirit of God. Renewing grace is an abiding principle. Religion is a new nature and the regenerate cannot sin as before he was born of God. He only is righteous before God as a justified believer guided by the Holy Spirit.

When the promises of God are mingled with the law or fleshly lust and desires, they become of no effect but to bring death and destruction of the soul. May our focus always be upon Christ and Christ foremost. In Christ alone will there be healing, deliverance and salvation.

“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.”¹²⁵

Holiness

God’s Righteousness imputed to man creates holiness that can occur only in one’s position in Christ. This Godly righteousness is a supernatural gift from God. Christ is our justifying holiness and our sanctifying holiness. “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:”¹²⁶

¹²⁴ (Rev. 13:11)

¹²⁵ (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

¹²⁶ (Phil. 3:9)

Godly holiness glorifies God in all things and loves the neighbor as much as self. This holy love is “the infused supernatural virtue by which a person loves God above all else for His own sake and loves others for God’s sake. Like all virtues it is an act of the will. The exercise of charity increases our love for God and fellowman. A believer has a holy nature that is the seed of Christ in them. That which is born of God, the new creation, is a holy and righteous nature. Still the old man, the flesh, lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh.



613 Laws

One Law (Love)

The old man can never be made better because it is flesh. True holiness is that holiness which is in Christ alone. It is that holiness which He gives us without which “no man shall see the Lord.”¹²⁷ There are no degrees to righteousness or holiness. It must be perfect to be accepted.

Love is held to be the ultimate perfection of the human spirit, because it is said to both glorify and reflect the nature of God. The love of God is the root of all virtue, of all goodness, of all strength of character. “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.”^{128, 129} **“O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”¹³⁰**

“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.”¹³¹ “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”¹³² This is obedience that gives God all of the glory for salvation. It features the righteousness that comes down from above, the righteousness that is of faith.

¹²⁷ (Heb. 12:14)

¹²⁸ (Rom. 5:5)

¹²⁹ (2 Cor. 4:2-7)

¹³⁰ (Jn. 17:23-26)

¹³¹ (2 Cor. 5: 21)

¹³² (Phil. 2:5)



The New Creation

There is a new creation; old things are passed away, and new views and dispositions are brought in under the regenerating influences of the Holy Spirit. Believers are brought into a new world, and being created in Christ Jesus unto good works are formed to a life of holiness. It is a change of mind and heart, whereby we are enabled to believe in the Lord Jesus, and to live to God. We must focus on who we are in Christ, rather than who we aren't in the flesh! "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."¹³³ If we are attempting to earn salvation by the things we do, then our salvation is a debt that God owes us, and not of Grace that God has bestowed. When one attempts to attach anything that one does to salvation, then it ceases to be grace and becomes debt.



The fruit of God's holiness in the believer are the heavenly virtues: Humility; Kindness; Temperance; Patience; Love; and Diligence. "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."¹³⁴ By the power vested in us by the Almighty God, through the Holy Spirit, we can positively change the world. The power vested in us gives the ability to raise the dead, control the weather, heal the sick, release protection, cause multiplication, and bind demonic forces in the earth.

"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.

¹³³ (Gal. 5:17,18)

¹³⁴ (John 15: 5)

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”¹³⁵ The miracles Jesus exhibited here are the same as those God will perform through us. This power only comes from the Father above. Pray and fast as needed to recognize, activate, and utilize the power within us for the glory of God.

The proper nature of good works is not to please ourselves, but to please Christ. Salvation in Christ is the root, good works are the fruit, and our good works are part of God's plan for Christians to bear witness to the lost world, and to be an example and blessing to others.

Acceptable Good Works

A good work is when we do the will of God as a response to His love and mercy. Our new identity of righteousness is in Christ. In our new covenant with God, grace¹³⁶ is the ruling factor. Our position in Christ upholds the image of God foremost; giving Him glory in every facet of our lives. “Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour. “Father, glorify Your name “Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” So, the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, “An angel has spoken to Him.”¹³⁷

“When He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.”¹³⁸

The "new commandment" is to love one another. It is the love of the Lord Jesus emanating from us. Let us boast in Him! Good works proceed from faith and trust in God. The law is upheld and fulfilled through faith. “Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”¹³⁹ “In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.”¹⁴⁰ Not everything is essential to righteousness and salvation. Christian living is in Christ alone. It is He who has made us; it is He who sustains and works through the willing faithful.¹⁴¹ “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³⁵ (Jn. 14: 12-14)

¹³⁶ (John 1:17)

¹³⁷ (John 12:27-33)

¹³⁸ (2 Thessalonians 1:10)

¹³⁹ (Rom. 3:31)

¹⁴⁰ (Ps. 44:8)

¹⁴¹ (2 Cor. 5: 8-12)

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."¹⁴²

Dead Works

Holiness within man will only bear spiritual fruit through the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit. Works that arise out of ourselves and the flesh are not of the Spirit have no life and are 'dead'.¹⁴³ Apart from Christ we "can do nothing."¹⁴⁴

Christ equips us to do the work that He has called us to do. To substitute our work for His work is dead work. Dead work may be that which must be done to prepare for the future but from which there is no direct return, such as: Stripping the surface to expose rock which is to be quarried; Arranging deck chairs on the Titanic. Dead works are those works done without joy, faith, love or zeal. Dead works may be done: for personal gain or honor; to ease one's conscience; out of fear of divine judgment; for the sake of obtaining reward. It is futile to attempt to pay for something already purchased, such as redemption.

One must repent, or turn away from these dead works and walk¹⁴⁵ in the path that God choses for us. "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God."¹⁴⁶ "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."¹⁴⁷ Doing good deeds for others and following 'religious' expectations as an attempt to justify oneself and earn favor with God is dead work. If these works are not from the heart then one has fallen from grace¹⁴⁸ and are severed from Christ.^{124,68} "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"⁶⁸

One must perform a critical self-evaluation to examine one's motives for things done.^{149,150} Judgment must start in the house of God¹⁵¹ and in one's own heart. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."¹⁵² **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?**

¹⁴² (1 Cor. 3: 11-13)

¹⁴³ (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)

¹⁴⁴ (John 15:5)

¹⁴⁵ (Eph. 2:9,10)

¹⁴⁶ (Heb. 6:1)

¹⁴⁷ (Mark 7:13)

¹⁴⁸ (Gal. 5:4)

¹⁴⁹ (1 Cor. 11:27-31)

¹⁵⁰ (2 Cor. 13:5)

¹⁵¹ (1 Peter 4:17)

¹⁵² (Prov. 3:5-7)

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”¹⁵³ Religion puts the emphasis on ‘doing right’. Jesus puts the emphasis on ‘believing right’. When one believes right, one will naturally do right as a consequence.

God’s Glory in Jesus Christ

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”¹⁵⁴ “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.”¹⁵⁵



That My Father Be Glorified¹⁵⁶

Grace and gift are different in that grace shows God’s kindness and favor toward us making possible the imputed gift of the Holy Spirit.

This gift of grace justifies us completely before God that His works may begin to work in and through our lives. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”¹⁵⁷ “Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”¹⁵⁸ “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”¹⁵⁹ Grace is that Godly ability; that divine influence which works in the heart of man making him able. It is God’s perfect provision for man’s every need; the undeserved, unmerited favor of God!

¹⁵³ (Matt. 7:22,23)

¹⁵⁴ (John 1:14)

¹⁵⁵ (Hebrews 1:3)

¹⁵⁶ (John: 15:7-17)

¹⁵⁷ (Matt. 5: 16)

¹⁵⁸ (John 11:40)

¹⁵⁹ (Romans 8:11)



Glory Revealed

“For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”¹⁶⁰ “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”¹⁶¹ **“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”**¹⁶²

What are the benefits of God’s peace and joy?

Not just pie in the sky bye and bye, but steak on your plate while you wait.

The righteous life style has intrinsic rewards of peace and joy that one may find in nothing else. **“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**¹⁶³

**Know God, Know Peace;
No God, No Peace.**

¹⁶⁰ (2 Cor. 4: 6)

¹⁶¹ (Acts 1:8)

¹⁶² (Luke 21:27)

¹⁶³ (Matt. 11:28)

Embrace the righteousness Christ has given us. There will be no peace of mind when trying to produce righteousness or holiness. There will be no joy or liberty if one attempts to 'earn favor' with God. To experience the obedience of faith is a joy, not a burden. "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.



But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."¹⁶⁴



How should one respond to God's righteousness?

¹⁶⁴ (2 Cor. 3:6-9; 14-17)

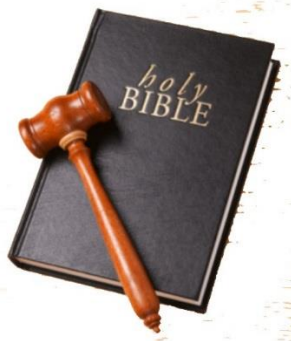
“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”¹⁶⁵ “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”¹⁶⁶

Is God Just When the Innocent Suffer?¹⁶⁷

The Divine Agreement

God’s love is Just in law and covenant. The purposes of the law are to: Magnify sin and guilt; Manifest God’s righteousness; and to lead one to Christ. “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”¹⁶⁸

When the commandment came to the apostle Paul’s conscience by the convictions of the Holy Spirit, he saw what it demanded. He felt at the same time the evil of sin and his own sinful state. He was unable to fulfil the law, and was like a condemned criminal. The same heat that softens wax, hardens clay. Medicine when taken wrong, may cause death, though intended to heal. The law may cause death through man's depravity, but sin is the poison that brings death. Not the law, but sin discovered by the law, was made death to us.



Limitations The Legal Disclaimer

¹⁶⁵ (2 Cor. 7:1)

¹⁶⁶ (Gal. 5:13,14)

¹⁶⁷ (See: [Why Does God?](#) By: ProVisionHeirz; 2018)

¹⁶⁸ (Rom. 7:9-13)

The law has limitations. The law cannot make one perfect, offer eternal hope or bring man close to God. “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”¹⁶⁹

The Law of Faith

“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”¹⁷⁰ “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 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; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.”¹⁷¹

Redeemed From the Curse of the Law

Oppositions to Grace:

Christ’s work & redemption is sufficient and we can add nothing to grace. Grace transforms the heart & nature of the individual. Behavior changes and our true nature is changed. Grace does not lead to sin because our ‘want-tos’ have changed. Grace provides true spiritual freedom & liberty. Grace is the only hope we have to break sin’s dominion over them.

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”¹⁷² Christ redeems us from the curse of the law. We are saved because of what God did to Jesus, not because of what we did to Him. God the Father ‘damned’ His Son and forsook Him. (Matt. 27:46) Jesus remained sinless on the cross even tho He was ‘made sin’ for our justification. God treated Jesus as the cursed and the guilty. God declares us righteous and ‘treats’ the born-again as ‘right’ with Him. We were the covenant breakers but Jesus was charged with the penalty of death.

¹⁶⁹ (Gal. 2:16)

¹⁷⁰ (1 Tim. 1:15)

¹⁷¹ (Romans 3: 23-26)

¹⁷² (Gal. 3: 10)

God's blessing is upon us even tho we deserved condemnation. "The accuser of the brethren says: "shame on you"; Jesus says: "your shame is on Me so, shame off of you." No amount of law-keeping can make us righteous. It cannot cleanse our consciences or change our hearts. All it can do is condemn us for falling short. The law helps one see the need for a Savior.

"O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength: Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth. Wilt thou shew wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise thee? Selah. Shall thy lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or thy faithfulness in destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark? And thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? LORD, why castest thou off my soul? Why hidest thou thy face from me? Thy fierce wrath goeth over me; thy terrors have cut me off."¹⁷³

Paul chastises the Galatians for following the false teachers who were telling them that salvation is received through faith in Jesus, plus our obedience to the law.¹⁷⁴ Jesus experienced the 2nd death (separation from God) so that the born-again would not have to. At the end when unrepentant sinners have refused God for the last time, they will experience the 2nd death.¹⁷⁵

How does the law manifest God's righteousness?

God's Nature

An important aspect of God's law is that it reveals the morality of God's nature. God gives all free will to choose to decide their own destiny. In God's perfect goodness and unconditional love, He always does the right thing toward every person.

The old covenant is authoritative as a revelation of how God dealt with his people in that specific time and culture. As a "schoolmaster"¹⁷⁶ the law continues to give insight into God's will.

¹⁷³ (Psalm 88)

¹⁷⁴ (Gal. 2:21)

¹⁷⁵ (Rev. 2:11; 20:6; 21:8)

¹⁷⁶ (Gal. 3: 24)

Even the laws of sacrifice are “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”.¹⁷⁷ Our spiritual problem is sin. We are sinful, and our sin needs to be removed from our record. We need to be declared righteous or justified. The law cannot do that; only the Sovereign Judge can declare us righteous. The attempt to add to the work of the Cross denies the sufficiency of Christ’s sacrifice. “And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”¹⁷⁸

Led to Christ

The law was not intended to discover a way of justification, different from that made known by the promise, but to lead men to see their need of the promise, by showing the sinfulness of sin, and to point to Christ, through whom alone they could be pardoned and justified. Believing and accepting the finished work of justification by Christ on the cross, God shows us His favor and mercy based upon our faith and belief in Christ. Christ has become for us the Mercy Seat in the presence of God, who forgives us all our previous sins. We have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Justification by Faith

We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. So, the law served a purpose until “justification by faith” was revealed through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Before that kind of faith came, the law had authority over us. But now in faith, the law no longer has that authority. The attempt to add anything to the work that Christ did for salvation is to negate God’s grace. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, not by returning to the Law.

“I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing”¹⁷⁹ “For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.”¹⁸⁰

Law and Grace

¹⁷⁷ (2 Timothy 3:16)

¹⁷⁸ (Jn. 16:8-11)

¹⁷⁹ (Galatians 2:21)

¹⁸⁰ (Heb. 7:19)

Law and Grace are different in the Outreach and Order in which they were given:

Old Testament:

Sheep die for the Shepherd; _____
 Not declared righteous; _____
 Enforced; _____
 No chair in the Holy Place; _____
 Sacrifice; _____

New Testament:

Shepherd dies for the sheep;
 Declared righteous by imputation;
 Imputed;
 Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father;
 “It is finished” No more sacrifice.¹⁸¹

“For Christ is the end of the law, for righteousness to all who believe.”¹⁸²



Everyone Goes to Heaven!

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, **As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.**¹⁴⁵ Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Justice will lead everyone to Christ, even if it is at the white throne judgment.

¹⁸¹ (John 19: 30)

¹⁸² (Rom. 10:4)



The Bride

“Christ also loved (His bride) the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”¹⁸³ No one but Jesus has ever loved God the Father as He should be loved. Only Jesus was qualified to redeem mankind and justify the ungodly¹⁸⁴; Only He was sinless; Only Christ loved the church enough to lay down His life for her. We the ‘bride of Christ’, shall love *[the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind]*¹⁸⁵

How has God fulfilled His covenant with man?

Covenant Fulfilled!

We may respond to the love of God, not only because He “first loved us,”¹⁸⁶ but because He has absolutely been faithful and just in keeping His covenant with us. God’s covenant faithfulness is fulfilled in the incarnation of Christ. We “see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”¹⁸⁷ Through Christ, God’s covenant is fulfilled and God’s judgment and righteousness is satisfied.

¹⁸³ (Eph. 5:25-27)

¹⁸⁴ (Rom. 4:4,5)

¹⁸⁵ (Luke 10: 27)

¹⁸⁶ (1 John 4:19)

¹⁸⁷ (Heb. 2:9)

Substitutionary Atonement

Jesus is our substitute. Jesus' redemption may be described in terms of: the Passover lamb; the scape goat; and the sin offering. One cannot minimize judgment as an expression of God's holiness. God's wrath fell upon His Son, rather than upon sinful man. To reject this atonement is to take on the judgment of God and pay the price our self. The law, written in stone, required death for transgression and did not give righteousness or salvation.¹⁸⁸ The new covenant brings the Holy Spirit, life and righteousness. The old covenant could not cleanse the conscience, but the new covenant is written on the heart. It changes the heart in a way that an external law cannot. The old covenant was temporary. It was "glorious in its time"¹⁶⁵ but its glory has faded because a greater glory is now here.

The burden of the "contract" between God and man is placed on Jesus Christ.¹⁸⁹ The Holy Spirit is the seal (or deposit) on that contract. We may try to wait to go to God until after we've 'cleaned ourselves up'. That is impossible. Jesus bore our sins while we were still sinners.¹⁹⁰ We are not worthy of the price to be paid to release us from the debt of our sins. We cannot "earn" God's love or His forgiveness. Jesus has already paid the price.



How Was the Price Paid?

Prophecies of the Crucifixion

¹⁸⁸ (Galatians 2:21)

¹⁸⁹ (Eph 1:1-14)

¹⁹⁰ (Rom 5)

Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath so that the redeemed would not have to. Prophetic scripture from Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." And from Daniel 9: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."¹⁹¹

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."¹⁹² "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."¹⁹³ "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."¹⁹⁴ Jesus had the 'right' to be resurrected because He died without the stain of sin upon Him, having never yielded to selfishness, but died in perfect love for us. "I Am the Resurrection!"¹⁹⁵

"I am the resurrection" for you!

¹⁹¹ (Dan. 9:24)

¹⁹² (Matt. 5:17)

¹⁹³ (1 Peter 2:24)

¹⁹⁴ (Jn. 10:18)

¹⁹⁵ (Jn. 11:25)



Freedom

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”¹⁹⁶ Those who desire to give themselves up to be led by the Holy Spirit, are not under the law as a covenant of works, nor exposed to its awful curse. Their hatred of sin, and desires after the holiness of God, show that they have a part in the salvation of the gospel.

All God’s Promises are Yea and Amen

“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”¹⁹⁷ God has always kept His side of the covenant. It is always man that has broken the holy agreement. The justice of God is fulfilled by the atonement of Christ.¹⁹⁸ God’s faithfulness is the undying love that binds God and His children together. God’s faithfulness: endures; will not fail; is always with us; and is always right on time. Christ is the One who shows us what covenant faithfulness is.¹⁹⁹ Our relationship with God is based on the fact that He will never let us go, even when we fail. The cross counts us worthy; favorable; accepted! The good news is that God is faithful!

“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”²⁰⁰

¹⁹⁶ (Gal. 5: 1)

¹⁹⁷ (2 Cor. 1:20-22)

¹⁹⁸ (2 Thess. 3:3)

¹⁹⁹ (Heb. 7:22)

²⁰⁰ (Phil. 1:20,21)

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.”²⁰¹ God’s kindness and unfailing love accommodates the helplessness and total depravity of man. He works through our weaknesses, denominational divisions, and lack of faith.

One’s response to God’s law would be an attempt to change it or ignore it if one desired to receive the glory that is God’s. Biblical truth through His chosen Jewish race was replaced by Greek dualism and alterations by the Papal system. “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”²⁰² The doctrines of men’s traditions and commandments have distorted and defiled the commandments of God and made them far from that which God intended. **“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”**²⁰³ Greek influence and theology has labeled the flesh as being evil when God has said that: “everything that he had made... **was very good.**” The Papal system “shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High”, and “think to change times and laws.”^{204, 205}

The believer keeps the commandments of God because the Holy Spirit of God lives within the heart. The new nature of the born-again is that of the character of God. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”²⁰⁶ The law of God is a spiritual law. The child of God chooses this law as a life style for this motive and desire proceeds from the Spirit-filled heart. It is truly a joy to glorify God in each and everything that is said and done.

Nobody’s Righteous! **“We’re just human man!”**

“How shall God judge the world? For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? And not rather, Let us do evil, that good may come? Whose damnation is just. What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

²⁰¹ (Is. 54:10)

²⁰² (1 Tim. 4:1)

²⁰³ (Matt. 15:9)

²⁰⁴ (Rev. 13:1,2)

²⁰⁵ (Dan. 7:25)

²⁰⁶ (1 Cor. 5:17)

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: 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.”²⁰⁷

Sins must be confessed and “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”.²⁰⁸ The word “confess” means “to agree with.” When we confess our sins to God, we are agreeing with God that we were wrong, that we have sinned. God forgives us through confession because of the fact that He is “faithful and just.”

How is God “faithful and just?”

He is faithful by forgiving sins, which He has promised to do for all those who receive Christ as Savior. He is just by applying Christ’s payment for our sins, recognizing that the sins have indeed been atoned for; hallelujah!

God’s Promise of Blessings

Forsaking All I Trust Him

What must we do to inherit God’s promises?

Trust in Jesus; Bet your life on Him; Choose to believe what the Bible says about Him; Let others know that He is your Redeemer and King; Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit that you might know Him more. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”²⁰⁹

“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. 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;

²⁰⁷ (Rom. 3:6-18)

²⁰⁸ (1 John 1:9)

²⁰⁹ (Rom. 8: 32)

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For 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.”²¹⁰

Promised Blessings:

God forgives all our sins.²¹¹ and remembers them no more.^{212, 213} The new covenant is an everlasting covenant of love and peace;^{214, 215}

God qualifies us;^{216, 217} Nothing can separate us from the love of God;²¹⁸ Consequently we can speak of our hope as a “firm and secure” anchor for the soul,²¹⁹

God credits us with the perfect righteousness of Jesus;^{220, 221} Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, our status before God is “perfect”;²²²

God gives us the Holy Spirit to teach,²²³ and to empower;^{224, 225} We no longer need priests to mediate for us, for now we can all know the Lord²²⁶ and are His royal priests;²²⁷

God is for us,²²⁸ justifies us and doesn’t condemn the sinner but the sin;²²⁹ When we sin, Jesus defends us;²³⁰ His grace enables us to overcome sin²³¹ and abundantly supplies all our needs²³² that we might enjoy life to the uttermost;²³³

God’s favor is unearned and unmerited;

God is with us!²³⁴ Because of Jesus the door to the throne room is open,²³⁵ we can approach Him with freedom and confidence;²³⁶

God empowers us to overcome the enemy²³⁷ and have His delegated authority over demons and disease;²³⁸ We live under His divine protection²³⁹ and are destined to “reign in life.”²⁴⁰

²¹⁰ (2 Peter 1:3-8)

²¹¹ (Matt 26:28, Acts 13:38)

²¹² (Heb. 8:12, 10:17; Jer. 31:34)

²¹³ (Is. 54:7-10)

²¹⁴ (Is. 54:10, 55:3)

²¹⁵ (Jer. 32:40)

²¹⁶ (Col. 1:12)

²¹⁷ (Php. 3:12, Ju. 24)

²¹⁸ (Rms. 8:39)

²¹⁹ (Heb. 6:19)

²²⁰ (2 Cor. 5:21)

²²¹ (Rms. 5:17)

²²² (Heb. 10:14)

²²³ (Jn. 14:26)

²²⁴ (Acts 1:8)

²²⁵ (Jn. 16:10)

²²⁶ (Jer. 31:34)

²²⁷ (1 Pet. 2:9)

²²⁸ (Rms. 8:31)

²²⁹ (Rms. 8:1)

²³⁰ (1 Jn. 2:1)

²³¹ (Tit. 2:12)

²³² (Ph. 4:19)

²³³ (Jn. 10:10)

²³⁴ (Ez. 37:27)

²³⁵ (Heb. 4:16)

²³⁶ (Eph. 3:12)

²³⁷ (1 Jn. 5:4)

²³⁸ (Mk. 16:17)

²³⁹ (Lk. 10:19)

²⁴⁰ (Rms. 5:17)

Take a Break

God offers us His rest.²⁴¹ Under the old covenant it was (do), but under the new covenant it's (done).²⁴² We are seated with Christ in heavenly places now²⁴³ with eternal life²⁴⁴ having already begun for the born-again.

At Sinai God tells His people that your liberation is My achievement, so: keep these commandments which include My promises for your own well-being and that our relationship will be complete. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God."²⁴⁵ "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."²⁴⁶

"Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death."²⁴⁷

Blessings Positioned in Christ

The righteousness that saves us belongs to us just as the sin that condemned Jesus belonged to Him. We are standing in His covenant of faithfulness. Our position is in Christ and in Christ alone. The good news is that Christ was treated as we deserve so that we could be treated as He deserves. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."²⁴⁸

The god of this age is Satan, who prevents people from seeing the ministry that brings righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ.

²⁴¹ (Heb. 4:10-11)

²⁴² (Jn. 19:30)

²⁴³ (Eph. 2:6)

²⁴⁴ (Rms. 6:23)

²⁴⁵ (1 Jn. 3:1)

²⁴⁶ (1 Jn. 3:2)

²⁴⁷ (Psalm 68:18-20)

²⁴⁸ (Ps. 1:1-6)

Only in Christ can the veil be removed. Only when we turn to Him can we see “the gospel that displays the glory of Christ.” The gospel gives us “the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ”. This is the glory of the new covenant, the message that gives hope and boldness.

**How should one respond to God’s justice
in times of persecution, rebuke, chastisement and instruction?**

Who Am I?

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”²⁴⁹ The maturity of the spirit and revelation of biblical truth will move on toward a confidence in Christ. Obedience to God’s law is inevitable for it will be who we are! “Through the faith of Christ...to all and on all who believe.”²⁵⁰ Our response to Christ’s faithfulness: Joy; Peace; Praise; Worship and Obedience.

**Visions of Grandeur
Authentic Worship**

Ezekiel’s message (in Ezekiel 43) relates to sin and rebellion and empowering hope of return, restoration and renewal. Ezekiel reassures the nation of the return of God’s favor to them as they genuinely and wholeheartedly worship Him. Reconciliation with Almighty God is Israel’s surest protection from future adversity and tragedy. Ezekiel shares with the nation a vision of the coming grandeur of authentic worship.²⁵¹

“Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”²⁵²

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”²⁵³

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”²⁵⁴

The Restoration of All Things

²⁴⁹ (Rev. 22:12)

²⁵⁰ (Rom. 3:20)

²⁵¹ (Ezekiel 43:1-12)

²⁵² (1 Jn. 3:3)

²⁵³ (Col. 3:14,15)

²⁵⁴ (1 Thess. 3:12,13)

“But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”²⁵⁵ The “restoration of all things” is the object of God’s covenant. “And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”²⁵⁶



“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”²⁵⁷ “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. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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.** And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.**”²⁵⁸

²⁵⁵ (Acts 3:18,19)

²⁵⁶ (Acts 3:20,21)

²⁵⁷ (Heb. 9:28)

²⁵⁸ (Rev. 21:1-5)

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,**

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.”²⁵⁹

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO THE LOVE OF GOD?

²⁵⁹ (Numbers 6: 22-27)

Scripture References

1. (1 Jn. 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.
4. (2 Tim. 4:8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
5. (1 Cor. 13:12) For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
7. (1 Cor. 13:4-7) 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
9. (Col. 2:2,3) 2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; 3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
10. (Luke 1:30,31) 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.
11. (John 14:9) 9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**
20. (2 Tim. 2:13) 13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
21. (Gal. 2:16; 3:3) 16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.;
- (Gal. 3:3) 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
22. (Gal. 5:4) 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.
28. (Jer. 29:11) 11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
32. (Rom. 3:27) 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.
34. (John 6:44) 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.**
38. (Gal. 4:9,21; 5:1) 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? 21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?
- (Gal. 5:1) 1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

39. (Gal. 3:10-13) 10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. 11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. 12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 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:

40. (John 1:29) 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.

43. (Lk. 11:9) 9 **And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

(Matt. 7:13) 13 **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.**

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

44. (Prov. 3:1-4) 1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

(Col. 3:1-17) 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 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. 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. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

(Eph. 5:15-20) 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

46. (Jn. 14:21) 21 **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.**

48. (1 Jn. 2:3-6) 3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

53. (Lk. 7:37-47) 37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee.** And he saith, Master, say on. 41 **There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.** 42 **And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?** 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.** 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, **Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.** 45 **Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.** 46 **My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.** 47 **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.**

58. (Matt. 28:19,20) 19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** 20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

59. (2 Cor. 5:14-21) 14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 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.

74. (Lk. 17:9,10) 9 **Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.** 10 **So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.**

85. (Lk. 7:47) 47 **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.**

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

88. (Heb. 9:12-14) 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

89. (Gal.3:13) 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:

101. (2 Cor. 12:9) 9 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.

103. (Ex. 12:13) 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.

104. (Rom. 8:1) 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

105. (Rom. 8:38,39) 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

108. (Rom. 3:23) 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

109. (Jn. 1:12,13) 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(Gal. 4:4-7) 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

(Eph. 1:13,14) 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

(2 Cor. 1:21,22) 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

(Jn. 6:37-40) 37 **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.** 38 **For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.** 39 **And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** 40 **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

111. (Rom. 5:12-19) 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

(Philemon 1:18,19) 18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; 19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.

121. (Rom. 1:21) 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

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

140. (Ps. 44:8) 8 In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

141. (2 Cor. 5:8-12) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 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. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. 12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

143. (Prov. 14:12) 12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

(Prov. 16:25) 25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

145. (Eph. 2:9,10) 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

148. (Gal. 5:4) 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

149. (1 Cor. 11:27-31) 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

150. (2 Cor. 13:5) 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?

151. (1 Peter 4:17) 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

156. (John 15:7-17) 7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 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. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.*

175. (Rev. 2:11; 20:6; 21:8) (Rev. 2:11) 11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

(Rev. 20:6) 6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

(Rev. 21:8) 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.*

174. (Gal. 2:21) 21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

176. (Gal. 3:24) 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

181. (Jn. 19:30) 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, *It is finished*: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

184. (Rom. 4:4,5) 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

185. (Lk. 10:27) 27 And he answering said, **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.**

186. (1 Jn. 4:19) 19 We love him, because he first loved us.

189. (Eph. 1:1-14) 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

190. (Rom. 5) 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 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. 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 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. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. 12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

195. (Jn. 11:25) 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:**

198. (2 Thess. 3:3) 3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

199. (Heb. 7:22) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

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

(Acts 13:38) 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

212. (Heb. 8:12) 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

(Heb. 10:17) 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

(Jer. 31:34) 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

213. (Is. 54:7-10) 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. 8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer. 9 For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. 10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

214. (Is. 54:10) 10 For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

(Is. 55:3) 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

215. (Jer. 32:40) 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

216. (Col. 1:12) 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

217. (Php. 3:12) 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

(Ju. 24) 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

218. (Rom. 8:39) 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

219. (Heb. 6:19) 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

220. (2 Cor. 5:21) 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.

221. (Rom. 5:17) 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

223. (Jn. 14:26) 26 **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

224. (Acts 1:8) 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.

225. (Jn. 16:10) 10 **Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;**

226. (Jer. 31:34) 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

227. (1 Peter 2:9) 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

228. (Rom. 8:31) 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

239. (Rom. 8:1) 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

230. (1 Jn. 2:1) 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:

231. (Titus 2:12) 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

231. (Philippians 4:19) 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

233. (Jn. 10:10) 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.**

234. (Ez. 37:27) 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

235. (Heb. 4:16) 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.

236. (Eph. 3:12) 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

237. (1 Jn. 5:4) 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

238. (Mark 16:17) 17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

239. (Lk. 10:19) 19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

240. (Rom. 5:17) 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

241. (Heb. 4:10,11) 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

242. (Jn. 19:30) 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

243. (Eph. 2:6) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

244. (Rom. 6:23) 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

251. (Ez. 43:1-12) 1 Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: 2 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory. 3 And it was according to the appearance of the vision which I saw, even according to the vision that I saw when I came to destroy the city: and the visions were like the vision that I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. 4 And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east. 5 So the spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house. 6 And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. 7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places. 8 In their setting of their threshold by my thresholds, and their post by my posts, and the wall between me and them, they have even defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger. 9 Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever. 10 Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. 11 And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them. 12 This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.

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