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PREFACE

If you consider yourself to be a Christian, just the title of this book may be offensive to you. May I bear my heart before you with sincerity and tell you that the following words are written from a heart of love and concern. One of the marks of true wisdom is that a person remains teachable their entire life.¹ And since the Bible is our shared source of instruction, you can seek to see whether or not any of the following words appear to be a faithful representation of God's Word. May I encourage you to read with an open heart, guarding yourself against offense. If you find these words to be true, then great, maybe you would agree with me that this is a message that needs to be read by more professing Christians. If you disagree, then reading this will probably cause you to more firmly believe as you already do. I want to thank you in advance for being willing to consider these words from the heart of a man who is genuinely desiring to follow Jesus Christ according to His Word in the midst of this crazy world of ours. I hope you are endeavoring to do the same.

FACING ETERNITY

Try to imagine this scene: You are strapped into a hang glider standing on the precipice of a huge gorge the size of the grand canyon. The chasm below is filled with smoking lava. On the opposite side of the vast expanse, is a soft blanket of grass at the opening of a dazzling meadow of flowers back-dropped by a brilliant sunrise. As you peer over the edge, to your horror, deep down in the gorge you see millions of writhing bodies being eternally tormented in the liquid flames. As the ground under you begins to crumble, you jump back awkwardly to watch the earth beneath your feet disappear into the thick smoke below. Suddenly aware that at any moment the ground beneath could give way, you realize that running and bounding into the open air above the inferno and gliding to the other side is your only hope of survival.

Would you examine your hang glider before you jumped?

Would you take a moment to test the straps that your life depended on?

Would you look over the seams of the fabric that would help you defy the law of gravity?

Would you just fall off the edge of the cliff with your fingers crossed, or mentally prepare yourself to run and leap with all your confidence and strength?

No analogy could accurately describe the *reality* of what the Word of God declares. If you consider yourself to be a Christian, you know what eternity holds for both those who are followers of Jesus Christ and those who are not. If you are a follower of Christ that is **“working out your salvation with fear and trembling”**² and **“passing the time of your sojourning here in fear”**³, then you will see the wisdom of God when He says, **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.”**⁴

Have we been so conditioned to think it a bad thing if someone challenges the “security” of our salvation? Furthermore, when someone causes us to possibly doubt if we are going to heaven, should we instantly think that the message they are bringing must not be from God. But the reality is that Jesus and His disciples were both encouraging obedient disciples in their security as well as openly challenging the security of those who were living sinful lives. As a fellow reader of the scriptures, you will see that Jesus and His followers used much harder words than I will choose because I have found that this generation has become so sensitive that the majority do not know how to receive exhortation, let alone an honest rebuke.

So, are you willing to examine your profession of Christ in light of the Word of God and not in comparison to the other Christians around you? Do you think you are a follower of Christ? I'm sure that many around you think that you

are, but are you? Only God can answer that question through His Word! Will your relationship with Jesus Christ carry you into an eternity in heaven or hell? Would you agree that these are some of the most important questions that someone could ask you?

CHRIST IS NOW OUR LIFE

An extremely pivotal point must be made at the outset of this article or much of what follows may seem to you to be legalistic or an implication that we earn our salvation. This pivotal point is that the very essence of a true Christian life is the *reality* of Jesus Christ living His life out in the heart of an individual believer through His Spirit.⁵ There can be no substitute for the *actual life* of the risen Lord of heaven empowering a follower of His to obey Him. This is the spiritual reality that Jesus died and rose again for on behalf of every born again child of the living God. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that just because something is “spiritual,” that it somehow makes it more “theoretical” and less “real.” God never intended for the indwelling and empowering of Christ’s Spirit in the heart of His children to be to them a doctrine apart from a their true daily experience.⁶ There are many stages in the growth of a child of God into maturity, and so varying degrees of the life of the Spirit may be evident from one believer to another⁷, but we must not be mistaken: “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”⁸

Without a proper understanding of the essence of the Christian life, much of what Jesus and His apostles said can sound extremely burdensome and seem to be in direct contrast with many other portions of the scriptures. The truth is, Jesus Christ said that we should take His yoke upon us and learn from Him because His yoke is easy and His burden is light.⁹ What an encouraging statement from the lips of our Lord that is! However, many have made the error to conclude that anything that Jesus said which seems burdensome or appears hard for us to obey *in our own strength* must not be what Christ commanded or expected. And so, because we are focusing on *our lack of ability* to obey Jesus, instead of *the power of His Spirit* in our hearts, we quickly conclude that Jesus must not have *actually* mean what he commanded in various places of the scriptures, but what He really must have been doing was laying out before us statements that were optional to obey if we wanted to have rewards in heaven.

Allow me to give a brief example of how this happens. Jesus said, “Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”¹⁰ Now I do believe that it is scriptural to conclude that Jesus does not require every child of His to literally be nailed to a cross to be a disciple. Otherwise Paul would not have been a disciple. But as we compare the reality of getting crucified with the rest of the lifestyle and statements of Jesus and His apostles, we quickly see the literal impact Jesus meant by those words. And so, in that one statement Jesus made, it is clear that God is calling us to a lifestyle which includes, persecution, rejection, trials, discipline, misunderstanding, suffering, rejection, self-sacrifice, forgiveness of our enemies, abandonment to the Father’s will, obedience, pain, mockery, and an overwhelming compassion for others that would rather be tortured to death than see them perish in hell. Sound burdensome? It all depends on how you look at it.

If we read the Jesus’ clear description of authentic discipleship *with a fleshly mind*, how burdensome it appears! We think, “Suffering? Being

misunderstood and mocked? Rejection and pain? And all this with a heart of love for the ones that are doing to me? Your kidding me, that's obviously impossible! Jesus said that His yoke is *easy* and His burden is *light*. Jesus would not ask me to do something that is impossible, so He must not have meant what He actually said." All this happens because we read the Bible as if God were asking us to obey Him *in our own strength*. So, without even realizing it, we falsely conclude that obedience to Christ is optional, and we become the judge of what ought to be obeyed or what we can ignore based upon how hard it is to accomplish in our strength. We then each draw individual lines in the sand as to where our obedience stops, because the rest of what Jesus and His Apostles said, we falsely conclude, is *burdensome* and *heavy* and must not be what we are called to obey. We back up our false view with the thought that under the Old Covenant, they were bound up by commandments and now "under grace," Christ has no commandments, but in order to keep the New Covenant "easy and light" all that Jesus and His Apostles have said and written are not really commandments at all, but rather suggestions or moral encouragements. We take a false sigh of relief that we don't have to obey the hard statements of the New Testament and put our hope in the fact that God's grace will daily and eternally cover our direct disobedience of God's Word.

Dear soul, there are few deceptions as clever and destructive than this. Satan Himself is the author of such deception and he has struck at the heart and essence of the Christian life! The deep and profound mystery that has been kept hidden from ages and generations before the coming of Christ but now has been revealed to His saints is CHRIST IN YOU.¹¹ Has this mystery found root in your heart yet my friend? If you have repented of your sins against God and are abiding in genuine faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christ is now your life!¹² Because Christ had become the life of John the apostle, he could humbly say, "**For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**"¹³ You see, Jesus did not mean that His yoke is easy and His burden is light *because we don't have to obey Him*. He meant that His yoke is easy and burden is light *because HE IS YOKED WITH US!* In the day that Jesus spoke those words, His disciples would have understood that a yoke is what binds two animals together so that they could work together to carry a burden. The actual life of Jesus Himself filling and overflowing the heart of a believer to produce obedience, righteousness, and holiness is what Christ died and rose again for! Anything less than Christ living His life out through you is not true Christianity.

So, let's look at Jesus' statement again: "Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." True, ever so true, that statement describes and demands a life that is absolutely contrary to our human nature and utterly impossible to obey in our own ability. But let me ask you this, dear friend. Is that statement contrary to Christ's nature and impossible for Him to accomplish in His ability? Oh, how our awesome Savior has forever proved that nothing is too difficult for Him! When you "**put no confidence in the flesh**"¹⁴, realize that "**in [your] flesh dwells no good thing**"¹⁵ and that "**apart from [Him] you can do nothing**"¹⁶, you are ready to walk in the reality that

“[you] can do all things through Christ Who strengthens [you]”¹⁷, that He is “able to do exceeding abundantly above all that [you] ask or think according to the power that works in [you]”¹⁸, and that Christ’s “strength is made perfect in weakness”¹⁹. This is the true Christian faith. Not only that Christ died on the cross to provide forgiveness for the penalty our sin, but that He is also now risen from the dead to fill our new hearts with His life and set us free from the power of sin!

It is a wicked deception that Satan has fabricated. He has convinced so many that Jesus commandments are impossible to obey, and not only that, but that Christ doesn’t expect us to obey them. In fact, the devil has convinced untold numbers who think that they are followers of Christ that when someone actually gets radically serious about Jesus’ teaching and believes that they must obey Jesus and follow His example, that they have been snared into legalism. Somehow Satan has been able to produce multiplied thousands of professing Christians who believe that their openly sinful lives prove that they are not trusting in their own works and that they are on their way to heaven.

Satan has also deceived untold numbers by the deception that they can obey Jesus in their own strength. Though they have never truly repented and turned to Christ, they are convinced that if they just try hard enough and form strict habits of self denial and discipline, that they can imitate Christ. Soon, pride and unrighteous judgment have so filled their heart that they have no love or joy, but only religion. Satan has them thinking that others who are not following all their intricate extra-biblical applications of the scriptures are not saved. Have you been deceived by either one of these lies of the enemy?

And so I ask you at the outset of this booklet, have you been born again?²⁰ Has Christ become your life? Has the war against righteousness been changed into a war against sin in your heart? Can you say with Paul, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”**²¹ Dear soul, maybe the Lord has already revealed these truths to you heart, but if not, allow me to give you some brotherly advice. When you read the direct commandments of Jesus Christ that describe the life of true discipleship, after you have rightly concluded that they are impossible to obey in your own strength, submit to the life of Christ within you and experience true discipleship! Unreservedly cast yourself at His feet with no confidence in yourself and implicitly trust in Him! Christ commands nothing that He does not empower you to obey. If you have not tasted of the life of Christ in your heart, all that is left is either trying to produce righteousness in your own strength or living in continual sin, both of which the Bible says will end in eternal destruction.²²

SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Since this paper is written to modern day evangelical Christians, I will already assume that you have fully received the message that you must enter into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ by realizing that you are a sinner, utterly incapable of saving yourself through your own good deeds, and must unreservedly cast yourself upon the mercy of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.²³ Having your past debt canceled, being born again and entering into an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ is definitely a work of grace through faith.²⁴

Did you know that grace and faith are not only a work of the past? Biblical grace and faith are virtues that God's Word exhorts us to continue in.²⁵ True grace and sincere faith reveal themselves to be authentic by the way they work out practically in the life of a Christian. My concern with the condition of much of today's professing Christian church is that there are so many who claim to be presently saved by grace through faith, yet they live a lifestyle that God clearly says will cause them to sadly and ultimately end up in hell. Either God is wrong, or many people must have a false view of salvation. Who would you side with on the day of judgment, God or man?

Are you saved by grace?

I sincerely hope you are! Oh, how matchless the grace of God is! Allow a few questions to examine the authenticity of the grace that you have received. Before you read on, examine your heart and ask yourself, "How do I define Biblical grace?"

Do you view God's grace as a blanket of pre-forgiveness that allows you to live however you want after you became a Christian? Do you believe that grace stands in contrast to godly works? Have you been listening to ungodly men who have crept into the church unnoticed, who turn the grace of God into an excessive indulgence of liberty?²⁶ Do you believe that grace abounds when you choose to continue walking in sin?²⁷ Do you have a Biblical understanding of what grace is? Oh, dear soul, how important these questions are! Being deceived on this point will prove to be eternally fatal for untold numbers in the end.

In my search of the Scriptures, there is no clearer definition of what grace is than in the words of Paul to Titus. Paul says, "**The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify to Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.**"²⁸ Oh, how eternally important it is that you have and continue to receive the "grace that brings salvation", for there is no other grace

that will save your soul!

Does the grace you have teach you to deny and turn from anything in your life that is not absolutely like God and live a holy life? Are you waiting to be godly when you get to heaven, or do you expect His grace to empower you to “**walk as He walked**”²⁹ in this present age? Has the grace of God redeemed you from every lawless deed and lit a raging zealous fire deep in your heart for good works?

If you are like me, you may be thinking, “Well that’s pretty idealistic, no one can possibly live a life like that!” That is the main point my dear friend. You see, true Biblical grace, the kind that brings salvation, is a power that we cannot produce at work in our heart to produce the character of God!

Does grace mean that God is lovingly overlooking our sin? Did Jesus need the grace of God? God tells us in His Word that *great grace was upon Jesus*.³⁰ According to today’s predominately shallow view of grace, this would mean that God was lovingly overlooking Jesus’ sin. We know that Jesus had no sin. So, why was the grace of God upon Him? For forgiveness? Certainly not. The grace of God was upon Christ to *empower Him to walk in righteousness!*

“Oh, but that was Jesus,” you might say. The earliest disciples are also said to have had “great grace upon them.”³¹ Do you think this means that, though they were living sinful lifestyles, the Lord was lovingly overlooking their unrepentant wickedness? Impossible. Just five verses after testifying that great grace was upon them, God personally killed two disciples for the secret sin of covetousness that led to open lying. Why didn’t God just overlook the sin of Ananias and his wife? Do you think that God wanted them to stop sinning? Now, don’t hear me wrongly, there is *mercy* for those who forsake their sin and turn to the Lord,³² but when true mercy is obtained, it always comes with “**the grace to help in time of need.**”³³ To think that we can be covered by the grace of God, while refusing to flee from sin, is a condition of heart that is consistently condemned by God.³⁴

We too are empowered by grace. Hear this Scripture: “**Sin shall not have dominion over you because we are not under the law but under grace.**” Now, does it make sense to think this verse is saying, “Sin shall not have dominion over you because God now overlooks your sin?” How can God overlooking your sin set you free from the dominion of sin? You see, sin shall not have dominion over us as followers of Christ. Why? Because we are under grace- the power to set us free from the dominion of sin!³⁵

Does grace reign in your heart? True Biblical “**grace reign(s) through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**”³⁶ You see dear friend, Biblical grace, the kind that brings salvation, is given to produce “**obedience to the faith**”.³⁷ As many Christians have discovered, grace is truly amazing! When Paul asked Christ to remove his thorn in the flesh, Christ told him, “**My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in**

weakness.³⁸ Do you see how Christ reveals to Paul that His grace is a “strength” given to us in our weakness? Paul understood this revelation that grace is a power to labor for the Lord. This is why Paul says, **“by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”**³⁹ Paul realized that all the intense labor and devotion that characterized his Christian life was not produced by himself, but was a direct byproduct of the grace of God bestowed upon Him by God. Paul realized that he **“was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto [him] by the effectual working of [God’s] power.”**⁴⁰ Oh, the beautiful and sweet understanding that **“great grace”** is equated in the Bible to **“great power.”**⁴¹

So, are you saved by grace? If you are, praise the Lord, His grace will be clearly and progressively seen for what it truly is through your life: “The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.”⁴²

Are you saved through faith?

Oh, my heart overflows with hope that you are! Is your faith sincere? Let me make two statements and you tell me which one is accurate according to the Bible.

Statement 1: Man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Statement 2: By works is man justified and not by faith only.

Which above statement sounds correct? I know which answer sounds more comfortable and exciting to believe. But which statement is *right*? I'm sure you read your Bible and recognize that both statements are right.⁴³ The first statement is from our dear brother Paul. He assumes that that we have an accurate definition of faith. Paul so beautifully shows us from his past experience and his writing that there is nothing we can do in our own strength and effort that will save us. In all his fleshly striving, he rightly concluded that he could never earn his salvation. He concluded that salvation must come through faith alone.

It is obvious that Paul believed that true faith produced fruits such as repentance, righteousness, freedom from sin, the fruit of the Spirit, and obedience. I am convinced that if Paul were to visit the American church today, he would make it abundantly clear that a faith that does not progressively produce godliness in your life is not faith at all.

The second statement is from dear brother James. He does not assume that we have an accurate definition of faith, he makes sure that we do. **“Do you believe that there is one God? Even the demons believe and tremble!”**⁴⁴

James makes it clear that if we say that we believe and that faith only stays in our minds, not radically transforming our lives, our faith is dead.⁴⁵ No matter how much we want to separate faith from the evidence of faith, it can never be done. You may as well try to separate your spirit from your body and and try to call alive.⁴⁶ Trust me, things start stinking quickly when someone dies. The works of faith are what show that the faith is alive. Anything else is nothing but a rotting corpse to God; that's how serious of a picture He paints in His Word for us.⁴⁷

Here is the clearest Biblical definition of faith that I have come across: **“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”**⁴⁸ The word *substance* means “the actual matter of a thing, as opposed to the appearance or shadow; reality.”⁴⁹ According to God, faith is the *tangible reality* of what you hope for. The word *evidence* means that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.⁵⁰ When a detective arrives on a scene, he relies on the evidence he finds to prove the reality he did not see. Can you see that the Biblical definition of faith can never be separated from works? You cannot have genuine faith without works. Nor can one produce genuine works without faith! Only a living faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ will bring us into a right relationship with Christ both positionally and practically. Dear brother or sister, is your faith alive? Are you still striving in personal effort to produce Christlikeness in your life? Does your faith produce holiness of thought, word, and deed? Have you believed only in your head, or have you believed in your heart? Your life will answer that question, for you only truly believe that which moves you to action.

I often meet people who think I am being legalistic (you might agree with them by now!) who always pull out the “grace through faith card.” And you know, I could not agree more! **It is all about grace through faith.** The question is whether or not our definitions of grace and faith are accurate. Is God's grace an active, empowering reality producing holiness in your life, or is it an idea that God is so kind that He overlooks all your sin? Is faith to you an agreement that God is real, that He sent His Son to die for you, and that you will one day go to heaven? Or does faith move you to abandon all for the sake of Christ now and unreservedly follow Him in light of all He has done for you?

If your still with me, here are three Biblical necessities of the Gospel that I feel are being sadly neglected today within the professing church.

A life of faith empowered by the grace of God will produce REPENTANCE

Repentance: the relinquishment of any practice, from conviction that it has offended God.

Did you repent from known sin when you turned to Christ? Did you know that the true gospel of the Scriptures requires you to turn from your sin? If you have been convinced that it is impossible for a Christian to turn from sin, then I lovingly warn you that the grace and faith that you are trusting in will be found to be a mere figment of your imagination in the day of judgment. If departing from sin is impossible for the person that names the name of Christ, why would God command us: **“Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity?”**⁵¹ Furthermore, why would Jesus say, **“Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”**?⁵² Why would Jesus openly rebuke numerous cities because they did not repent, declaring that the day of judgment would be a worse for them than for Sodom?⁵³ Were all these statements meant for people other than you and I?

Did you respond to a “gospel” that included the message of repentance as a *necessary fruit* of faith in Christ unto salvation? John the Baptist prepared the way well in declaring that men must **“bring forth fruit worthy of repentance”** because he warned that **“every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”**⁵⁴ What was Jesus’ message? **“The time is fulfilled, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel.”** Jesus clearly told His disciples before ascending into heaven that **“repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name.”**⁵⁵ So, it should be no surprise that the first evangelistic sermon ever preached by the church had at it’s climax the clear call to repentance. When Peter was asked by the convicted crowd what they should do in response to this anointed message, the first word out of brother Peter’s mouth was, **“Repent”**.

What about Paul’s gospel? Paul went to great efforts to make sure that he was preaching the same gospel as the other apostles.⁵⁶ It, therefore, should not surprise us that he personally described his gospel as a message **“testifying to Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”**⁵⁷ I think it is a fair question to wonder why so many people think that Paul preached a gospel that did not call men to abandon their sin when they turned to Christ. So many turn to Paul’s statements of being saved by faith apart from works and confessing Jesus with your mouth, to try and nullify the Bibles’ clear call of repentance upon the lost. But if there is any question as to whether Paul agreed with Jesus Himself as well as all the other New Testament writers on the issue of repentance, may it be settled in your heart and mind right now through Paul own words. Paul declared that he was not disobedient to the direct calling of Jesus Christ on his life. How was Paul obedient to our Lord? Paul says, **“I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God,**

and do works meet for repentance.” One thing (among so many things) that I am thankful to God for revealing through Paul is that repentance not only includes turning from wicked works, but also turning from self-righteousness. Being instructed personally by Christ, Paul confirmed Jesus’ teaching that those who trusted in their own ability to produce righteousness would not be justified.⁵⁸

I must lovingly yet firmly say that if anyone can read the New Testament with any integrity of heart and come up with the conclusion that we do not have to abandon our sinful lifestyle when we follow Christ, then they are sadly under the deception of Satan and are giving heed to doctrines of demons. When God shows us clearly in His Word that His true gospel includes the call to repentance, how then has the modern response to the gospel been turned into, “Ask Jesus to come into your heart?” I have searched long and hard and cannot find one place where asking Jesus into your heart is what you do to be saved. It is true that Phillip said to the Ethiopian eunuch that he had to believe with all his heart.⁵⁹ You see, when someone believes with *all their heart*, they stop practicing anything that they are made aware of by the Spirit of God that displeases Him. Paul says to the disciples of Rome, **“you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”**⁶⁰ When one truly *believes* with the heart, they will *obey* from the heart!

What about “the sinners prayer?” Is it enough to say, “Lord, I know I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself, so I look to you and ask you for your gift of righteousness through faith. Please save me in Jesus name, amen!” As true as this prayer may be, if it doesn’t include the response of repentance, you will not receive remission of your sins. God’s Word clearly says that remission of sins comes through a faith that produces repentance, and leads to baptism.⁶¹ I’m not saying that someone can’t be born again if they sincerely pray the sinner’s prayer from the heart. But here is the thing I am trying to explain: If someone really means that prayer from their heart, they will repent from any known sin they are practicing, get baptized as soon as possible (if circumstances allow) and truly receive the forgiveness of all their past sin. When someone truly turns their life over to Christ, all of heaven rejoices! But have you ever considered what it is that the sinner does that causes heaven so much joy? Jesus could not be more clear: **“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”**⁶²

Did you turn to Christ without forsaking sin? Did you think that you gave your life to Christ by just trying to be a better person? Do you believe that doing good things will outweigh the sin you may still be hanging on to? You may have felt a deep sense of remorse when you thought you gave your life to Christ, but dear soul, feeling deeply convicted by your sin is necessary, but not enough to truly enter into an abiding relationship with Jesus. God declares that **“godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”**⁶³ Make no mistake, *repentance* leads to salvation. I lovingly beseech you, make sure that you are not mistaken

on this vital point dear friend.

Do you believe that Christ rose from the dead? Do you believe that Jesus will one day judge the world in righteousness? If so, then rejoice and embrace this Scripture with your whole heart: **“God...now commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”**⁶⁴ You may have been taught that God is too “good” to require us to repent. We all must learn to have a proper view of what sin is, how much it destroys lives and how much God hates it. Soon you will understand that God calling you to abandon your sin does not stand in contrast to His goodness, but to the contrary, **“the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance.”**⁶⁵ We must learn to see repentance as a gift, something that God **“gives”**⁶⁶ and **“grants”**⁶⁷ to us! Oh dear soul, have you yet to realize that turning away from your sin is a great blessing?⁶⁸ Have you experienced that unspeakable joy of not having to produce the righteousness of God by your own strength but allowing *Christ to empower you* to please Him?⁶⁹ Oh what a joy it is to allow the Holy Spirit to conform us into the image of Christ! Christ hated sin and loved righteousness and because that was the condition of His heart, He was anointed with gladness more than any other man!⁷⁰

I know that the fleshly mind revolts against the idea of the possibility of genuine repentance, but trust God dear friend! If you have genuine faith, God will grant you the fruit of repentance, and you will be empowered by His unspeakable grace to flee from sin and walk in the truth.⁷¹

A life of faith empowered by the grace of God will produce HOLINESS

Holiness: purity of heart or dispositions; sanctified affections; piety; moral goodness.⁷²

Are you walking in known sin right now? Would you be willing to admit that there are many more people who *claim* to be God's children than who actually *are* His children? Jesus said that, not a few, but *many* would stand before Him one day thinking that they were in a right relationship with Him, only to find out that they never were.⁷³ Think of the dread of that day! You and I will see that happen. Now think with me for a moment. Imagine gathering together with a church on Sunday and getting into a conversation with a man afterward about the Lord and as you are talking to him, God shows you, by His Spirit, that this man was going to be one of the untold numbers that will go to hell though he thought all along that he knew Christ. Now what if you asked him, "Are you going to heaven?" What do you think he would say? Do you honestly think that those false Christians who are alive right now (that will be cast into the lake of fire) think that they are deceived? Of course they don't. They may imagine that Christ's warnings refer to someone else. What if Christ is trying to warn me? What if He is even now warning you? God's Word also speaks clearly that false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Does a person know when they are deceived? Deception is a scary thing. I could be deceived. Could you? This is why the Word of God must be the standard by which all truth is measured.

And so, let me ask you this important question: Would you consider yourself to be a child of God? Here's a better question: Would God consider you to be His child? Let's see what He says. **"He who practices sin is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. For this reason the Son of God appeared, that He might destroy the works of the devil. No one who has been born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Everyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."⁷⁴**

Now I know that those are some pretty intense words, but as a Christian, are you willing to face them head on or would you rather just pretend that these words are not in the Bible? So, let's ask a few questions. Are you a child of the devil? According to God, if you are practicing sin, you are. Pretty harsh? Jesus did not hesitate to declare that those that resisted His Word were children of the devil.⁷⁵ Why did Christ consider them to be the children of the devil? *Because they did the lusts of the devil.*⁷⁶ Is there any sin in your life that is revealed in God's Word as well as to your conscience that you are presently refusing to forsake and receive forgiveness for? There is nothing too wicked for Christ to cleanse if you will abandon your sin and turn to Him for mercy! These may be the most important questions that someone ever asks you. Will you refuse to come to the light because your deeds are evil?⁷⁷ Will you stop here on the narrow path that leads to life?⁷⁸ Will you be found one that practices lawlessness on the

day of judgment?⁷⁹ Will you prove to have been the stoney ground hearer who received the Word with joy but in the time of temptation fell away?⁸⁰ Oh dear soul, allow the Word of God to search you deeply and **“cleanse [yourself] from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”**⁸¹ If you forsake your wicked way and your unrighteous thoughts and return to the Lord, He will have mercy on you and abundantly pardon you.⁸² It's never too late to repent unless you die or your heart becomes too calloused to be convicted.⁸³

You may be thinking that all this sounds wrong because, you believe that you are positionally made righteous in Christ and now, your standing before Him has nothing to do with what you do or don't do. It is true that genuine Christians do not produce their own righteousness, but are instead empowered to walk in it. But someone that claims to be “positionally righteous” in Christ by faith but walks in open sin is sadly deceived. John warns us against this deception: **“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil...”**⁸⁴ It is true that as Christians we are considered to be righteous as He is righteous by faith, but the evidence of that faith will be seen in the reality that, by His awesome grace, we practice righteousness.

Would you consider yourself to be a slave of Christ like Paul did? Jesus said, **“Most assuredly I say to you, he who commits sin is a slave of sin.”**⁸⁵ Paul would agree with Christ. In answering the question of whether or not Christians should continue in sin because they are under grace, he said, **“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slave whom you obey? Whether of sin leading to death or obedience leading to righteousness.”**⁸⁶ Do you believe that you can serve two totally opposed masters at one time? Jesus said it is impossible because this would cause you to love one and hate the other.⁸⁷ Do you love Christ? Show Him by casting your sin down at the feet of Jesus and receive His power today by faith to never pick it up again! Do you love sin? If you continue in it, you will prove to be one **“who loves and practices a lie”** and will be cast outside of the eternal City of God for all eternity.⁸⁸ Oh dear reader, what will it be? Sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness?⁸⁹

Do you believe Jesus when He says, **“He who the Son sets free shall be free indeed”**? Have you bought into the false perspective that the freedom Jesus offers is only a positional one? Do you really think that God is too weak to set you free from sin *indeed*? If you are not presently pursuing holiness, know for certain that you will not be saved!⁹⁰ What God is asking of you is simply to believe Him from your heart and therefore obey His Word from your heart and you will be made free from sin and become a slave of righteousness!⁹¹

A life of faith empowered by the grace of God will produce OBEDIENCE TO JESUS

Do you obey Jesus' commandments? I know, the word "commandment" has "legalism" written all over it nowadays. Let me ask you this: Do you believe that there are commandments in the New Testament that we, as disciples, are expected to obey? You may, but if not, let's look at God's Word together.

Jesus said, **"If you love Me, keep My commandments."** Would you conclude from that Scripture alone that there are commandments Jesus wants us to obey? Here are a few more verses. **"He that has My commandments and keeps them, it is he that loves Me."** **"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."** So far, it is simple to conclude Christ does have commandments and loving Him and our abiding in His love for us, are rooted in us obeying these commandments. "Well," some say, "that was during Christ's life before the cross that He expected obedience, and now His commandments are optional." If this is true, why then did Christ give them commandments through the Holy Spirit just prior to His ascension⁹² and then commission His disciples to teach new converts all things that He had commanded them?⁹³ I'm sure that you have read the New Testament. It is abundantly clear that the apostles both obeyed and taught Christ's very words. As Christians, should we do any differently?

"Okay," you might be thinking, "it's good to obey Jesus commandments, but we don't *have to*, we just have to be *willing* to and if we don't then we just won't get rewarded as much in heaven, right?" Let's allow God's Word answer whether or not Christ's words are optional to obey for His followers.

If you are like me, your head is crammed full of comments you have read or heard from numerous Bible teachers and so let's listen to a man that few turn to to get his opinion. This man walked with the Lord Jesus Christ personally for three and a half years. He touched Jesus, ate with Jesus, watched Jesus walk on water and ascend into heaven. This man continued to walk in an authentic love-relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit for approximately sixty years. Jesus put His own stamp of approval on this man's relationship with Him by entrusting him with the book of Revelation. You have probably already identified this man as the apostle John. Now, do you think that the apostles John's commentary on our relationship to the commandments of Jesus Christ as disciples should hold more weight than any other popular view that other modern scholars have given us? Hear John, **"Now by this we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."**⁹⁴ Dear soul, hold your heart up in all honesty to the light of God's holy Word and ask yourself these questions: "Do I *really* know God?" "Am *I* a liar?" "Is the truth in *me*?"

As legalistic as it may sound in this modern day of lukewarm Christianity, I am compelled to speak the truth: If you do not keep the commandments of Christ, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. If these words are offense to you dear soul, then you must realize that they are not my words but the very words of God Himself.

Do you believe that you will enter into the gates of God's eternal City and taste the beautiful fruit of the tree of life one day? I hope, by God's grace, we see each other there! Who will obtain this privilege? John answers, "**Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.**"⁹⁵ Can you reasonably conclude that obeying His commandments has a lot to do with eternity? Did you know that whether or not your life will end in total disaster or stand the test of time is directly hinged upon if you not only heard Christ's commands but did them?⁹⁶ Oh, dear soul, have you been deceived by the lie that Christ's commandments are merely suggestions that only affect your rewards in heaven? Have you believed that Christ' commandments are only to show us how sinful we are so that we will feel badly enough to ask for forgiveness? Have you been taught that setting your will to wholeheartedly love Jesus by obeying Him is legalistic? The beauty of our great God is that everything He asks us to do, He empowers us to do! Do you believe that Christ can empower you by His grace to obey Him? Or is your faith dead?

JUDGMENT DAY WILL NOT BE A THEOLOGY TEST

Oh precious reader, I hope that you do not feel judged by *me*. Remember, these are God's Words. Have you taken the commandments of Jesus Christ too lightly? Did you know that the words of Jesus will be the standard of judgment at the last day? Jesus said, "**He who rejects me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him: the word that I have spoken, will judge him in the last day.**"⁹⁷ Despite the growing popular opinion, Judgment day will not be a theology test. You will not be handed a piece of paper with a series of questions on it:

- Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? YES or NO
- Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and rose again from the grave? YES or NO
- Do you believe that you are righteous in Him alone and that there is no way you can earn your salvation?" YE or NO

It is true that no one is inheriting heaven without being able to answer these questions correctly, but just because someone can answer these questions correctly, does not mean they will ultimately be saved. There are so many who can answer these questions rightly on paper but cannot answer these questions rightly with their lives. God wants us to know that His kingdom does not consist of words, but in the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives!⁹⁸ The evidence of whether or not the answers to these questions are a reality in your life will be proven by the fruit produced in your life.⁹⁹ Nowhere in the Scriptures is judgment day described as an evaluation of what you believed *based on what you merely knew intellectually*. The Scriptures consistently reveal that judgment day is an evaluation of what you believed *based on what you did!* Action will always be the true evidence of the sincerity of faith.¹⁰⁰

The Bible consistently gives a totally different view of the great day of judgment than the popular view of being able to answer the right questions verbally at the pearly gates. Who have you been listening to? I would strongly advise you to listen to the One Who will be seated on the throne of Judgment. He alone holds the eternal destiny of every soul in His hand. Jesus said, "**The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear the voice of Him and come forth- those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.**"¹⁰¹ Christ declares again, "**The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then will reward each according to his works.**"¹⁰² Jesus also informed us that He will personally divide people on that day into two categories, sheep and goats. Furthermore, what determines this division and the eternity of those judged is what we have or have not done to each other.¹⁰³ Paul could not be clearer when he said, "**We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**"¹⁰⁴ Paul tells us that God "**will render to each one according to his deeds. Eternal life to those who by patient**

continuance in doing good, seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness- indignation and wrath."¹⁰⁵ Peter gives his advice, **"If you call on the Father ,Who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear."**¹⁰⁶

You see, I am afraid so many people have the answers in their minds, but not in their hearts. The way that you can tell if the answers are merely in the mind is that you will not see the reality reflected in the life. Jesus is aware of this reality and says, **"I am He who searches the minds and the hearts. And I will give to each one according to His works."** Do you really think that when we all stand before the glorious throne of Almighty God, He will allow those who believe they are "positionally righteous" to come in, even though they walked in lawlessness? And do you think that He will tell those who believed the gospel, laid their sin down through repentance and sought to serve Christ in holiness to depart from Him because they trusted in their own works?

I know that you may have been trained to conclude that the words I am writing are a "works based salvation" but allow me to heartily agree with Paul that we are saved by grace! But if the grace you have received leaves you powerless to overcome sin and does not move you to holiness, then I lovingly must tell you that you have not received the true grace of God! I would also like to heartily agree with Paul that we are not saved by our works! We are saved by a faith that works! And if we think that we can be eternally saved by a faith that leaves us as servants of sin, and does not compel us to walk in obedience to Jesus' words, this faith will surely prove to be as dead in the day of judgment as it is now.

As much as I am able to discern, these words have been written in love to one of the biggest mission fields in the world: the professing church. While I have breath, I desire to honor the King of heaven by faithfully representing His truth to a world that He loved enough to send His Son for yet a world over which His wrath looms. If all you hear me saying is "Come on, if you are really saved, do more," then you have not heard the heart I am trying to express. Only Christ is able to produce a life within us that pleases the Father. If you hear me saying, "If you are not perfectly obeying Jesus you are going to hell," then I have failed to represent God's heart rightly. Repentance from sin, holiness of life and obedience to Christ do not save us. In fact, if someone outwardly appears to be fulfilling these requirements without being empowered by God's grace through faith in Christ, they too are still in their sins and in need of a Savior. The point I am trying to make is that repentance, holiness, and obedience, although they do not save, are evidence of a faith that does save. Nothing less than a faith of this kind will place you in an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ and empower you with the grace of God to live in righteousness.

Have you been convicted? Conviction is good, it means that you can feel the Lord beckoning you deeper into a love relationship with Him. How will you respond? Has the Spirit of God highlighted any particular sin in your life? Forsake it and receive mercy this moment dear soul! Have you been taking Jesus'

commandments as merely suggestions? See them as an invitation into Christlikeness and the due reward of His suffering! Christ does not command anything that He is not willing to empower you to accomplish! Are you one of many who desire to walk the line of lukewarm Christianity and still try to make it into heaven? Or has God's love set your heart aflame to serve Him in holiness? He gave His all for you. Are you willing to give your all for Him? Could Christ have done more than He did on the cross to win your hearts allegiance?

May the true grace and sincere faith of Christ be with you,
Scott Schones

I am open to comments, questions, and corrections.

For a free New Testament, I can be contacted at [**scottschones@hotmail.com**](mailto:scottschones@hotmail.com)

- 1 Proverbs 9: 9; 10: 17; 12: 1; 15: 32
- 2 Philippians 2: 12b
- 3 1 Peter 1: 17b
- 4 2 Corinthians 13: 5a
- 5 John 14: 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
 John 7: 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
 Philippians 1: 19-21 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 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.
 Col 3: 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
 Gal 2: 20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
 2Pe 1: 3 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:
 Also 1 John 5: 12; 2 Cor. 4: 10-11; Romans 8: 9-11; and many others
- 6 1Cor. 4: 20 For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.
 1Cor. 2: 4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
 1Th 1: 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake
 2Ti 3: 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
- 7 1Cor. 3: 1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.
 1Cor. 3: 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.
 Heb 5: 12-6: 1 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. 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,
 Also 1John 2: 12-14
- 8 Romans 8: 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- 9 Mat 11: 29-30 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.
- 10 Luke 14: 27
- 11 Col 1: 25-29 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.
- 12 Col. 3: 3-4 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
- 13 1 John 5: 3-4 (NKJV) underlining mine
- 14 Philippians 3: 3
- 15 Romans 7: 18
- 16 John 15:5
- 17 Philippians 4:13
- 18 Ephesians 3:20
- 19 2 Corinthians 12:9
- 20 John 3: 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- 21 Gal 2: 20
- 22 Romans 10: 2-4 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
 Luke 18: 9-14
 1Jn 2: 3-5 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

- 1Jn 3: 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.
- 23Galatians 2: 16; Acts 13: 38-39
- 24 Ephesians 2: 8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
- Titus 3: 5-7 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- Romans 3: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;
- 25Acts 13: 43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to **continue in the grace of God.**
- Acts 14: 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to **continue in the faith**, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
- Also 2Peter 3: 17-18; Heb. 12: 15; Col. 1: 23; Heb. 3: 14; John 8: 30-32 (**bold print mine**)
- 26Websters 1828 Dictionary describes *lasciviousness* as “an excessive indulgence in liberty”. The Greek word literally means “incontinence” which is the inability to restrain bodily discharge.
- 27Romans 6: 1-2
- 28Titus 2: 11-15 (NKJV)
- 291 John 2: 4-6
- 30Luke 2: 40
- 31Acts 4: 33
- 32Isaiah 55: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- Prov. 28: 13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.
- 33Hebrews 4: 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- 34Jude 1: 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Romans 6: -2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
- John 8: 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.
- Galatians 5: 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- Also Isaiah 1: 16-120; 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10; Gal. 5: 19-21; Romans 6: 14-18; 1 John 3: 7-8; James 4: 7-10
- 35 Romans 6: 14
- 36Romans 5: 20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 37Romans 1: 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:
- 38 2Co 12: 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.
- 39 1Co 15: 10
- 40 Ephesians 3: 7 [parenthesis mine]
- 41 Acts 4: 33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. (bold words mine)
- 42 Strong's definition of “grace”-charis khar'-ece graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; **especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life**; including gratitude): - acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace (-ious), joy liberality, pleasure, thank (-s, -worthy). (**Bold print mine**)
- 43 Romans 3: 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.
- James 2: 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
- 44 James 2: 19
- 45 James 2: 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
- 46 James 2: 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- 47 James 2: 14
- 48 Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 49 Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/substance>
- 50 Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/evidence>
- 51 2 Timothy 2: 19b

- 52 Luke 13: 3; 5
- 53 Matthew 10: 20-24
- 54 Matthew 3: 8-10
- 55 Luke 24: 46-47
- 56 Galatians 2: 2
- 57 Acts 20: 21
- 58 Luke 18: 10-14
- 59 Acts 8: 37
- 60 Romans 6: 17b-18
- 61 Acts 2: 38; Mark 1: 4; Luke 3: 3; Luke 24: 7
- 62 Luke 15: 17
- 63 2 Corinthians 7: 10
- 64 Acts 17: 30b-31
- 65 Romans 2: 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
- 66 Acts 5: 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
2Ti 2: 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
- 67 Acts 11: 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.
- 68 Acts 3: 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.
- 69 Philippians 2: 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
Philippians 2: 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
Ephesians 3: 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,
- 70 Heb 1: 8-9 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
- 71 1 Corinthians 10: 13
- 72 Websters 1828 dictionary
- 73 Matthew 7: 21-23
- 74 1 John 3: 8-10 (English Majority Text Version. Underlining mine)
- 75 John 8: 44
- 76 John 8: 44
- 77 John 3: 19-21
- 78 Matthew 7: 13-14
- 79 Matthew 7: 21-23; Luke 13: 27
- 80 Luke 8: 13
- 81 2 Corinthians 7: 1
- 82 Isaiah 55: 7
- 83 Hebrews 12: 15-17
- 84 1 John 3: 7-8a
- 85 John 8: 34
- 86 Romans 6: 15-16
- 87 Matthew 6: 24
- 88 Revelation 22: 15
- 89 Romans 6: 16
- 90 Hebrews 12: 14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:
- 91 Romans 6: 17-18
- 92 Acts 1: 2
- 93 Matthew 28: 20
- 94 1 John 2: 3-4
- 95 Revelation 22: 14
- 96 Matthew 7: 24-27
- 97 John 12: 48

- 98 1Co 2: 4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
1Co 4: 20 For the kingdom of God *is* not in word, but in power.
- 99 Matthew 7: 15-20
- 100 James 2:17-26
- 101 John 5: 28-29
- 102 Matthew 16: 27
- 103 Matthew 25: 31-46
- 104 2 Corinthians 5: 10
- 105 Romans 2: 6-8
- 106 1 Peter 1: 17