

INTRODUCTION TO
CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

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This chapter presents a number of important truths, directly from the Word of God. Herein, this precious Word of God gives to us its clear instruction. This same Word of God proclaims that one very rapidly approaching day, the knees of every human that has ever existed upon the face of this Earth, or will ever exist upon it, shall bow before God. Even those who fully disbelieve in God, and those who now utterly hate God and are His avowed enemies, shall all meekly and most humbly bow their knees before Him.

Friend, the most important thing is for each individual to know that they are properly prepared to meet the Creator face to face, at any moment. By the Word of God, we know that one day the end of this world will come. This Earth will be utterly burnt with fire. All the works of man will be completely consumed in the intense fire. But are we ready to meet God now? The end of the world may yet be for an appointed time in the future, but do we have any guarantee that we, as an individual, will even see tomorrow? This life is like a vapor, and then it is gone. Friend, today is the acceptable day for turning to the true way of the Lord, in all things.

This chapter is very direct. It brings us face to face with eternity. It teaches, directly from the Holy Scriptures, the true way of God. The true cross of Christ is clearly shown. This chapter also declares how things will be upon this Earth for those who truly love and obey God. Yes, they will go through many trials. But to sustain their strength, they must reach out to the promises of God.

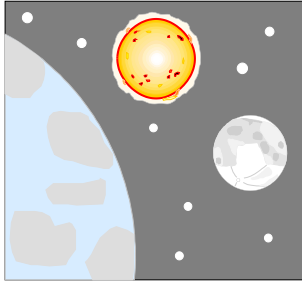
Friend, may you willingly put your hand to that work which the Father has called each of us to. May you become a true soldier of Jesus Christ, that by the power of God, despite all earthly hardships, you may be able to press onward in that heavenly work of destroying every stronghold of Satan. May we all be faithful to that true way of God, even unto death. Let us heed the clear instruction of the Word of God, and not faint or draw back into perdition when the going gets tough. Let us be of those who partake of that eternal life which God has prepared for those who love and willingly obey Him.

May our carnal flesh (with all of its many worldly lusts) be completely crucified, that Christ may dwell in us and be manifest through us. May our eyes be wholly set on Heavenly things, rather than upon the material things of this world: those things which shall one day perish forever. May we have a true love for that which shall stand for all eternity, that is, the everlasting God and His Word. May we heed the call of God, and walk in willing obedience to Him, above all else. May we be of those who have entered in through the true strait gate, and are now walking faithfully (by the power of Christ) upon that narrow way which is, alone, the one which leads to eternal life.

Chapter 34: THE WORD SPEAKS

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VOICE OF THE CREATOR



It is written: *“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”*¹

The Lord God made this Earth to be inhabited. He formed it as a place for man to live. Friend, the Lord God is our loving Creator. Let us therefore have no other gods before Him!

The LORD proclaims, by the mouth of the prophet: *“Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.”*

Again, it is written: *“Thus saith the LORD; ‘Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.*

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

*“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”*² Friend, the complete Word of God agrees with these words. The LORD shall reward every man in accordance to his deeds, whether they be good or evil.

TO COME BEFORE HIM

The psalmist cries: *“The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.*

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations.



“All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

“A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.”³

Friend, every knee which has ever been upon the face of this Earth shall one day bow before the Lord God Almighty. There is not a single individual, or even a group of people, who will be able to escape partaking in this event. Even all those who at this time fully disbelieve in God shall one day, in all humility, completely bow before Him. Yes, even the evolutionary scientists shall bow!

In the day of judgment, all knees shall bow before God! Those who are His true people shall bow before Him in loving adoration and thanksgiving. And those which are His avowed enemies shall also bow before Him. Why shall this group so willingly bow? They shall bow because their knees will quake and be as weak as water in His presence. They shall literally fall before Him!⁴

Friend, may you be of those who, in this time of grace, are completely and willingly (of a true heart) obedient to the whole Word of God. May you not be of those who are utterly ashamed for neglect of duty to God, when they come before Him face to face. May you be of those who will indeed, for all eternity, love to see His appearing. Even more importantly, may it be that He is completely pleased to see you. May you be one of those who is known as a true friend of God.

FOR THE MAJORITY

Considering the state of affairs we see upon this Earth (especially among the religious world), what will it be like for the masses of humanity and how will they respond in that day when Jesus Christ shall return to this Earth? How will even the majority of those who now call themselves Christians respond at the coming of Jesus Christ, as they find Him to be a far different Christ than they are worshipping? For our true answer, let us examine the following passages from the Word of God.

Concerning the coming of Jesus Christ, it is written: *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”⁵ Yes, the people shall mourn.⁶*

Another view of this coming of Christ declares: *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?’”⁷*

NECESSARY QUESTIONS



Friend, why will the people be responding in this manner to the coming of Jesus Christ? Could it be that these people have been worshipping a completely different god than that particular One who is clearly declared throughout the Holy Scriptures? (Please see Chapter 32 to come to a true understanding on this matter.) Could it be that they are actually worshipping with the ancient pagan religion of Babylon, and are not converted into the true way of Christ at all?

Are these people looking for a hiding place because they have not been walking in obedience to the true way of God: that true way of righteousness which is clearly proclaimed throughout His Word? Is it because they have been disregarding or misapplying a number of those apparently minor (in their eyes), yet very important parts of the Word of God? How many of these people, do you suppose, will be those who are now boldly calling themselves ‘Christians?’

PURE TRUTH

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaims His wisdom to us in this time of grace: “*And why call ye me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not the things which I say?*”⁸ In other words: Why call yourself a Christian, or a child of God, if you are not walking in obedience to the full Word of God?⁹

Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ proclaims: “*Not every one that saith unto me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*”

“*Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?’*”

“*And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”¹⁰

Friend, it is not how much we shout or sing praise songs about Jesus that ultimately counts. It is not how often we go attend some form of church that counts. It does not necessarily count in our favor if we are going to the extent of casting devils out of people, healing them, or prophesying. Every “wonderful” work which we do counts for nothing with God, if we are not doing the true will of the Father Himself!¹¹ The important issue is: Are we being obedient to the will of God the Father?

HIS WILL

The Word of God proclaims: “*Wherefore he [the Spirit] saith, ‘Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.’*”¹² Friend, we are instructed to “*understand what the will of the Lord is.*” Therefore, let us find out what His will is, and also what it is not.

**GOD'S
WILL
REVEALED**

Firstly, the Word of God declares that *“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...”*¹³ Friend, all have sinned. Not one human is righteous, of themselves, in the eyes of God. All have come completely short of the glory of God. Truly, all are worthy of eternal damnation. But it is written: *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*¹⁴ Friend, what is the intent and meaning of this passage of Holy Scripture?

TRUE MEANING

By the above passage of Holy Scripture, we begin to understand what the will of God is. When we examine the whole Word of God, we come to fully understand the meaning of the above passage. Firstly, it is not the will of God that any should perish, or partake of eternal destruction because of their disobedience to that true way in which God calls us to live. Why? Because God is a loving God, and we were created in His image. We are His offspring, as the Word of God declares. Yet He knows of the judgment and utter destruction of this wicked world which must finally be done.

The loving, Almighty God does not want any of us to perish, therefore what does God desire of us, and of all mankind? Yes, *“that all should come to repentance!”* But repentance for what? God wants us to repent of all our evil ways. But repentance is not just saying something with our mouth. It means having the wickedness washed out of us, and then turning away from all wickedness with our whole heart, mind, and life. We are to turn and walk in that new life: the very life of Christ.

THE WORD SPEAKS

The Word of God proclaims: *“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. 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.”*¹⁵ But how is this cleansing process to be accomplished?

As we begin our search for the true cleansing process, please note that the Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed: *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

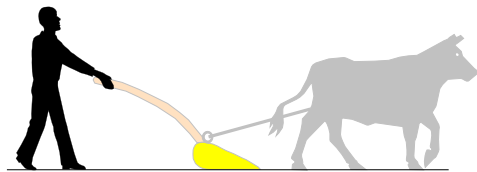
*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”*¹⁶ Yes, we are first to be cleansed inwardly, that the true cleanness from God will be manifest outwardly in our manner of life. And then we continue onward from there, into more truth.

THE WORK

There is a work which God has given to His people. The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed: *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*¹⁷ But is the work that simple, or is there more to it than that? In answer, the Lord Jesus also proclaimed: *“What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*¹⁸

Friend, we are called to put our life on the line, for the work of God. We are to sacrifice our whole life for this work.¹⁹ But what are we to speak to the people? Are we to speak only those things which are pleasing to them, or do we speak the unadulterated principles found throughout the Word from God, and clarified in those words spoken so plainly by Jesus Christ?

The writer believes that Jesus Christ indicated the truth in this matter also, for He declared: *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*²⁰ If we are too ashamed to declare openly the full intent of the words of Jesus Christ, then Christ will be ashamed of us when He returns in the glory of His Father, with the holy angels. In other words, as indicated through the Scriptures, if we will not do the work which He has given to us in this time of grace, then we will have no part with Him at His return.



Friend, the work which God gives to us, is to become our life. It is a work in which we must always be moving onward, by the power of Christ. In regards to this work, the Lord Jesus Christ gives the following warning: *“No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*²¹

Friend, there is no turning back once we start this work. No matter how tough it gets, we must always move forward with Christ. If we turn to indulge those carnal things which we formerly had before we started the work which God has given to us, then we are not even fit to be a part of the kingdom of God.²² Friend, this is a very serious matter, for these are the true words of Jesus Christ!

WORDS OF THE APOSTLE

The apostle Paul appears to have taken the above words of the Lord Jesus Christ very seriously, for he proclaimed: *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.”*²³

Friend, we have all been called to this work for the kingdom of God. Each one of us has our particular part given by God. It is not just for the appointed ministers to speak, but all of God's true children are to openly speak His truth. Once again, the words of Jesus Christ: "*Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation...*" Friend, the word "whosoever" pertains to each and every individual on the face of this Earth.

FURTHER INSTRUCTION

The apostle Paul proclaims the nature of our work, with the following words: "*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. For he [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*"²⁴ We are made the righteousness of God by abiding in Christ, and living the very life of Christ! That life includes a particular work.

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded: "*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*"²⁵

The Word of God records further: "*Then opened he [the Lord Jesus Christ] their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, and said unto them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations...*"²⁶

Friend, the people of God are to be preaching openly, calling the people to repentance from their evil works, and declaring to them the blessed remission of sins which is in the blood of Jesus Christ.

THE APOSTLE CONTINUES

The apostle Paul writes further: "*Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

*"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."*²⁷ What happens to those who hide the gospel?²⁸

The apostle Paul indicates the seriousness of this situation by the following statement: "*Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*"²⁹ Friend, if we call ourselves a Christian, but do not do the work which God has given, the blood of the people who perish is upon our heads.³⁰

There is more that needs to be said about this work which God has given. To do the work as God intended, we must actually be following Christ. But in order to follow Christ, there is something very important which we must do first. Please note carefully these important words from the Lord Jesus Christ, that you may clearly understand what needs to be done first: *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”*³¹



We must first deny ourselves, before we can even take up the cross of Christ. What does it mean to deny ourselves? *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* defines “deny” as “to deny utterly, i.e. disown, abstain.” What do we deny utterly to ourselves, completely disown, and abstain from, before we can ever truly take up the cross of Christ? Let us look to the Word of God for the true answer.

FORSAKEN THINGS

The following words of Jesus Christ relate to the matter at hand. Christ declared to the Pharisees of His day (who were part of the religious hierarchy): *“How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”*³² Those who are seeking honor and glory from people are not believers in the true way of God at all. They are on the wrong path. Friend, there are examples in the Holy Scriptures to show that God’s people are to be seeking that honor which comes from God only. Let us now look at a couple of these examples.

The apostle Paul writes: *“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 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: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”*³³

Friend, who is this apostle Paul, that is writing the above words? What was his earthly position before he became a true follower of Christ? Indeed, Paul (when he was formerly called Saul) appears to have been the Pharisee of Pharisees, as *“touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”*³⁴ This same Paul, in his earlier state, appears to have had glory and recognition amongst the religious hierarchy of his day. The Word of God records: *“And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way [the true Christian way], whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.”*³⁵

In the end, Saul (who later became the apostle Paul) had to completely give up all this earthly power and glory, that he might win Christ. Friend, Saul could not keep any of these carnal things. He had to forsake them all. But let us not stop here.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE

It is written: *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”*³⁶

Here is that Moses which was raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He was raised in royal splendor. At his disposal were the riches, glory and honor of Egypt. But there came a time when Moses had to make a decision. Would he enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season here upon Earth, or would he give it all up, that he could then obtain Christ? Friend, what did Moses do? Yes, he gave up all the riches, glory and esteem of men. Moses completely forsook all that Egypt had to offer, for he looked to the recompense of the reward which comes from God only.

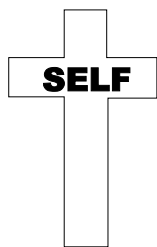
Friend, is the true definition of the term “to deny oneself” coming clear? Did Paul and Moses disown what had formerly been in their possession? Did they then abstain from partaking in those carnal things, that they might win that which God the Father could give, through the Lord Jesus Christ? Friend, let us follow the examples of Scripture, that we, too, may fully win Christ.

CONTINUING ONWARD

To reinforce the lessons which have been presented above, let us look to the Word of God. It is clearly written: *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”*³⁷

Those who are true disciples of Christ have crucified the flesh, with all of its carnal affections and lusts. They are not desiring the vain glory which this world has to offer. Friend, we are now preparing to come to the true cross of Christ, which the disciple must take up before he can ever follow Christ. But what is this cross? What does the Word of God declare on this matter?

CROSS OF CHRIST



The apostle Paul writes so clearly: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*³⁸ This is the true cross of Christ, accurately described in plain and simple words. These are the words whereby the true disciple of Christ must live. This is the definition of the true cross of Christ which we must pick up anew each day. Each day, before we can even begin to follow Christ, our flesh must be crucified anew. Friend, this is a day by day process.

The people of God do shun their carnal desires for those things which this world has to offer, as we have seen from the examples above.^{39 and 40} The true Christian is crucified with Christ, as indicated by the following words of the apostle Paul (and by those words already noted above): *“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.”*⁴¹

All the carnal desires of the true Christian are to be daily crucified with Christ, that they can then be alive with that new life of Christ. It is now Christ who lives in them, and is manifest through them. We are called to live our life with complete faith in the power of the Son of God, who is able to break all power of Satan and any of his temptations which he may send their way. With the power of Christ working for the disciples of Christ, we can now freely set our eyes where they need to be.

HEAVENLY DESIRE

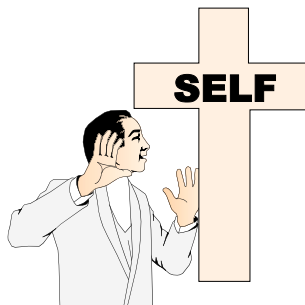
The apostle Paul clearly proclaims: *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”*⁴²

Friend, if we call ourselves a Christian, or a child of God, then we are to be seeking those things which are above. We are to be seeking those Heavenly things, which come from God the Father, through the power of Christ. Friend, we are clearly instructed by the Holy Scriptures not to set our affection on the things which this world has to offer. To this agree the teachings of the Scriptures.

MANY ANTICHRISTS

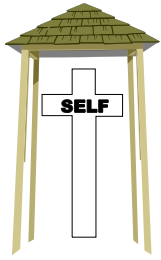
The apostle John proclaims: *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

*“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”*⁴³



Friend, what is an antichrist? Truly, an antichrist is one who is against the true way of Christ. The following words of the apostle Paul may shed some light on this matter. He speaks of those who refuse to crucify the flesh. He clearly states: *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”*⁴⁴ Many refuse to crucify the flesh. Indeed, even today, there are many antichrists!

CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS



The Lord Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, proclaimed the following instruction. He also gave a clear warning with this instruction. His words are as follows: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*⁴⁵ This strait gate is made very clear throughout the whole Word of God.

Friend, there is only one gate which leads to eternal life: that is the strait gate. We must enter onto the narrow way which leads to life, through the cross of Christ. There is no other way whereby a person can enter onto the true way which leads to eternal life. And yet, with all of the clear instruction, *“few there be that find it.”* Few indeed are those who clearly understand that they must crucify the flesh in order to be a true disciple of Christ. But there is more to the story than this.

There are those who, once they have seen the true way which enters onto the narrow way of life, refuse to enter by the strait gate.⁴⁶ Instead, they chose to climb up some other way. In doing so, they are actually entering by the wide gate. This gate will allow entry with much “carnal baggage.” But it opens onto that broad way which leads to eternal destruction. The shocking truth is that many fully disregard the clear instructions of the Lord Jesus Christ, and chose to enter by the wide gate.

PORT OF ENTRY

The Lord Jesus Christ has proclaimed: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.’”*⁴⁷ Any person who does not enter by the true door (by the very cross of Christ), but tries to enter into the kingdom of God by some other way, is called *“a thief and a robber.”* Why are they called this?

Those that refuse to enter by the cross of Christ are thieves, because they are stealing eternal life from themselves and those who will follow them. They are robbers because Christ has already paid the price for them, but instead of giving themselves to the true way of God the Father, through Christ, they give themselves to the deceitful way of Satan. Indeed, they are robbing God of that which is rightfully His. Our bodies are truly His, as declared so clearly in the Word of God.

As proof of the above, it is written: *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*⁴⁸ This is very clear! And yet there is more. Again, it is written: *“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”*⁴⁹

CLEAR INTERPRETATION

There are many false teachers among us today, who are bringing damnable heresies into the churches. Yes, they speak of a Lord Jesus Christ, but they deny that true way whereby the Lord Jesus has instructed us to enter. By doing such a thing, they swiftly bring upon themselves eternal destruction. They separate themselves fully from God. Unfortunately, many other people follow these false teachers. What is worse, these false teachers cause the people to openly speak evil (or speak against) the genuine way of truth. They speak against the very cross of Christ. They cause people to turn aside from the true door which leads to eternal life. These false teachers, therefore, lead many to eternal destruction. Sadly, these people may truly believe that they possess eternal life.

IT IS WRITTEN

The Lord Jesus Christ clearly indicates how it will be for many of those who now call themselves Christians, at the time of His return. He proclaims: *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.*

“And at midnight there was a cry made, ‘Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. “And the foolish said unto the wise, ‘Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.’

“And while the foolish virgins went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

“Afterward came also the other [foolish] virgins, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ But he answered and said, ‘Verily I say unto you, I know you not.’”⁵⁰

Friend, please note in the above parable from the Lord Jesus, that all ten are called “virgins.” They all believed that they were keeping themselves for Christ alone. But as the final events began to unfold, half of these people began to realize that they had not properly prepared themselves. Therefore, they could not enter with the bridegroom (Christ) into the marriage. And then the door was shut. Once the door was shut, there was no way possible by which to enter the marriage chamber. Only those who had properly prepared themselves beforehand were inside. They were the only ones who could be a part of the marriage with Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ describes further events, as it will be during the marriage supper of the Lamb of God. He proclaims: *“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, ‘Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?’ And the man was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness;’ there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”⁵¹*

Friend, anyone who climbs into the kingdom of God by some other way than God intended, will indeed be cast out by God the Father. Therefore, it is very important that we are properly prepared, that we are ready and able to enter in through the true door. We must truly be abiding in Christ (with His life being manifest through us), or we will be cast out. Friend, may you take these matters very seriously. May you truly be clothed with the acceptable wedding garment.⁵²

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaims further: *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

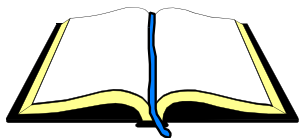
“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”⁵³ Friend, let us pay heed to the words of the Lord Jesus! The wicked will be burned in the end.

THE CAUSE

The Word of God speaks of those who shall perish in eternal damnation. It declares that this shall happen *“because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”⁵⁴*

Those who perish, simply do not have a genuine love for the real truth of God. This is their fundamental error. This disdain of God’s truth will ultimately cause them to be forever damned! It is often baffling to observe that many today would rather believe a lie, than believe the complete Word of God and be saved. As a result of their hatred for truth, they refuse to submit themselves to the true way of Christ. They enjoy the pleasures of unrighteousness.⁵⁵ These people are (possibly without realizing it) enemies of that true way of Christ.⁵⁶ In all reality, these people are antichrists.⁵⁷

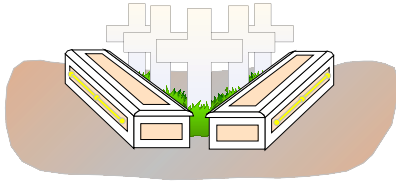
A LOOK INWARD



Friend, do you have a love for the complete way and truth of God? Do you have a fervent love for the way and truth of God only, above all else, no matter what the cost? Do you love the way of God above anything which this world has to offer? Do you actually live that life of Christ which God commands of His people, or, are you one of those who find that it is much easier to go along with whatever is currently popular to the crowd?

Friend this life is like a vapor. It is here, and then it quickly vanishes. Then comes eternity. Is it worth a little hardship on this Earth, that you may obtain eternal life forever with God? Truly, anything which we must go through on this Earth is as nothing, when compared to that which Christ went through for us. That one man had to bear the sins of the whole world: our sins included.

STARK REALITY



The Word of God declares that *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment...”*⁵⁸ There is no getting around this fact! This carnal flesh, at some point, must die! After that, each individual shall stand before God to be judged for their works. The Word of God records: *“For it is written, ‘As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*⁵⁹

Friend, you will readily and openly (without any way of preventing it) give a full account of all those things which you have done in your life. You will completely expose to God (and everyone else) those unconfessed sins which you thought were completely hidden. Yes, even these sins you shall readily uncover as you stand before God! Only those sins which are properly repented of and washed away in the precious blood of the Lamb of God, shall be blotted out from the record.

A CONTINUATION

Again, it is written: *“Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after. Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.”*⁶⁰ This is an absolute truth. There is no getting around it!

Some men bring their sins to light, repent of them, and turn away from them during this time of God's grace. Other men prefer to carry their sins with them. They hang on to their sins. They do not want to be completely rid of their sins. Friend, each and every one of these sins shall be shamefully presented before God in the time of that ultimate judgment.⁶¹ In the end, there will be a horrible price to pay for these sins. Since these sins have not been properly washed away in the blood of the Lamb of God, then the holders of the sins will have to pay for their own sins.

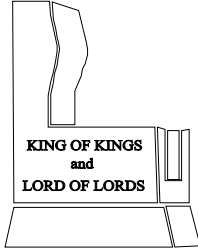
IN THAT DAY

By the Word of God, we understand that the great majority of the human race will stubbornly adhere to the traditional religious paths which lead to eternal destruction. God, in His mercy, will plead with the people (as He did with Israel of old). But most often, people do not recognize the merciful pleading of God. God pleads by chastening the people. God also sends His prophets and servants to speak to the people. Sometimes, God may bring plagues upon the people during this process.

When God plagues the people (in His attempt to cause them to understand their error), rather than repenting, the people often harden themselves. These people commonly turn and curse God, rather than repenting.⁶² Truly, what can be the only end of such ones who continue in this way?

ETERNAL DESTINIES

It is written in the Word of God: *“And the devil that deceived the nations was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*



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

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”⁶³; see also ⁶⁴ Such will be the eventual lot of all who do not, out of love for God, diligently walk in His true way.



QUESTIONS OF LOVE

Friend, where is your heart today? Have you crucified your flesh today?⁶⁵ Do you crucify your flesh anew each day, and truly follow Christ? Are you obedient to God the Father? Are you on that true path which leads to eternal life?⁶⁶ Do you have a clear conscience in the eyes of Almighty God?⁶⁷

Are you abiding in Christ?⁶⁸ Are you walking in the true way of God (by the very power of Christ)?⁶⁹ Have you received from the Lord Jesus Christ that power over sin?⁷⁰ Do you look to Him for strength to keep you from falling into sin? Are you doing those things which are truly pleasing to God the Father, because you love Him?⁷¹ And finally, do you have true peace with God?⁷²

Friend, if you cannot answer “yes” to all of these questions, then turn now to the Master. Freely let Him do His work within you, that you may truly crucify your flesh and walk in the way of God.

THE MESSAGE

It is written: *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”⁷³ “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...”⁷⁴ Friend, this is true love!*

PRICE OF LOVE

Friend, God has loved you enough to prepare the way for your complete salvation.⁷⁵ God even sent His own Son to die and taste of hell for you.⁷⁶ The price has been fully paid for you.⁷⁷ The way is provided, that you do not have to taste of that horrid punishment for your sins. No matter where you have been with your life, Christ has died to pay the price for you! The Master calls out to you: *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*⁷⁸ This is a true promise from God! Friend, we come to Him to be changed into His likeness. We cannot do it on our own!

You do not have to be consumed by your lusts! You do not need to fall into sin and be destroyed by Satan! Christ has completely prepared the way of escape from sin, and its power over you! Through the power of Christ, you may truly have power over sin!⁷⁹ You do not have to be a part of the destruction which the people of this world shall ultimately experience!⁸⁰

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaims loudly: *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

*“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”*⁸¹ Friend, only *“him that overcometh”* shall inherit these things.

THE WAY

Once again, the Lord Jesus Christ proclaims: *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*⁸² *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”*⁸³ These words speak of that one and only way which leads to eternal life.

Friend, we are required to give our complete life to the way of Christ. Our life must be placed on the altar and sacrificed to God. He has bought us with the blood of Christ. Our body is to be His temple.⁸⁴ We are to live in obedience to Him, through the very power of Christ! “But,” some may ask, “what will my family and friends think if I diligently follow only that true way of God?”

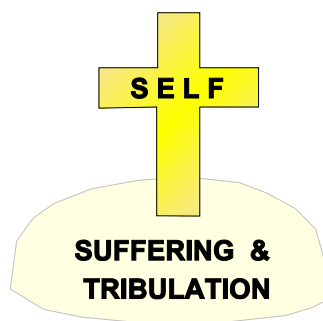
THE ANSWER

In answer, the Lord Jesus Christ proclaims: *“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: for from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”*⁸⁵

Friend, it does not matter what our family and friends will think (or even do) if we fully walk in that true way of Christ which God the Father has ordained. They may even fight against us and give us no peace at all. But this is not what matters. What matters is that, out of love, we are doing (through the power of Christ) that which is pleasing in the eyes of God the Father. Only then will we ever be able to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Friend, according to the complete Word of God, there is no other way.

PART OF THE CROSS

In this world, the true people of God shall suffer great tribulation. But there will come a day when this time of sorrow shall end. Things shall change! There will come a day when we shall see our God and Saviour face to face. He shall then wipe away all tears from the eyes of His people.⁸⁶ What a day that will be! But in the meantime, much is still happening upon this Earth.



The apostle Paul makes known: *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”*⁸⁷ Is this not what we see in the world of religion today? The people are becoming deceived into false doctrines more and more all of the time by the devious workings of the servants of Satan! And as a result, the true disciples of Christ are suffering persecution: indeed, even from those who call themselves “Christians,” yet are antichrists.

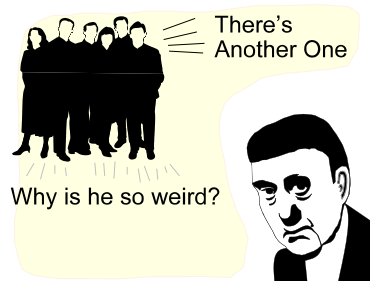
Friend, let us look to a truth shown within the Word of God. The Scriptures make clear that there are many who call themselves the people of God, and truly are not! The apostle Paul comments on this matter. He speaks of having to live *“in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren...”*⁸⁸

The above passage of Scripture is very revealing. Yes, Friend, there are truly many perils among false brethren. According to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, there are few indeed who truly walk in that way which ultimately leads to eternal life!⁸⁹ It is sad to say that it is this way among “the Christians.”⁹⁰ But there is more to the true cross of Christ than just this.

FULL EXTENT

The true disciple of Christ will not be going along with the ways of the world. According to God’s Word, they will be calling the people to repent, to turn away from their evil. Because of this, *“ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”*⁹¹ All this, and yet there is more. The only way that we can bear this cross is through the power of Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ speaks thus on these matters: *“These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.”*⁹²



Friend, the true Christian will go through a lot of tribulation, as they heed the true call of Christ. They must crucify the worldly desires of their carnal flesh. This can only be accomplished by the power of Christ. But this is not all! There is yet more required of the true disciple of Christ. They may be completely ridiculed, rejected, and shunned by the world. Even their ‘friends’ and many of their own family will persecute them because of their beliefs. What is even harder to bear: they will often be ridiculed by those who are calling themselves “Christians.”⁹³ (Please see note about illustration.⁹⁴)

The true Christian may eventually be required to give up all their material possessions because of their beliefs. Yet this, still, may not be all that is required of the Christian! They may ultimately (in certain situations) be called upon to give up their physical lives. Yes, there will be more martyrs upon this Earth. The Word of God indicates such will be the case.⁹⁵ There will yet be much bloodshed before the end of this world! History will repeat itself, on an extremely inflamed scale.

To sum up the matter, the apostle Paul states openly *“that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”*⁹⁶ Paul made this statement shortly after being stoned by the people (yes, with rocks), and left for dead! But Paul did not die. God had a further work for him to do upon this Earth. This one man had to go through many hardships for the truth of God: and so have many other steadfast disciples of Christ. Indeed, according to the Word of God, so will virtually all who are being completely true to God only, in these end times!⁹⁷ Yes, many may yet die for the truth.

TRUE PERSPECTIVE

The Lord Jesus Christ speaks clearly, in answer to any fears which we might have about dying at the hand of man for our religious beliefs. He proclaims: *“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him [God], which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”*⁹⁸ Friend, let us walk in obedience to God the Father, to the very end.

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaims further: *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. 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.”*⁹⁹ Only those who overcome all things, through the power of Christ, shall obtain eternal life.

PARTAKERS OF CHRIST

It is written: *“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.”*¹⁰⁰



The apostle Paul, above, speaks of God, *“Who comforteth us in all our tribulation...”* Paul then declares that *“the sufferings of Christ abound in us...”* He speaks of being *“partakers of the sufferings...”* Friend, this is that life which the true disciple of Christ is called to.

As the true believer lives that particular life in Christ which God has commanded of them in His Word (rather than following the religious traditions of man), they will go through much suffering and tribulation. But do not be stunned by the intensity which the persecution can take on. It can even take on an extreme intensity from those who call themselves “Christians.”

AN EXHORTATION

The apostle Peter writes: *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”*¹⁰¹

Friend, if you are truly living in that manner which Christ has declared, and doing that work which the Father has commanded of His people, if, in such a state, people are speaking against you for living in that manner, then they are actually speaking directly against God the Father Himself. Jesus Christ made this principle known when He declared the following to the seventy disciples which He sent out: *“He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.”*¹⁰²

Friend, if you are a true disciple of Christ, yet are being evil spoken of, the people are actually speaking evil of God. But on your part, because of obedience, God is glorified within you. As a result, the life of Christ is able to be manifest through you.

WORDS OF THE MASTER

Dear disciple of Christ, please remember the following words from the Lord Jesus Christ: *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”*¹⁰³

Friend, it is actually a privilege to be considered as one of the prophets of the Most High God. It is truly a privilege to know that we are being persecuted for walking in obedience to God the Father, for so persecuted they also our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Friend, we are truly made to be partakers of Christ in all things. But there is more to consider than just ourselves. Let us also have love for the souls of our fellow humans, even those who are persecuting us.

PLEASE CONSIDER

Friend, what will it be like for those who find, in the day of God's judgment, that they have completely wasted their precious time here on this Earth? What will it be like for those who have not been doing the will of God the Father? What will it be like for those who have given themselves to the carnal things of this Earth, and its lusts, rather than to the things of God only? What will it be like for those who did not care to spend the time properly preparing themselves for eternity?

MORE QUESTIONS



Friend, what will it be like in that day when God judges this Earth (which simply by His Word, He created)? What will it be like in the judgment, for those individuals who suddenly find that they are wicked in the eyes of God Almighty? What will it be like, especially for those individuals who have led other people into rebellion against the true way of God?¹⁰⁴

Friend, these are extremely serious matters. Furthermore, let this truth be known: man cannot devise anything which shall allow him to get around these matters, in the ultimate end. Ultimately (yes, ultimately) they must be faced. Again, what will it be like to come face to face with the Almighty God (in which the individual may even currently disbelieve), and suddenly be found as His total enemy? Friend, think for a moment on these things. Truly, what will be the horror of this situation? Friend, this is stark reality! All these questions should be considered now, in the time of grace.

Let us be praying for those who are not walking in the true way of God, for it is not the will of the Father that any should perish. Friend, let us even be praying for our enemies: those who spitefully use us. Truly, the misery which the wicked may give us is nothing compared to their misery when they come face to face with God. Let us be praying for their salvation during this time of grace.

THE COMING FINALE

Friend, this book has examined some of the methods by which God works, and the sheer magnitude of them. With these things in mind, what will the hour of God's judgment upon the wicked be like? What will it be like when the Father looks upon the whole wicked world? In answer, let us examine a passage of Holy Scripture. It is written: *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."*¹⁰⁵

Throughout the Word of God, it appears that an enormous geologic catastrophe, massive celestial impact, and/or major nuclear event will occur in the days ahead. All of man's works (including all of his material goods which he has worked so hard to gather) will be completely burned up. Only those things which are of God shall remain. Friend, are you ready to meet God at any time? Have you been doing that work which He has called his people to? Have you been praying diligently for the disobedient, that they may be turned to the true way of God?

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE

The following words of the apostle Paul do apply to all who are walking in the true way of God. Paul writes: *"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; so that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.*

*"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*¹⁰⁶

Dear disciple of Christ, let us pray for those who are currently in the clutches of Satan, for God shall surely show His fiery vengeance upon the wicked at the return of Jesus Christ. There are many places within the Holy Scriptures where the burning of this Earth (and its wicked inhabitants) is spoken of. Let us diligently be doing that work which God the Father has given to us, that as many people can be saved as possible: for the time is short. Let us speak the pure Word of God, faithfully, that others can be led to the true way of God, and not to some other false way. Let us not be of those who will one day have to pay that most horrid price for their negligence or derelict of duty.

A WARNING

“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘To day;’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end...”¹⁰⁷

Friend, may we not be hardened against the true way (or any of the promises) of God, because of any harbored sin or false doctrines within our hearts. May we truly lift one another up to God in prayer, that we all may be found with a circumcised heart, fully abiding in Christ all the days of our lives. May God the Father cause our spiritual eyes to be opened wide, that we are not snared by the deceitfulness of sin or the subtlety of Satan. May we not be of those who go into eternal destruction. May we truly love and honor our very Creator, the Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE CALL GOES OUT

The prophet of God proclaims: *“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’”¹⁰⁸*

**OBEDIENCE
TO GOD
THE
FATHER**

Friend, the call goes out. But there is only one true manner whereby mankind can give glory to God the Father. That is through faith and true obedience to Him, by the very power of Christ.¹⁰⁹ May you truly take up the cross of Christ, and worship the Creator of all Heaven and Earth. May you be given the power to do those things which are pleasing in His sight. May you become that special chosen vessel: that very temple of God the Father and the Holy Ghost. Friend, this is what God intended for you to be from the very beginning of Creation! In such a state, then you will be in the image and likeness of God.¹¹⁰

As this book nears its close, let us look again to the precious Word of God. An early ambassador of Christ here proclaims: *“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied.*

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 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.”¹¹¹

Friend, the call goes out! Let us diligently watch and pray. Let us closely examine everything which we believe, that we may know if it agrees with all the principles of the Holy Scriptures (as shown from cover to cover). Let us not take that chance of standing before God with great shame on our face in that coming day of judgement, as we find that we were living according to a false doctrine or erroneous tradition of man. Let us look to that pure and true doctrine which was first delivered to the saints. Let us come to know the true God of all Heaven and Earth, and His will for our lives. Then, let us be found doing those things which are pleasing to the eyes of God the Father!

WORDS FROM THE APOSTLE

The apostle Paul has written the following words: *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”*¹¹²

This is the work of God’s servants. But we must do all things in their proper order. We are to be ready *“to revenge all disobedience,”* but only at a time *“when your obedience is fulfilled.”* In other words, let us first make sure that we have had our flesh crucified on the true cross of Christ, and are abiding in Christ, truly walking in His way. Then, as we are led by the Spirit of God the Father, we are to do our part in the battle against the works of Satan upon this Earth.

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

The apostle proclaims: *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints...”*¹¹³

Truly, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. It is only in their pure form that these weapons can be mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, and every high thing which exalts itself against the true knowledge of God. Friend, may you look to God for His instruction on how to use these weapons, that you may become a skillful soldier of Jesus Christ.

THE GRACE OF GOD

Before this chapter comes to an end, let us examine one more important matter. Today we hear much spoken about the grace of God. Unfortunately, the preaching of today has often lowered the grace of God to the level where even the wicked are completely “justified before God.” Friend, let us examine a passage of Holy Scripture which speaks of the grace of God, that we may come to a true understanding of it.

It is written: *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*¹¹⁴ Friend, may our obedience be fulfilled in these things, before we take up the weapons of our warfare. Let us deny to ourselves any indulgence of ungodly deeds and worldly lusts, and let us live in the true way of God.

OUR HOPE

Friend, may you ultimately be of those few (as Jesus Christ declared) who have entered into the true way of eternal life. May you be one of those very few who truly come to know God the Father, and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. May you be of those few who are truly born again, and who are faithfully abiding in Christ (by His power). May you never be deceived by the wicked workers of Satan, or their doctrines.¹¹⁵ May you diligently follow the Spirit of God the Father into all truth, that you may be of those who truly understand the magnificent workings of God Almighty. And finally, may you be of those who are filled with all the fulness of God.¹¹⁶

OUR PRAYER



Friend, it is the writer’s prayer that all hearts and minds of those reading this book will always be fully toward the true God of all Heaven and Earth. May our hearts not be toward the things of this world, and the ways of carnal man (which shall ultimately perish forever). May our carnal flesh and the foreskin of our hearts be fully circumcised and cast far away from us.¹¹⁷ Truly, may these things of the carnal flesh be completely crucified!

May we all have that new heart and new mind in which are written the true laws of God the Father: each and every one of these laws.¹¹⁸ May we truly walk in all the ways of the Lord God Almighty, and not just some of His ways. May we, by the very power of Christ, overcome this world and its lusts. In relation to this, may we completely trust in the Word of God. May we, of a true heart, reach out and take hold on each and every one of His promises. May He strengthen and keep us true to Him unto the very end, no matter what evils may come upon this Earth. Amen.

FOR ALL ETERNITY

The Word of God declares: *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*¹¹⁹ In relation to this, the apostle Paul writes: *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*¹²⁰

May these words always be in our hearts and minds as we experience those things which come our way upon this Earth. May we always look to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ to strengthen us in all things. Friend, let us take these matters seriously, for our time upon this Earth is not very long at all. Indeed, every moment which passes just brings us one moment closer to the gates of eternity. Please examine the Word of God prayerfully and thoroughly, from cover to cover. Do not be trapped in the carnal traditions of man’s religion, for these false paths will only lead to eternal destruction. Friend, diligently seek the complete truth of God, and be satisfied with nothing less.

A CLOSING INVITATION

The psalmist cries: *“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

“In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

*“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”*¹²¹

Friend, so ends another Chapter in this FIRST EDITION of
Listen To The Earth, Volume One, THE CREATION, by *David E. Sakrison and Friends*
in 34 Chapters, plus README, Preview, Start, and End files
with References following each Chapter

REFERENCES

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1. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Isaiah, chapter 45, verse 18.
2. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Jeremiah, chapter 17, verses 5-10.
3. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Psalms, chapter 22, verses 26-31.
4. Let us consider a few examples shown in the Word of God, to see what happens when people come into the presence of God and His power. In the *Holy Bible*, the Book of Daniel, chapter 5, verses 1-6, we find the king of Babylon, Belshazzar, having a party with his friends. While they were drinking wine, and praising the gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, and stone, the fingers of a man's hand appeared, and wrote on the wall near them. How did the mighty king respond to all of this, as God wrote a warning on the wall? It is written (in verse 6): "*Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.*" Will this be similar to that response which will come upon the wicked, as they suddenly come face to face with God?
When Moses, who was the explicit servant of God, came into the presence of God, even he had to admit his human frailties. The Word of God records (in Hebrews 12:21): "*And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, 'I exceedingly fear and quake.'*"
Let us next see an example of what it is like when the wicked come into the presence of God. It is recorded (in Ezekiel 38:18-20): "*And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.*"
When the angel of the Lord came to the tomb of Jesus, the Word of God records (in Matthew 28:4): "*And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.*" Friend, are you of a stronger character, in the face of God, than these men?
5. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 24, verses 29-30.
6. Why will the people of this Earth be mourning at the return of Jesus Christ? Is there any Scripture which indicates why even many who call themselves Christians will be mourning at the return of Christ? For our answer, let us turn to the Word of God. In the Book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 22-23, the Lord Jesus Christ declares: "*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?' And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'*"
Indeed, what a let-down this will be to each individual who suddenly finds that they had not been doing that true work of the Christ which is clearly declared throughout the Holy Scriptures. What a numbing realization this will be to suddenly find that it was only the traditions of men which were being followed by the individual, rather than the true Word of God. What appalling words to have to hear: "*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" And after all that, then knowing that there is the awful price to pay for all eternity. Friend, let us make very sure, now in this time of grace, that our beliefs are completely founded on the WHOLE Word of God. Let us not be of those who will be mourning at the return of Jesus Christ.
7. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 6, verses 15-17.
8. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 6, verse 46.
9. Let us look to that which occurred with the Jews, as Jesus Christ was walking among them. In the *Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 8, verses 39-45, we find that the Jews were claiming that "*Abraham is our father.*" But what did Jesus answer them? It is written: "*Jesus saith unto them, 'If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father.'*"

(Reference note 9, continued on next page)

(Reference note 9, continued on next page)

“Then said they to him, ‘We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.’ Jesus said unto them, ‘If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? Even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.”

These Jews (which claimed to be the children of Abraham) were declared by Christ not to be his true children, because they were not walking after that manner of life in which Abraham walked. The Jews quickly stated then that God was their father. It appears that they also had a mistaken view of God, and were actually worshiping (in thought and deed) the wrong god. These people were actually, by their actions, worshiping the devil. Is it any different in our day? There is an old saying which states: “Your actions speak so loudly, that I cannot hear a word you are saying.” Our actions reveal the God (or god) which we truly worship.

10. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 21-23.
11. In the *Holy Bible*, Book of Isaiah, chapter 64, verses 6-7, it is written: *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”* Friend, let us note that the Pharisees, in Jesus’ time, indeed appeared extremely righteous. Yet Jesus (in the Book of Matthew, chapter 5, verse 20) proclaimed: *“For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”* Friend, these words stand before us. Therefore, may we look to the true way of God.
Again, the Book of Isaiah, in chapter 50, verse 11, proclaims: *“Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.”* Those who kindle their own fire (but not a fire which God has given them), and walk in sparks of their own kindling (and not by the true Spirit of God), shall ultimately lie down in sorrow: for they shall be rejected of God in the end.
12. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Ephesians, chapter 5, verses 14-17.
13. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Romans, chapter 3, verse 23.
14. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Peter, chapter 3, verse 9.
15. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Isaiah, chapter 1, verses 16-18.
16. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 23, verses 25-28.
17. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Mark, chapter 16, verse 15.
18. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 10, verses 27-28.
19. It is written (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of Romans, chapter 12, verses 1-2): *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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.”* Friend, we are called upon to present our very bodies as living sacrifices to God, and to the work which He has given to us through His Word.
20. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Mark, chapter 8, verse 38.
21. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 9, verse 62.
22. Friend, please note that Satan will send thoughts and temptations our way. These things are not sin, of themselves. But it is what we do with them that can cause them to become a sin to us. If we resist these things which Satan sends our way, and turn away from them, then they cannot become a sin to us. On the other hand, if we indulge the evil thoughts and temptations from Satan, then they will become sin to us. (Please see: Book of James, chapter 1, verses 13-16; and chapter 4, verse 7-10.)

23. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Philippians, chapter 3, verses 13-15.
24. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 5, verses 20-21.
25. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 28, verses 19-20.
26. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 24, verses 45-47. Remember further, that Jesus (in Matthew 9:37-38) proclaimed: *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* May we do that work which the Master has given us.
27. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 1-5.
28. In answer, let us look to the *Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 25, verses 24-30. We find how God will deal with those who hide the gospel, and will not do the work which the Father has commanded. The parable from Jesus indicates how it will be at His return: *“Then he which had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.’*
“His lord answered and said unto him, ‘Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.’ ‘Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
 The above example from the Word of God speaks clearly. A word to the wise should be sufficient. There is much work which God has ordained for His people to be doing. Yet today, we find that there is much of this work which has been negligently left undone. Friend, much is being neglected by those who call themselves Christians, as they are snared into materialism and the pursuit of money (among other things). What will God do about this situation in the end? May we all pay heed to the Word of God, and do those things which He has commanded.
29. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Acts, chapter 20, verses 26-27.
30. For a further example in this matter, let us look to the *Holy Bible*, Book of Ezekiel, chapter 3, verses 17-21. The Lord God here proclaims: *“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, ‘Thou shalt surely die;’ and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*
“Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.” Friend, this is the work and requirement of the true prophet of God. But who are the true prophets of God supposed to be today?
 In relation to the question of who are now God’s prophets, let us look to the New Testament. The Lord Jesus Christ (in the Book of Luke, chapter 7, verse 28) proclaimed: *“For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”* The least individual in the kingdom of God is proclaimed (by Jesus Christ) as being a greater prophet than John the Baptist. This indeed is quite a proclamation!
 Friend, who are those who are in the kingdom of God? Are not all true Christians (those that are doing the will of the Father, and walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ) part of this kingdom of God? Are not all true Christians at least equal to the least individual in the kingdom of God? Actually, in God’s eyes, we are all on the same level. For evidence of this fact, please see Matthew 23, verses 1-8.
 Friend, if all God’s true people are His prophets, then there is much required of each and every individual who calls themselves a child of God! The Lord God has shown the seriousness of this matter when He proclaimed: *“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”* (Exodus 20:7) May we all pay special heed to the Word of God. Friend, the complete Word of God still holds true today, and will hold true for all eternity.
31. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 16, verse 24.
32. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 5, verse 44.

33. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Philippians, chapter 3, verses 8-11.
34. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Philippians, chapter 3, verse 6.
35. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Acts, chapter 9, verses 1-2.
36. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 24-27.
37. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Galatians, chapter 5, verses 24-26.
38. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Galatians, chapter 6, verse 14.
39. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 2, verses 15-17.
40. If we do not shun the things of the world, and seek those things of God only, then, according to the Word of God, we are being double-minded. In the *Holy Bible*, the Book of Luke, chapter 16, verses 13-15, the Lord Jesus Christ clearly proclaimed: “*No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*”
“And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. 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.’” Let not our lives be an abomination to God.
41. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Galatians, chapter 2, verse 20.
42. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Colossians, chapter 3, verses 1-3.
43. *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 2, verses 15-18.
44. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Philippians, chapter 3, verses 18-19.
45. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 13-14.
46. In relation to this truth, let us remember those words which Jesus Christ proclaimed to the hypocritical religious leaders of His day. In the *Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 23, verse 13, it is proclaimed: “*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*” These religious leaders were simply the spiritually blind, leading the blind sheep. Friend, is it any different with the religious hierarchies of today?
47. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 10, verse 1.
48. *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 19-20.
49. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Peter, chapter 2, verses 1-2.
50. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 25, verses 1-12.
51. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 22, verses 11-14.
52. As a further note on this matter, let us look to the *Holy Bible*, the Book of Matthew, chapter 13, verses 41-42. The Lord Jesus Christ is here speaking of the end of this world, and proclaims: “*The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*” If we are not truly abiding in Christ, and if His life is not being manifest through us, then we are not wearing the robe of His righteousness. In such a state, we are not wearing the proper wedding garment, by which we are joined to the Lamb at His return.
53. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 15, verses 4-6.
54. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Thessalonians, chapter 2, verses 10-12.

55. Let us look at Moses as another example of the life of a true Christian. In the *Holy Bible*, the Book of Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 24-27, it is written: “*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*”
56. James writes (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of James, chapter 4, verse 4): “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*”
57. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 2, verse 18.
58. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 9, verse 27.
59. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Romans, chapter 14, verses 11-12.
60. *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Timothy, chapter 6, verses 24-25.
61. *The Holy Bible*, in the Book of Daniel, chapter 12, verse 2, proclaims: “*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*”
62. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 16, verses 8-11.
63. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 20, verses 10-15.
64. Let us look to the Word of God, that we can come to a better understanding of the true nature of this lake of fire. It is written (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of II Thessalonians, chapter 1, verses 7-9): “*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power...*”
- Again, it is written (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 6, verses 12-14): “*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.*” Friend, what will happen to this Earth, when the stars suddenly begin to fall, and slam into the Earth from every side? Could it produce a Lake of Fire? Let us examine other Scriptures.
- It is written (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of II Peter, chapter 3, verses 10-12): “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*” The Earth, and the works contained therein, shall be burned up. They shall be utterly dissolved in this conflagration. Could this relate to the Lake of Fire?
- Again, it is written (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 10-12): “*And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.*” Friend, a vesture is an outer covering. It is the outer covering which shall be changed. The earlier passages of Scripture indicate the process whereby the outer covering of the Earth will be changed. The stars shall fall from heaven to the Earth. The Earth and all things therein shall be burned up; first from the conflagration caused by celestial impactors, and secondly by the shock of the impactors breaching the barrier which protects us from the magmas below.
- Looking into geologic history, we find great regions where the molten magmas have poured upon the face of the Earth, and flowed like water in virtually all directions. One example is the large Columbia Lava Plateau in the northwestern United States. Another example is the vast region of the Deccan Plateau in India. The list of immense basalt flows upon this Earth could go on and on, for this Earth is virtually covered with these flows. Needless to say, when the vast lava flows spread rapidly out in all directions, thousands of square miles of Earth's surface are rapidly engulfed in the molten deluge. All things in the path of the molten deluge are consumed. Friend, could this be similar to the lake of fire, when the Earth (at least its outer covering) is dissolved? Friend, may this short discussion lead us to understand the nature of the Lake of Fire which is shown in God's Word.
65. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Galatians, chapter 6, verse 14.

66. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 3, verses 19-22.
67. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 10, verses 19-22.
68. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 2, verses 3-6.
69. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Jude, verses 24-25.
70. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 3, verses 4-9.
71. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 3, verses 19-22; and Book of John, chapter 15, verses 1-7.
72. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 16, verse 33.
73. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Romans, chapter 5, verse 8.
74. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Colossians, chapter 1, verses 21-23.
75. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Titus, chapter 2, verses 11-14.
76. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Acts, chapter 2, verses 29-33.
77. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 19-20.
78. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 6, verse 37.
79. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I John, chapter 3, verses 4-10.
80. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Thessalonians, chapter 1 verses 7-10.
81. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 3, verses 20-22.
82. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 14, verse 6.
83. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 9, verses 23-24.
84. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 19-20.
85. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 12, verses 51-53.
86. When God's true people see what He has prepared for all those who love and obey Him, they shall (because of great joy) instantly lose all memory of those many trials which they have experienced in this life. God shall truly mend the broken hearts, and wipe away all tears. Friend, what is this worth to you? Is it worth giving your complete life to Him in return? Is it worth obedience to God, to obtain all this for all eternity? May we all be found as the loving and obedient sons and daughters of God, willingly doing that work which He has commanded.
87. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Timothy, chapter 3, verses 12-13.
88. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 26.
89. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 13-14.
90. It appears that the apostle Paul was having to deal much with this type of situation in his time. In the *Holy Bible*, Book of Philippians, chapter 2, verses 19-21, Paul declares: "*But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.*" It appears that Paul was having trouble finding people who truly cared about the things of Christ. It appears that most people are only in religion for their own gain, whether that be of an earthly position, or glory, honor, and possibly just power over other people.
91. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 10, verse 22.

92. *The Holy Bible*, Book of John, chapter 16: verses 1-3.
93. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Psalms, chapter 55, verses 1-14. Please note also that the apostle Paul spoke of perils among false brethren (see II Corinthians 11:26). Friend, there are those who pose as the children of God, while their true intent is to confound God's people (if they can) and pervert the true way of God: all the while attempting to appear completely innocent of their evil deeds. There are a number of passages throughout the Word of God which warn us of this situation. For further enlightenment on this subject, simply read the Jesuit Oath (shown in the Reference notes of Chapter 32) to see how they operate.
94. Please look again at the face of the man in the illustration. Yes, he is not smiling. He is feeling the effects of persecution. Yet there are a number of ministers today that believe if a person cannot hide their feelings and slap on a paste-on-smile, then they are wrong in the eyes of God, or may not even be a true Christian. Friend, it is only the false ministers (the ministers of Satan) who preach such doctrines. Let us now turn to the Word of God to see if God's people ever have feelings (which may show on the outside).
- In the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 53:3), Jesus Christ is spoken of. Of the very Son of God, it is written: "*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*" Jesus Christ was a man of sorrows. He was acquainted with [or experienced] grief. Friend, look upon anyone who is a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Do they continually wear a paste-on-smile?
- The apostle Paul writes (in II Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 8): "*For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life...*" Paul (and those with him) came into an extremely stressful situation which was far more stressful than had apparently been experienced before. He and those with him soon found that the stressful conditions were more than the strength that was in them, for it appears that they took their eyes off of Christ. In such a condition, these children of God began to despair even of life. Friend, this is not the preferred method, but it does happen to true Christians. Let us not be of those who play games in religion. Let us not judge these sad or grieved people to severely, because they may have a distressing look upon their faces. Instead, let us raise them up in prayer to God, and encourage them to place their eyes upon Christ. Encourage them also to look toward that Heavenly reward for those who overcome.
- In closing, please examine the complete book of Psalms (in the Old Testament). Here we find the psalms of a man who has been called "a man after God's own heart" (please see I Samuel 13:14 and Acts 13:22). In the Psalms, we often find a man who is going through much distress. Many times he is feeling totally cast down: he is going through things which are extremely hard to bear. As an example, please read the following words (from Psalm 55, verses 12-14): "*For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: but it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.*"
- In the above Psalm, we see that David is being deceitfully used by one who had formerly been a friend. If it had been one who had been a full enemy, David could have readily borne the distress. But here, a friend had injured David's heart extremely deep. Friend, this "man after God's own heart" was probably not wearing a paste-on-smile when he went through this experience. Please let us all be realistic when we handle the Word of God. Let us not make a religion of paste-on-smiles (or more clearly: manufactured smiles), for it is not the religion of the true God of all Heaven and Earth. Indeed, the people of God are not to be actors: they may show their feelings on the outside.
- Let us look to one further experience of a child of God. In the Book of Nehemiah, chapter 2, verses 1-3, it is written: "*And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. Wherefore the king said unto me, 'Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart.' Then I was very sore afraid, and said unto the king, 'Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?'"*
- Friend, the true children of God have been known to show their feelings on the outside. Yes, it does happen at times, even to the most stable of God's children. Let us therefore not manufacture a false "smiles" doctrine, but let us look to the true doctrine found in the Word of God. Let us encourage one another to look upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and those many marvelous things which God the Father has done for each and every one of us.
- Please note one more passage of Holy Scripture. This passage speaks of Hannah, who became the mother of the prophet and priest named Samuel. It is written (in I Samuel, chapter 1, verses 4-18): "*And when the time was that Elkanah offered [unto the LORD], he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions: but unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. And her*

(Reference note 94, continued on next page)

(Reference note 94, continued from previous page)

adversary [apparently Peninnah] also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. Then said Elkanah her husband to her, 'Hannah, why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?' ● So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she [Hannah] was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, 'O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.' ● And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, 'How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee.'

"And Hannah answered and said, 'No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.' Then Eli answered and said, 'Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.' And she said, 'Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight.' So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad."

Friend, in the above passage of Holy Scripture, Hannah had been showing great sadness on the outside. But in the end, the LORD changed this sadness into joy. May we always look to the full Word of God, and raise one another up in prayer to God. May we pray that He may strengthen those that are cast down and have a sad look upon their face. May we have a true godly compassion, and encourage one another in these things.

95. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 6, verses 9-11.
96. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Acts, chapter 14, verse 22.
97. The apostle Paul writes in II Timothy 3:12: "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*"
98. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 12, verses 4-5.
99. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 2, verses 10-11.
100. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 1, verses 3-7.
101. *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Peter, chapter 4, verses 12-14.
102. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Luke, chapter 10, verse 16.
103. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Matthew, chapter 5, verses 10-12.
104. What will it be like for those of whom the following Scriptures speaks? In the *Holy Bible*, Book of II Peter, chapter 2, verses 1-2, it is written: "*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*" The Lord Jesus Christ clearly proclaimed (in the Book of Matthew, chapter 7, verses 22-23): "*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?' And then will I profess unto them, 'I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'*" Friend, what will it be like for these people? How will they feel inside as they receive this stunning revelation? Let us pray to God the Father, while we diligently search His Word, that we may understand and do that work which is pleasing in His sight, that the above experience will not be our own!
105. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Peter, verse 10.
106. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Thessalonians, chapter 1, verse 3-12.
107. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 3, verses 12-14.
108. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Revelation, chapter 14, verses 6-7.

109. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Jude, verse 24-25.
110. Please remember that Jesus Christ stated (in the Holy Bible, Book of John, chapter 14, verse 9): “*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father...*” Friend, if we are fully abiding in Christ, and being led by the very Spirit of God the Father, then we will be manifesting the Father and Christ. In such a state, truly, we will be in the likeness of God: as near to it as possible until we are given our new bodies.
111. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Jude, verses 1-4.
112. *The Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 10, verses 3-6.
113. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 10-18.
114. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Titus, chapter 2, verses 11-14.
115. The apostle Paul (in the *Holy Bible*, Book of II Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 13-15) warns of “*false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...*” Paul warns also (in the Book of Ephesians, chapter 4, verse 14): “*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...*”
116. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 14-21.
117. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Jeremiah, chapter 4, verse 4.
118. See: *The Holy Bible*, Book of Hebrews, chapter 8, verses 7-13; and chapter 10, verses 15-17.
119. *The Holy Bible*, Book of I Corinthians, chapter 2, verses 9-10. There is much written throughout the Word of God, concerning that which God has prepared for those that love Him. That is why it is important for each individual to diligently study the Word of God, from cover to cover. Do not just do a casual read of the *Holy Bible*, for a casual read will not allow us to come to the truth. The Word of God makes known that we are to give our heart wholly to the things of God, and to this search for God’s truth. Friend, ready God’s Word over and over. Only in this manner will we begin to find the hidden treasures therein.
120. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Romans, chapter 8, verse 18.
121. *The Holy Bible*, Book of Psalms, chapter 95, verses 1-7.