

BASIC DOCTRINE II

Notes by Franklin

INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of this study:

- To learn how to live in victory over the power of sin within.
- To learn how to live in victory over the demands of the Law.
- To learn how to walk in the Spirit.
- To clearly understand faith.
- To clearly understand the judgments in the Scriptures.
- To learn of the rewards to be given to his faithful ones.
- To understand the subject of suffering.
- To answer some difficult Bible questions.

LESSON OUTLINE

I. LIVING IN VICTORY OVER THE POWER OF SIN page 3

- A. I Have Been Saved by His Death / Blood.
- B. I Am Being Saved by His Life.

1. From the Power of Sin: Romans 6
 - First Step: "Knowing"
 - Second Step: "Consider"
 - Third Step: "Present"
2. From Condemnation of the Law: Romans 7
3. By Walking in the Spirit: Romans 8

II. UNDERSTANDING FAITH page 14

- A. Introduction
- B. What is Faith?
- C. Faith Has Two Sides
- D. Faith is Total Commitment to the Lord and His Word
- E. Faith is Taking God at His Word and Obeying Him
- F. Faith is Knowing That
- G. Faith Goes Beyond All Reason
- H. You Are Not Born With This Faith
- I. The Importance of Faith
- J. Little Faith
- K. Three Kinds of Faith
- L. The Hall of Faith

III. JUDGMENTS **page 25**

- A. Introduction.
- B. The Judgments of the Believer's Sins
- C. The Judgment of the Believer's Self
- D. The Judgment of the Believer's Works
- E. The Judgment of the Nations
- F. The Judgment of the Wicked

IV. REWARDS **page 34**

- A. Introduction.
- B. The Crown of Life
- C. The Crown Imperishable
- D. The Crown of Rejoicing
- E. The Crown of Righteousness
- F. The Crown of Glory

V. THE SUBJECT OF SUFFERING **page 37**

- A. Introduction
- B. Suffering From Sin
 - 1. Man Brings Suffering to Himself and Others
 - 2. Sin is the law and culture of satan's kingdom.
 - 3. When a believer sins he steps into satan's Kingdom
- C. Suffering From Sinners
 - 1. As We Proclaim The Gospel
 - 2. We Are At War
- D. Suffering That Comes From God
 - 1. To Test Our Faith and Loyalty
 - 2. To Perfect Our Character
 - 3. To Bring Glory to His Name.
 - 4. The Suffering of Some Sickness is for His Glory
 - 5. To Prepare Us for Ministry to Others
 - 6. To Protect Us or to Guide Us
 - 7. Some Suffering is the Result of the LORD's Discipline

VI. DIFFICULT BIBLE QUESTIONS **page 53**

- A. What If You Have Some Doubts?
- B. What is Enduring to the End?
- C. What is Denying Christ?
- D. Can You Know the Truth and Still Not be a Believer?
- E. Understanding: Hebrews 6:6
- F. Understanding: Hebrews 10:26
- G. Understanding: Names Written in the Book of Life.
- H. The Old Testament Law and New Testament Believers.
- I. To Die Without Hearing The Gospel page 73

I. LIVING IN VICTORY OVER THE POWER OF SIN

Study Outline:

A. I **HAVE BEEN Saved** by His **Death** and His Blood

B. I **Am BEING Saved** by His **Life**.

1. From the Power of Sin: Romans 6
 - First Step: "Knowing"
 - Second Step: "Consider"
 - Third Step: "Present"
2. From The Condemnation of the Law: Romans 7
3. By Walking in the Spirit: Romans 8

A. I HAVE BEEN Saved by His Death and His Blood Shed for Me.

1. All My Sins Have Been **Forgiven**. I Have Eternal Life.
2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Ephesians 2:8-9
John 5:24 Hebrews 9:12; 10:10, 14 17
2. You are already "**seated with Him**:" Ephesians 2:4-6
3. This Happened When You Believed In Jesus.
Romans 3:21-28; 4:5; 11:29 "*the gifts & calling . . .*"
4. This Is The Teaching of **Justification**. My "**Legal**" Standing Before God.
Romans chapters 3, 4 & 5 speak of this in detail.

Other Verses: Luke 7:48 & 50 1 Corinthians 1:21; 15:2
2 Timothy 1:9 Titus 3:5
5. You are "**in Christ**"
Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 1:7, 13 John 10:28-29
6. I have been **Redeemed** (1Peter 1:18-19); **Reconciled**
(Romans 5:10); and **Sanctified** (Acts 26:18; Hebrews 10:10,14)
7. I Now Have **Peace With God** - The Results of Justification:

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

However, **I do not have peace within myself**. I find that there is a struggle, a war going on within me. **Galatians 5:17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

B. I am BEING Saved by HIS LIFE - His Resurrection

Romans 5:9-10 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies **we were reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, **we shall be saved by His life**.

Jesus **DIED** for our **FORGIVENESS**

and **LIVES** for our **DAILY VICTORY OVER SIN**.

I AM BEING SAVED BY HIS LIFE:

1. FROM THE POWER OF SIN Romans 6

I HAVE FORGIVENESS for Sins and **I NEED VICTORY** over the **Power of Sin in my flesh**.

God's Answer: **HIS BLOOD** for JUSTIFICATION, FORGIVENESS, and REDEMPTION.

HIS LIFE FOR VICTORY

The problem began as expressed in Romans 5:12-14. I was "born into sin" or "made a sinner," therefore I sin. **Sin is in me**.

Example: A Chinese born in America is still a Chinese. It is birth that determines who you are. My family name remains the same, I did not choose it. I had nothing to do with it. I can do nothing to change it. If I am the president my name is still the same. If I am a poor beggar, a murderer, my name is the same. What I do does not change it. I am a sinner regardless how good I may act. We are what we are because of

Adam. The blood of Jesus Christ has forgiven my sin, but the power of sin is still in me.

THREE STEPS TO VICTORY OVER THE POWER OF SIN.

1st. STEP: "KNOWING THIS" Romans 6:3-10

Vs.6 **KNOWING THIS**, that our old self **was crucified with Him**, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.

- Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of **knowledge**.
- John 8:32 And you will **know** the truth, and the truth will make you free.

Through His **Blood** He has taken care of what we **have done**:
And He has **Forgiven all of our sins**.

Through His **Death** He has taken care of what **we are**: SINNERS.

Through His **Resurrection** and **Life** we can:
"**walk in newness of life**." (Romans 6:4)

Example: To remove the problem of alcohol - destroying all the bottles will only slow the problem. The factory is still there to produce more. The factory must be removed also. John 8:36

2nd STEP: "CONSIDER YOURSELF" Romans 6:11

Vs.11 Even so **consider** yourselves to be **dead to sin**, but **alive to God in Christ Jesus**.

The original Greek word used means: **act on it**, make the truth yours.
(λογιζεσθε – conclude, count on, impute)

It is a **fact**, a **truth** that you can count on. Add it to your life.

It is like Mark 11:23-24 ". . . **believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.**"

It is a matter of believing the truth and acting on it.

- See: Matthew 9:21-22; 28-29

What you believe to be true will control and change your life.
Faith consists of two things:

1. **Believing or Trusting** and
2. **Acting on it.** Taking steps of action.
James 1:22, 25; 2:17, 20, 26

In **Romans 3** Jesus takes **our sins** as our substitute and His Blood forgives our sins.

In **Romans 6** Jesus takes **US** in His death and resurrection (vs.3), securing our deliverance over the **POWER OF SIN** within us.

The "**body of sin**" the old me or "**the old self** (man)" was crucified and died with Him (vs.3 & 4).

And as He was raised from the dead, I also have been raised from the dead to "**new life**" (vs.4).

This is the **NEW BIRTH** (1 Peter 1:3)

This is my deliverance and **VICTORY**
OVER the **POWER OF SIN !**

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

That which is "*born of God*" in me, the "**new man**" "**cannot sin.**"
1 John 5:18

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith . . .

- That I AM DEAD! (the old me / the old man I use to be)
- That Jesus Christ now LIVES IN ME! (in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance (or substance or foundation) of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith makes it REAL in experience. We are not talking about Promises - we are talking about **FACTS**. It is **TRUE** whether I believe it or not.

But, **FAITH** makes the facts **REAL**, or makes the facts happen in my experience.

3rd. STEP: "Present yourself to God" Romans 6:13, 19

Vs.13 and **do not** go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God

Vs. 19 so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

He has done all of this for you. Now **GIVE YOURSELF TO HIM.**

We must not use our time, or money or talents as we chose because they are the Lord's, not ours.

Our eyes, mouth, ears, our hands and feet are also His.

All that we are, and all that we have, we must: **Set apart to God** this is **Sanctification.** Romans 12:1

Romans 6:16 The word "servant" is actually, "a bonds slave."

What is the difference between servant and slave?

A **servant** may serve another but the other does not own him. If he likes his master he can serve. If he does not want to serve, he does not have to. Not so with the slave. The **SLAVE IS** the **POSSESSION** of his master.

Exodus 21:1-6 & Deuteronomy 15:12-17; Jesus: Philippians 2:7
Paul: Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:10; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Revelation 1:1

➤ Are you a servant to Jesus, or His slave?

How do I become His slave?

On His part: He bought me (redemption).

On my part: I **present** or give myself **TOTALLY** and **COMPLETELY** to Him.

When the Galilean boy **presented** his bread, what did the Lord do with it? Only when it is broken and blessed can it meet the needs of many.

"**Knowing**" that He gave Himself totally and completely for me . . .

I can do no less for Him. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

I AM BEING SAVED BY HIS LIFE:

2. FROM THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LAW. Romans 7

Romans 7: 5, 14, 18 declares that we are "*in the flesh.*"
It is dealing with man in his carnal or natural state.

The **flesh is weak**. Read: Romans 8:3
and **They that are in the flesh cannot please God** (Romans 8:8).

A man hears the full gospel message that his sins are forgiven, he knows he died with Christ and "**considers**" it true and "**presents** himself to God "*as alive from the dead.*"

This is the **BEGINNING of the VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

So he decides he must please the Lord and keep the commandments, the Law. Then he makes a surprising discovery, he thought he could do the will of God, he thought he loved God's will, but he finds he does not always like it. At times he finds he does not want to do it and often when he tries he finds he cannot. Frustration sets in and he begins to question his commitment to the Lord. The more he tries to do the will of God the more he fails, and he cries out with Paul from **Romans 7:18-19**:

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? **The problem is** that we have placed ourselves under the law to please God. We are trying to keep the Law.

Romans 7 is given to explain and make real the statement of Romans 6:14: **For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

GRACE is God **giving me** what I do not have. **God doing for me** what I cannot do.

Law means that to please God **I must do for Him** His holy and righteous demands. I try and I fail.

However: **you are not under law but under grace.**

We have been delivered from the law, He does not require me to do it but "in grace" **He does it** Himself for you.

The problem addressed in Romans 7 is that the man in the flesh tries to do something for God.

The problem is not with the law (Romans 7:12, 14, 16).

The **problem is that my flesh is weak**, powerless, "*sold under sin*," **it cannot perform and please God**. And the very purpose of the law is to expose this weakness of the flesh.

- **Romans 7:7-24**

Example: The Clumsy Servant

As long as nothing is required of him - no problem. But ask him to do something and the problems begin. His inability is exposed. The Law makes our weakness or inability manifest.

The Lord knows that I cannot do what the Law requires. But the problem is: **I do not know it**. I think I can do it. **We must** come to the place where we realize our **total inability** and **helplessness**. In **Romans 7:7-11** Paul discovered this truth.

We are so sinful, evil, bad and deceived that we think we can do it. The law was given to expose our true nature. We are so conceited and think ourselves so strong and capable that God has to prove to us what we are, and that we can not keep it, and that we need a Savior. [The Law came in so that the transgression would increase . . .](#) Romans 5:20-21

The Law was not given in the expectation that we would keep it. It was given in the full knowledge that we would break it; and when we are convinced of our great need, then the law has served its purpose. It has been our [schoolmaster to bring us to Christ](#), that He Himself may fulfill it in us. **Galatians 3:24**

The **way to freedom** from the Law is expressed in **Romans 7:1-4**. The "first husband" is the Law. He makes great demands but does not lift one finger to help. You are "the woman," unable to meet all his demands. The "second husband" is Christ. He requires just as much, even more (Matthew 5:21-48). But what He requires from us, **He does it FOR US** or performs in us by His strength.

Her only hope of release is through the death of her first husband. But there is no prospect of his passing away: **Matthew 5:18** [For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.](#) The only way

out is - if he will not die, **I must die** and the marriage is finished. And that is exactly God's way of deliverance from the law, **Romans 7:4**.

The Law will never pass away, God's righteous demands remain forever, and **if I live** I must meet those demands; but **if I die** the Law has lost its claim upon me.

My **death "in Christ"** frees me from the **power of sin** and from the **demands of the Law**. Sin still lives and calls on me but there is no answer, I am dead. The Law continues on and makes demands on me but I can not respond, **I am dead**.

Having died and been set free from our old husband who made so many demands but never helped us, we are now free to be married to our new husband who does it all for us.

Romans 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

What is the issue of this new marriage? **That we might bring forth fruit unto God**. By the body of Christ the foolish, sinful woman has died, but being married to Him in death she is united to Him in resurrection also, and in the **power of resurrection life** she brings forth fruit unto God. **The risen life of the Lord in you empowers you for all the demands God's holiness makes upon you**. The Law of God is not annulled; it is perfectly fulfilled, for the risen Lord now lives out His life **in YOU**, and His life is always well-pleasing to the Father.

Matthew 5:17 **Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill**.

Philippians 2:12-13 **So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure**.

Being set free from the Law **does not mean** we are free from doing the will of God or that we are to be lawless but that Christ can now live in us and please our Father.

Example:

In Asia many laborers carry heavy loads on their backs by a strap around the load and around their forehead. Some loads are just too heavy to

carry, still some are tempted to try. So although he cannot possibly carry it he still tries. Finally they must all give up and allow a stronger man to carry it.

Jesus alone is able to carry the load of the Law of God. We must give up and allow Him.

Example:

A man was drowning in the river and he and his friends were calling to another standing on the bank, who was an excellent swimmer to save him. But the excellent swimmer just stood watching. Everyone was exceedingly angry at him and wondering why he would not save the drowning man. Finally the man was just about finished and the excellent swimmer quickly brought him to safety. When the angry crowd demanded to know why he waited so long to save the man the reply came: "Had I gone earlier the man would have clutched me so fast that both of us would have gone under. A drowning man cannot be saved until he is utterly exhausted and ceases to make the slightest effort to save himself.

To call upon the Lord, to be totally dependent upon Him and stop trying to do it ourselves, we must exhaust all our energies and abilities realizing that we can not. Then He will save us.

I Am Being Saved by His Life

3. As I Walk in the Spirit Romans 8

Romans 8:1-2 Therefore there is **now no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has set you free** (a completed, accomplished fact) **from the law of sin and of death.**

There is NO CONDEMNATION because the **Blood** of Jesus Christ **has forgiven** our sins BUT HERE THE MEANING IS ALSO THAT:

I NO LONGER CONDEMN MYSELF because:

I have discovered that I no longer live and that now:
Christ Jesus lives His life in me.

Before I learned the truth of **Romans 6 & 7** I struggled under constant defeat. I was always crying out: '*I cannot do this!*' No matter how hard I tried I found that I "cannot please God"

Romans 8:8.

But with Christ living in me **there is no 'I cannot' in Christ.**

Now it is:

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:13

WHY? HOW? Because: *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

The "**LAW OF LIFE**" is a greater power than "**the law of sin and death.**" This is why there is no more condemnation.

Example:

Because of the law of gravity an apple will always fall when I turn it loose. But if I do not turn it loose, a greater power has overcome the law of gravity.

A small seed falls into a thin crack in a very large boulder. As it grows it slowly breaks open the hard rock. The "**law of life**" overcomes the law of hardness.

In the same manner God delivers us from one law by introducing another law which is a greater power. The **law of sin and death** is always there but the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** is a greater, overcoming power.

The Resurrection Life of Christ Jesus has met sin and death and triumphed over them. (Ephesians 1:19-20).

1 Peter 1:5 **who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

This brings out the difference between: **trying** and **trusting**.

I, in my own strength no longer **try** to please God but **trust Him** to EMPOWER ME WITH HIS LIFE and enter fully and joyfully into the action He leads me into.

It is not passivity; **it is a most active life**, trusting the Lord, drawing life from Him, taking Him to be my very life, **letting Him live out His life in me.** Ephesians 3:14-19

When **I try**, it is like a car out of gas. No power. But when **I trust Him** there is the power of His resurrection life enabling me to do His will. No problem. No sweat.

When we are **trusting** in **His Life In us** we will be truly changed. He will say to you: "*Your voice is too loud*", or, "*That laughter was not right*", or, "*Let the other person go first*", or, "*Your motive in saying that was wrong.*" Jesus will live His Life in you!

It is this spontaneous life that is the **Christian life**. It manifests itself in LOVE to everyone, even the unlovely.

Romans 8:3-4 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The Law could not make you pleasing to God because it has no power and our flesh is weak and cannot perform.

Remember, **it is no longer a question of salvation**
it is a question of . . . **pleasing God**.

Now, because of our inability God took two steps:

1. He sent His Son who '*became sin for us*' and '*condemned sin in the flesh.*' The problem of sin is removed.

2. He sent His Holy Spirit in us to fulfill the requirement of the Law as we walk according to the Spirit.

To walk after the Spirit is to walk subject to the Spirit.
Only as I yield myself to **obey Him** shall I find the "**law of the Spirit of life**" in full operation and the Law being fulfilled, thus pleasing the Lord.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are **SONS OF GOD**.

"Sons" = mean maturity as compared to children.

To live in the natural, I must be in air, not water!
To live in the spiritual I must be in the Spirit, not the flesh.

A man cannot live and work in water, only in air.
Christ cannot live and work in the flesh but only in the Spirit.

To live "*in the Spirit*" means **I trust Him** to do the necessary.

- ❖ IT IS NOT TRYING, BUT TRUSTING.
- ❖ IT IS NOT STRUGGLING, BUT RESTING IN HIM.
Galatians 5:16-25

He leads us in His triumph over: **sin, satan and death.**

Romans 7:25
Galatians 2:20
Colossians 1:27

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

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II. UNDERSTANDING FAITH

A. Introduction

"The just shall live by faith."

This declaration of **the way to life** is found four times in the Bible:
Habakkuk 2:1-5 Romans 1:17 Galatians 3:10-11 Hebrews 10:38

For the born again believer in Jesus Christ, **faith is a way of life:**

He is saved by faith:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you **have been saved** through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

He is protected and kept by faith:

1 Peter 1:5 who **are protected** by the power of God **through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

He lives by faith:

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the **life** which I now live in the flesh I **live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

B. What Is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 is the only definition of faith in the Scriptures. Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.

It is important that we should really understand this definition.

- **Assurance** – being certain in the mind. Freedom from doubt or uncertainty.
- **Conviction** – the state of being convinced. A strong persuasion or belief.

Another translation says:

Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

The Greek word for **Substance** is: hypostasis-- (Strong's: #5287)

Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines the word:

- a setting or placing under; a foundation
- what has actual existence; a substance, a real thing.
- a steadfast mind, firm, confidence, firm trust, assurance

The Greek word has the **sense of action** in it.

J. N. Darby has translated the verse this way:

*"Faith is the **substantiating** of things hoped for."*

We need to understand the word, substantiating.

sub·stance (noun): That which has mass and occupies space. It can be seen and touched. It is real not imaginary.

sub·stan·ti·ate (verb, transitive)

1. To support with proof or evidence; verify; confirm.
2. a) To give material form to; embody.
b) To make firm or solid.

3. To give substance to; make real or actual.
So Faith **gives substance to** and **makes real or actual** (to give material form to) things hoped for.

In other words:

Faith brings into being that which is hoped for. Mark 11:24

2 Corinthians 4:18 *We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

Faith **brings into reality**, or **makes real** *the things which are not seen* and makes them to be seen. James 5:16-18

Faith makes "the real things" to **become real to us** in our experience.

Faith substantiates or **makes real to me** the things of Christ.

For Example: Romans 6:6 *Our old man was crucified with Him.*

Faith makes this truth **real to me in my experience**.

If I do not believe it, it is still true. It is still a fact. But it is not made actual, or life-changing in my experience.

If I should win a large sum of money and my name is announced on the television that it is true, that it is a fact and all I have to do is come and receive it. Yet I do not believe it, even though it is a fact it never becomes mine in experience.

If we do not believe the facts of the Cross they will remain as real as ever, **but they are valueless to us**. It does not need faith to make these things real in themselves, but **faith can 'substantiate' them and make them real in our experience**.

John 17:17 *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

John 8:32 *you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*

John 11:40 *Jesus said to her, Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?*

C. Faith has two components:

One has to do with the **MIND**. What we **KNOW**. What we **BELIEVE**. It is an intellectual conviction that Jesus Christ is God and the only Savior.
James 2:17-20 Mark 1:23-25

Second is a **DECISION of the WILL** to surrender to Jesus Christ as MASTER. This is seen when Thomas believed and confessed, "[My Lord and my God](#)" (John 20:28).

"My Lord" - surrender of his will.

"My God" - His mind was convinced as to who He was.

SAVING FAITH is: (1) a **conviction of the MIND** that Jesus is God and Savior and (2) a **surrender of the WILL** to Him as Lord (MASTER) of your life.

Faith **seeks God's will** rather than secure His approval of our will or plans. Joshua 5:13-14

His Word is Truth - Real - Alive - Powerful ! (Heb. 4:12; Rev.1:16)

D. Faith is total commitment to the Lord and to His Word.

Genesis 15:6 and Galatians 3:6 [Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.](#)

This is the requirement for entering into covenant.

Example: Man walking a tight cable between two high buildings or towers. He does many difficult feats as a large crowd watches in horror. Then he again appears to begin his walk with a one-wheel cart and calls down to the people, "who believes I can take this cart across to the other side?" Most all believed he could and raised their hand. Then he said: "If you believe it, come up and sit in my cart." No one acted on their belief.

E. Faith is taking God at His Word and Obeying Him.

Example: Genesis 22:2, 9-18 [Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go](#)

Hebrews 11:6-11, 27-30

And **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must **believe that He is** and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

It is NOT Presumption! Not assuming that I know how to do.
Example: Israel was defeated at Ai. Only then did they repent of their self-confidence and presumption and sought the Word of the Lord.

F. Faith is knowing that:

God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

- True Faith never completely stops believing.
- It is faithful over time. Hebrews 10:39 Luke 22:32

G. Faith goes beyond reason.

- It believes without understanding why. (Luke 1:38)
- It sings in prison (Acts 16:25).
- It glories in tribulations (Romans 5:3).
- It chooses to suffer (Hebrews 11:25)
- It accepts all things as a part of God's will (Philippians 1:12).

H. Faith to Believe for Salvation is a gift from the LORD.

John 6:64-65 **But there are some of you who do not believe.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe . . .

⁶⁵ And He was saying, **For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him** from the Father.

John 6:37 **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me**

2 Peter 1:1 **Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have RECEIVED a faith** of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:29 **For to you it has been GRANTED** for Christ's sake, not only **to BELIEVE** in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Romans 12:3 **For through the grace given to me . . . as God has ALLOTTED to each a measure of faith.**

Romans 10:17 **So faith comes from HEARING**, and hearing by the word of Christ.

John 8:47 **He who is of (ἐκ) God, hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear because you are not of (ἐκ) God.**

NT:1537 ἐκ **ek** (ek) a primary preposition denoting **origin** (the point where action or motion proceeds), from, out of.

John 10:26-27 **YOU DO NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE you ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP**. (27) **My sheep HEAR MY VOICE**, and I know them, and they follow Me

Luke 8:10 And He said, **TO YOU** it **HAS BEEN GRANTED** to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, **but to THE REST** it is in parables, so that seeing **they may not see**, and **HEARING they may not understand**.

Hebrews 12:2 **Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith . . .**

author – Greek: to commence, begin & to lead or bring.
Faith begins, originates and is perfected by the LORD.

perfecter - Continuing, enduring Faith is from the LORD:
Luke 22:32 I have prayed for you, that **your faith may not fail**

Hebrews 7:25 He is able also to **save forever** those who draw near to God through Him, since He lives to make intercession for them.

I. Steps of Maturing, Growing Faith are Our Responsibility

Romans 4:11-12 . . . all who believe . . . who also follow in the **steps of the faith** of our father Abraham

Matthew 14:28-33 Peter said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (believing faith)

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you **to will and to act** (gives you the faith – you must take the steps) according to his good purpose.

The LORD's purpose was not for everybody to walk on water but to demonstrate the unlimited bounds of faith to accomplish miraculous things "in His Name" that is, when He chooses.

Peter was a person with an impulsive personality. This kind of person responds well when the LORD gives this kind of faith. A careful, more contemplative personality, like John, does not.

29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. (steps of maturing faith)

30 But when he **saw** that the wind was boisterous, he was **afraid**; (this is where his mind took over) and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" **31** And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

For "little faith" to become "big" or "great faith" we must be willing to get out of our boat (what we know and depend on) and take steps of Faith, regardless of what our mind is saying.
To us Peter demonstrated "great faith."

- Peter began with the correct desire and prayer that greatly pleases the LORD: "I want to be with you, where you are."
"command me to come to You on the water"

Peter had Faith, Trust, Belief in the LORD, given to him by the LORD (see above verses) to ever think that it was possible.

But the **exercise of**, the **increasing of**, that Faith is up to us by taking steps of Faith.

But Faith is NOT PRESUMPTION. Peter had the Faith to believe that he could, but JESUS **must**, JESUS **had to say**: "Come."

faith comes from HEARING, and hearing by the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

- Peter did the **impossible**, he walked on water, by faith.
- Peter did the **natural thing**, seeing the storm he took his eyes off of Jesus and began to doubt.
- Peter did the **expected thing**, he began to sink.
- Peter did the **right thing**, he looked to Jesus and prayed: "Lord save me!"
- Again Peter did the **impossible thing**, he walked on the water to Jesus.

In this lesson we see (1) the Faith given to us by the LORD and (2) the failure and success of the exercise of that Faith.

We need to follow Peter's example with the "measure of Faith" given to us - and ask the LORD about seemingly impossible things - and be willing to "get out of our boat of comfort" and experience that **nothing is impossible with God**.

"If you live your life too safely, you will never know the thrill of seeing Me work through you. When I gave you My Spirit, I empowered you to live beyond your natural ability and strength."

Other Examples:

Matthew 17:20-21 **Why could we not drive it out? ²⁰ And He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain,**

'Move from here to there,' and it will move; **and nothing will be impossible to you.**

- Faith was there, but not sufficient for the battle.
- For Faith to grow it must be exercised.

You need a faith that is bigger than the storms of life that would drag you down to defeat. You can have **big faith** by (1) "prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:20-21) and by feeding your faith on (2) the Word of God (Romans 10:17). You can have mountain moving faith. Be **BOLD** and **ADVENTUROUS** enough to begin taking "steps of Faith."

"Little Faith:"

- Matthew 6:30 **Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

This is the "beginning step" of Faith – to believe HE will provide something as basic as clothes.

- Matthew 8:26 **Why are you fearful, O you of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.**

This is a more advanced, or greater "step of faith."

"The storm will pass – and the boat will not sink"

It is The LORD who is with us, in our boat on this boisterous sea of life. Our Faith must grow, become great, override our fear, and we must use the authority He has given us to change situations and circumstances.

(Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9).

- Matthew 16:8 **O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?***

This is our major Faith problem: **REASONING.**

Is this idolatry? Trusting my reasoning over His Word?

Proverb 3:5-7 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.** ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge

Him, and He will make your paths straight. ⁷ **Do not be wise in your own eyes**

"Great Faith:"

Matthew 8:5-10 ... a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented." Jesus said to him, "**I will come and heal him.**" ⁸ But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ "For **I also am a man under authority**, with soldiers under me; and **I say** to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*." ¹⁰ Now when Jesus heard this He marveled and said to those who were following, "**Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.**

This is a VERY IMPORTANT key: (a) **knowing** you are HIS Ambassador and (b) **being** UNDER AUTHORITY as JESUS was, and as the Centurion was. In other words, only saying and only doing what The AUTHORITY over you desires. (John 5:19,30; 6:38; 8:28-29; 12:49; 14:10)

- Matthew 9:20-22 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; ²¹ for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well." ²² But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "**Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.**" At once the woman was made well.

Faith is Knowing who JESUS is – Believing in HIS Compassion and Mercy – Pursuing Him, coming into His presence. It only takes a touch!

- Matthew 9:27-29 As Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, and saying, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" And after He had come into the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, **Do you believe that I am able to do this?** They said to Him, "Yes LORD." Then He touched their eyes, saying, **According to your faith be it unto you.**

These Words of JESUS must always be on our mind.

Their pursuit of Jesus was relentless. Driven by Faith and their need, a closed door and seemingly no concern for their situation did not deter them in their "steps of faith."

- Matthew 15:22-28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, O woman, **great is your faith!** Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Faith – a desperate need – driven determination

- Matthew 21:21-22 Jesus answered and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you **say** to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, it will be done. ²² And **whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.** The Word of The LORD. His Promise.

Hearing HIS Word + Believing + doubt = “little faith” that does not move mountains. Doubt Must be Removed from the equation.

K. Three Kinds of Faith John 11:21-44

In coming to raise Lazarus from the dead, Jesus found the **limited basic faith** of Martha His only obstacle.

Martha's faith was limited. She said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” The death of Lazarus meant the end of Martha's faith. She believed that Jesus had the power to raise her brother up from the sick bed, but not from the dead.

- LIMITED FAITH is controlled by CIRCUMSTANCES and motivated by FEAR of FAILURE.

Martha's faith was basic.

Jesus said, **Your brother shall rise again.** These words were spoken to kindle hope and faith in Martha. (Rom.10:17 *faith comes from hearing*)

But she said, *I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection on the last day.* Martha declared her **basic faith in a great truth**, but that is not enough to accomplish great deeds today.

Jesus stated, **I am the Resurrection and the Life.** Jesus was saying that He had all power over life and death. Then He asked, **Do you believe this?** Martha evaded the question by stating her basic faith: *Yes Lord, I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.*

It is not enough to only believe “who JESUS is.” “Mountain moving,” “raising the dead” Faith must also believe: “Nothing is impossible for The LORD.” And, if HE speaks it – IT WILL HAPPEN.

Martha's Faith is Challenged

John 11:39 Jesus said, **Remove the stone.** Martha objected in unbelief.

Vs. 40 Jesus said to her, "**Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?**"

We often hear that "seeing is believing," but this is not so for the person of faith. **You believe and then see.** Faith comes before sight.

Martha consented to having the stone moved from the grave.

Vs. 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, **Lazarus, come forth.** And Lazarus came forth. Raised from the dead.

Do Not be satisfied with LIMITED, BASIC FAITH when you can have UNLIMITED FAITH that pleases God and reveals His GLORY.

The Importance of Faith

Ephesians 6:16

The **shield of faith** is a vital part of the Christian's armor. You are to put on the **whole armor of God** because the Christian life is a warfare, a spiritual conflict. As Paul names the different parts of the Christian's armor, he comes to the shield and emphasizes its importance by saying, **Above all, take the shield of faith** for with the shield of faith, nothing can hurt you; you are more than conquerors through Him (Romans 8:37).

The Importance of Faith is seen in that:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. You cannot be saved without faith. | John 3:36 |
| 2. Cannot live victoriously over the world. | 1 John 5:4 |
| 3. You cannot please God. | Hebrews 11:6 |
| 4. You cannot pray. | James 1:6 |
| 5. You cannot have peace with God. | Romans 5:1 |
| 6. You cannot have joy. | 1 Peter 1:8 |
| 7. You are justified by faith. | Galatians 2:16 |
| 8. You are to live by faith. | Galatians 2:20 |
| 9. You are made righteous by faith. | Romans 10:1-4 |
| 10. Christ dwells in your heart by faith. | Ephesians 3:17 |
| 11. The Holy Spirit is received by faith. | Galatians 3:2 |
| 12. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. | Romans 14:23 |

Faith is important because it honors God, and God honors faith.

L. The Hall of Faith Hebrews 11

You should often read this chapter and meditate upon it that your faith may become strong in the Lord, for here we get a view of the history of Israel and the church, as it is written by faith, in the great accomplishments of the saints.

- Vs. 4 They worshipped by faith as Abel.
- Vs. 5 They walked by faith as Enoch.
- Vs. 7 They worked by faith as Noah.
- Vs. 8-19 They lived by faith as Abraham
- Vs. 20-22 Spoke blessings by faith as Isaac, Jacob Joseph.
- Vs. 23-28 They governed by faith as Moses.
- Vs. 29 They walked through the sea by faith as Israel.
- Vs. 30 They fought by faith as Joshua.
- Vs. 31 Those of other nations obtained salvation as Rahab.
- Vs. 32-33 They conquered kingdoms by faith as did Gideon.
- Vs. 33 They closed the mouths of lions by faith as did Daniel.
- Vs. 34 Walked through fire by faith as the Three Hebrew boys.
- Vs. 35-38 Suffered by faith as Paul and died by faith as did Stephen.
- Vs. 39-40 All these gained approval through their faith.

It is **only by FAITH** in the Almighty Lord Jesus Christ that you can **rule over circumstances** and **be victorious** over all the evil forces that would destroy you.

Hebrews 12:1-3 [Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, . . . fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith](#)

The faith of the saints of old inspire and encourage us as they watch from above. But we are to: [fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith](#) just as Peter did, for [faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ](#).

Portions taken from Master Outlines and Notes compiled by Porter Barrington.

III. JUDGMENTS

Three Different Kinds:

1. **Calamitous** – like Noah's Flood, Egypt's Plagues
2. **Abandonment**, or HE withdraws from them leaving man to himself.
3. **Eschatological** or end time – Revelation 6 +

We will begin our study with the **Abandonment Judgments**.

For a Nation:

Isaiah 5:4-6 What more was there to do for My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why, when I expected it to produce good grapes did it produce worthless ones? ⁵ So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard: **I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed**; I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground. ⁶ I will lay it waste; it will not be pruned or hoed, but briars and thorns will come up. I will also charge the clouds to not rain on it.

- Compare Matthew 21:33-43 Both passages are referring to Israel.

Judges 13:1 Now the sons of Israel again **did evil** in the sight of the LORD, so that **the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years**.

- Simply be withdrawing His protection.

Acts 7:42 **But God TURNED AWAY and delivered them up to serve the host of heaven**; as it is written in the book of the prophets, It was not to me that you offered victims and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, O house of Israel?

Psalms 81:11-14 But **My people did not listen to My voice**, and Israel **did not obey Me**. ¹² So **I gave them over** to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices. ¹³ **Oh that My people would listen to Me**, that Israel would **walk in My ways!** ¹⁴ **I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their adversaries**.

- Wow! Such a Great Promise

For an Individual: Samson's third visit to Delilah when she cut his hair.

Judges 14:6 And the **Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him**, and he tore the lion . . . ¹⁹ Then the **Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily**, . . . ¹⁴ . . . the Philistines came against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD **came mightily upon him** . . . ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "**I will go out as before**, at other times, and shake myself free!" **But he did not know that the LORD had DEPARTED from him**.

Hosea 4:17-19 Ephraim is joined to idols; **let him alone**. ¹⁸ Their liquor gone, they play the harlot continually; their rulers dearly love shame. ¹⁹ The wind wraps them in its wings, and they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Romans 1:24-25 **Therefore GOD GAVE THEM OVER to the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that** their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.

- This is the reason The LORD withdrew from them, or HIS restraint was withdrawn.
- It seems to me that something similar is happening today.

²⁶ For this reason **God gave them over** to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. ²⁸ And just as **they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind**, to do those things which are not proper.

From this degradation it will become even worse:

2 Thessalonians 2

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him**, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the **day of the Lord** has come. ³ **Let no one** in any way **deceive you**, for **it will not come unless the apostasy comes first**, and the **man of lawlessness is revealed**, the **son of destruction**, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what **RESTRAINS him now**, so that in his time he will be revealed. ⁷ For **the mystery of lawlessness is already at work**; only **he who now RESTRAINS will do so UNTIL HE IS TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY**.

- **he who now restrains** is the HOLY SPIRIT working through His Church.
- When **he is taken out of the way** most likely is referring to the rapture or the "taking out" of the church (1Thes.4:17).
- If it is bad now . . . what will it be like when HE no longer restrains?

⁸ Then that **lawless one** will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and **bring to an end by the appearance of His coming**; ⁹ the lawless one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the **deception of wickedness** for those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth** so as to be saved. ¹¹ **For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence** so that they will believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, **because God has chosen you from the beginning for**

salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴ It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ **So then, brethren, stand firm** and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or by letter from us.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

Eschatological or end time Judgments

A. Introduction

There are **five separate judgments** revealed in the Bible, and they differ as to time, place, and purpose. Yet, they all have one thing in common: the Lord Jesus Christ is the Judge.

James 4:12 **There is ONLY ONE Lawgiver and JUDGE, the ONE who is able to save and to destroy**

James 5:9-10 **behold, THE JUDGE is standing right at the door.**

John 5:22 **For not even The FATHER judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son**

B. The JUDGMENT of SIN

Romans 8:3

In the first judgment, the sins of the believer have already been judged in Jesus Christ on the cross.

Our sins were judged in Jesus Christ on the cross and every believer "*has passed out of death into life.*" Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins (Romans 6:23). He was judged in the believers' place. The believer will never come into judgment for sin because:

- We have been **set free from sin and death** because God condemned sin in the flesh of His Son, Jesus Christ.
Romans 8:1-4
- "He appeared to **put away sin** by the sacrifice of Himself."
Hebrews 9:26 2 Corinthians 5:19
- The believer will **never be condemned** with the world, because Jesus was condemned in our place.
2 Corinthians 5:21
- Jesus Christ paid the penalty, and on the grounds of His death for us, the believer is **separated from his sins forever.**

Psalms 103:12

- The sins of the believer have been "**blotted out**" and God has promised that He "will **not remember** our sins. Isaiah 43:25
- Our Lord suffered for our sins, "the just for the unjust" that we might be saved and **never come into judgment** as sinners. 1 Peter 3:18
- The believer will not come into judgment because his sins have been **cleansed or purified**. Hebrews 1:3
- Jesus was made a curse for us on the cross, and "has redeemed us from the curse of the law." Galatians 3:13

C. The JUDGMENT of the Believer's SELF

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

But if we **judged ourselves** rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

The judgment of the believers' self is more than judging things in our life. When we judge ourselves, the good and the bad in our life come to light; and we will confess the bad (1 John 1:9) and forsake it (Isaiah 55:7).

We must judge sin in our life and we must also judge self.

- To judge self is to recognize **that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh** Romans 7:18.
- To judge self is to recognize that self must die by taking up our cross and following Jesus. Luke 9:23-24
- To judge self is to replace my life with the life of Christ.
Colossians 3:4; Galatians 2:20
- To judge self is to no longer be self-conscious, but become Christ conscious. Matthew 28:20
- To judge self is to no longer be self-controlled, but to become Christ controlled. Acts 9:5-6
- To judge self is to no longer pursue self-esteem, but to esteem others better than yourself. Philippians 2:3
- We must judge ourselves and not others.
John 8:7-11 Matthew 7:1-5 Romans 14:4, 10-13

D. The JUDGMENT of the Believer's WORKS 2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, so that **each one** may be **recompensed** for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether **good or bad**.

The believer's works will be judged at the **judgment seat of Christ**. The term, **judgment seat of Christ** is found only twice in the Bible; but it is referred to many times.

It is also found in Romans 14:10. A careful reading of both verses with the context reveals that **only believers** will appear at the **judgment seat of Christ**.

THEIR WORKS WILL BE JUDGED, **NOT THEIR SINS**, for we have already seen that the sins of the believer were judged in Christ on the cross, and **there is therefore now no judgment to them which are in Christ Jesus**.

Romans 8:1

- This judgment will take place **in the air**, following the first resurrection. **The dead in Christ shall rise first** 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18.
- There will be a thousand years between the resurrection of the saved and the unsaved (Revelation 20:4-5), and there will be a thousand years between the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST where only saved will appear and the GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT where only the unsaved will appear.
- At the judgment seat of Christ, the believer will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, we should look to our own works, and not judge the works of others (Romans 14:10-13).

It is a most humbling thought to know that some day the believer will face all of his works - "**good or bad**." And "**give account for every careless word**" (Matthew 12:36-37). Some will be ashamed (1 John 2:28) and "**suffer loss**" - NOT THE LOSS OF SALVATION, but the LOSS OF REWARDS (1 Cor. 3:11-15). So, **Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in The Name of the Lord JESUS, giving thanks through Him to GOD the FATHER**. Colossians 3:17

E. The JUDGMENT of the NATIONS Matthew 25:31-46

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on **His glorious throne**. ³² **All the *nations will be gathered before Him**; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³ and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

*ἔθνος ethnos – ethnic group or tribe

This IS NOT the GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT of Rev. 20:11-15.

This is how JESUS CHRIST will judge the **Gentile nations**

This judgment takes place on earth immediately after the Battle of **Armageddon** and at the beginning of the **Kingdom reign of Christ**.

Joel chapter three speaks about this judgment.

Joel 3:1-2 For behold, in those days and at that time, when **I restore** the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² **I will gather all the nations** and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into **judgment with them there on behalf of My people** and My inheritance, **Israel**, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land.

The WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT takes place later as the **earth and the heaven fled away** (Rev. 20:11).

This judgment of Matthew 25 takes place as The Kingdom is established on earth, as the saved are told to **inherit the kingdom** (Matt 25:34).

The WHITE THRONE Judgment will take place after the 1000 year reign of Christ (Rev. 20:7+). It is the final judgment of all men.

The people within the ethnic groups are divided into two classes:

sheep – true believers (Revelation 7:9-17)

goats – nonbelievers (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

At the GREAT WHITE THRONE, there is only one class: **the dead**.

When JESUS says: **to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine . . .** (Mt.25:40) The **brothers** are the **believing Jews** or **the elect of Israel** (Revelation 7:1-8; Romans 11:25-28) from the Tribulation period who will hear the message of the 144,000 and believe in Jesus Christ.

These believing Jews will not have received the **mark of the beast** (Rev.13:16-17), and therefore are unable to buy or sell. They will be provided for – fed and clothed - by the Gentiles who have trusted Christ and who **care for His brethren**. This does not dismiss that it is true for all of us when we give, care for, and Pray for His People Israel.

Matthew 25:37 **Then the righteous will answer Him, Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?**

- They were surprised, not having seen The LORD. But to care for believing Jews, His Family, is to provide for JESUS as we are all one Family.
- Their motive was not reward, but sacrificial love.
- These Gentiles put their lives in danger when they welcomed the homeless Jews and cared for them. **He that receives you receives Me**, Jesus said (Matt 10:40).
- The **goats were judged** because they **did not** trust JESUS CHRIST and give evidence of that faith by **caring for His brethren**. They apparently received the mark of the beast and took care of themselves and their own, but they had no concern for the Jewish remnant that was suffering on earth (Rev 12:17).
- The **sheep were blessed** of the Father and **inherit the kingdom**. Inheritance is based on birth. Because they had been born again through faith.
- The **sheep**, the church, will be reigning with Christ, and Israel will enjoy the fulfillment of the promises made through the prophets and will share in the glorious liberty of God's children (Romans 8:19-21). JESUS CHRIST will rule from David's throne in Jerusalem (Luke 1:30-33), and peace will reign for 1,000 years (Isaiah 11).
- JESUS made it clear in this passage that God is not finished with the people of Israel and has not cast them away (Romans 11:1+).
- The Old Testament promises of the kingdom will be fulfilled. The Tribulation period will be a very difficult time for people on the earth. But it will be "travail" in preparation for the birth of the kingdom. The suffering will lead to glory.
- God is going to judge this world. He is not sending cataclysmic judgments today – like Noah's Flood or Egypt's plagues - because this is a period of grace when God has spoken once and for all

through His Son, and He will not speak to this earth again until He sends His judgments during the Tribulation.

- However, these Tribulation judgments are not far away. JESUS said: **When these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.** (Luke 21:28).

The end is not far away. International tensions and problems are increasing to the point where the world will cry out for a dictator, and satan will have his candidate ready.

We know that JESUS is coming again. As Christians, we must be alert and ready. We must not waste our opportunities. We must be faithful in the calling He has given us.

F. The JUDGMENT of the WICKED

Revelation 20:11-15 John 5:24

The "**GREAT WHITE THRONE**" JUDGMENT will follow the thousand-year reign of Christ. This is the final judgment, and only the **wicked dead** are to be judged. According to Revelation 20:5, the believers were resurrected a thousand years before this judgment, and their works were judged at the "JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

- At this judgment, the wicked dead will seek a hiding place from the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, the judge. But there is no hiding place
- At this judgment, the **dead, the great and the small** will stand before God. But the greatness of the great will be of no value. **There is none that does good, no, not one** (Romans 3:12).
- At this judgment, the dead will be judged **according to their works**. God is a just God; and since, there are degrees of punishment in hell, some will be punished more than others (Luke 12:42-48).
- At this judgment, there will be no forgiveness, no higher court to which the lost may appeal. It is lost, and lost forever; it is damned to all eternity, and that without hope. There is a hell (Luke 16:19-31); and in hell, there is no hope, no sympathy.

Acknowledgements: The Christian Life New Testament; Thomas Nelson, Publishers; Study Outlines

IV. REWARDS

A. Introduction

Salvation is **the gift of God, not of works** (Ephesians 2:8-9) and is received by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:36).

REWARDS are according to the **WORKS** of the believer.

Matthew 16:27 1 Corinthians 3:8-15.

First, every believer will be rewarded according to his own labor (vs. 8). We do not labor for salvation.

Second, **We are laborers together with God** (vs. 9) - not for salvation but for rewards.

Third, the believer is to build on the Lord Jesus Christ (11).

Fourth, the believer has a choice of two kinds of building materials: **gold, silver, precious stones** - this is building with eternal materials; or **wood, hay, stubble** - this is building with temporal materials (vs. 12).

2 Corinthians 4:18

The believer who builds on Christ with eternal materials, "gold, silver, precious stones," **shall receive a reward**.

Those who build on Christ with temporal materials, "wood, hay, stubble," will **receive no reward**.

The "wood, hay, stubble" works will be destroyed at the "judgment seat of Christ," and the believer will suffer loss - **not the loss of salvation, but the loss of eternal reward**.

Some believers will be ashamed at the "judgment seat of Christ" (1 John 2:28), ashamed of their works of "wood, hay, stubble." Revelation 3:11

B. THE CROWN OF LIFE James 1:12

This reward is for those who **love the Lord**. The believer finds strength to overcome temptation and endure trials through the love of God.

Paul said, "*We glory in tribulations also.*" And "*the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit*" (Romans 5:3-5). And, "*Love never fails.*"

- **All** believers have eternal life (John 3: 15-16).
- **All** believers **will be rewarded** with the "*crown of life.*"
- All true believers will be "*faithful unto death*" (Revelation 2:10).

C. THE WINNERS CROWN 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Paul makes use of the Greek games to illustrate the spiritual race of the believer. They ran to win a "*perishable crown: but we an imperishable crown.*" No person could contend in the games unless he was a Greek citizen, born of Greek parents. No unsaved person can participate in the ministry of the Lord for rewards; only the born of God are eligible.

Just as the athlete must deny himself many nice things, so the believer must "*discipline his body, and bring it under control*" or he will become disqualified. He WILL NOT lose his salvation, but he will lose the "*imperishable crown.*"

- The believer must deny self of anything that would weigh him down and hold him back. Hebrews 12:1
- The believer must keep his eyes fixed on Christ, and not look to the right or the left. Hebrews 12:2
- The believer must find strength in the Lord. Ephesians 6:10-18.
- The believer must place everything on the altar. Romans 12:1-2
- The believer must, by faith, refuse anything that would impede spiritual progress. Hebrews 11:24-29

Do not only watch from the sidelines. Enter the race and run to win the imperishable crown.

D. THE CROWN OF REJOICING 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

The "*crown of rejoicing*" is for **winning people** to the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest work you are privileged to do for the Lord is to bring others to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Our joy in heaven will be determined by the people you have helped to bring to Christ. Paul tells the Thessalonians believers that they are his "*hope, or joy or crown of rejoicing*" now and when Jesus comes.

- It is wise to win people to Christ (Proverb 11:30).
- It is a work against sin to win others to Christ (James 5:20).
- It is a cause for joy in heaven (Luke 15:10).
- It is eternally profitable to bring His treasure to Him (Matthew 13:44)
- Live so others see Jesus in you (Acts 1:8; Galatians 2:20).
- Witness with your words - trusting the Holy Spirit to give what you should say (Luke 12:11-12; 21:15).
- Witness by giving tithes and offerings that others may go as His missionaries and you will have "fruit (reward) that may abound to your account" (Philippians 4:15-17; 2 Corinthians 9:6).
- God has promised that your labor will not be in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- The one who brings others to Christ will not rejoice alone - all of heaven will rejoice with him when he receives the "*Crown of Rejoicing*" (John 4:36).

E. THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS 2 Timothy 4:5-8

The "*crown of righteousness*" is a reward, and it is **not** to be confused with the "*righteousness of God*" which the believer receives when he becomes a Christian; for at that time, the believer is "*made the righteousness of God in Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

This saving righteousness is a GIFT received when the person believes. The "*crown of righteousness*" is a reward to be EARNED by the saved believer. If the believer looks for, and loves the doctrine of the second coming of Christ, it will affect his whole life. He will work hard to win the lost (Matthew 24:14).

Look at the powerful impact this truth had on the life of the apostle Paul. He could say:

- "*I have fought a good fight*" (vs. 7; 1 Corinthians 15:32).
He fought a spiritual battle throughout his Christian life, and won. He never surrendered to the enemies of righteousness (Eph. 6:12)
- "*I have finished my course.*" He had a course to travel, a job to do. And he did not detour the hard places; neither did he look back (Luke

9:61-62). He finished his course with his eyes fixed on Christ (Philippians 1:6).

- "*I have kept the faith.*" He preached all the counsel of God" - never betraying any of the great doctrines (Acts 20:24-31). The apostle looked ahead to the "*judgment seat of Christ*" where the "*crown of righteousness*" will be given to those who "*love His appearing.*"

How important it is for the believer to look with a heart of love for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that he may receive the "*crown of righteousness.*"

F. THE CROWN OF GLORY

1 Peter 5:2-4

The "*crown of glory*" is a special reward for the faithful, obedient God-called **pastor**. He will receive this reward when the "*Chief Shepherd shall appear.*"

It is eternal; it is "*unfading.*" The pastor will earn this "*crown of glory*" by:

- Feeding the flock of God. He is to proclaim the Word of God without fear or favor; and, when necessary, he will "*reprove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and instruction*" (2 Timothy 4:2-5).
- Taking the spiritual oversight of the church. The pastor is responsible to God for the message preached to his people. No pastor should preach to please the people; he is to please his Lord (Galatians 1:10).
- Being an example to the church. He is not to serve for the reward of money. Yet, the church is responsible to care for his every material need (1 Timothy 5:18). He is to be a spiritual leader, and not a dictator. He is to walk with God by faith. "*And when the chief Shepherd appears, you shall receive the unfading crown of glory.*"

Acknowledgements: Some portions taken from: The Christian Life New Testament, Thomas Nelson, Publishers

V. SUFFERING

A. Introduction

B. Suffering From Sin

1. Man Brings Suffering to Himself and Others
2. Sin is the Law and Culture of satan's kingdom
3. When a Believer Sins He Steps Into satan's kingdom

C. Suffering from Sinners

1. As We Proclaim the Gospel
2. We Are At War

D. Suffering That Our Father Uses

1. To Test Our Faith and Loyalty
2. To Perfect Our Character
3. To Bring Glory to His Name
4. The Suffering of Some Sickness is for HIS Glory
5. To Prepare Us for Ministry to Others
6. To Protect Us and/or Guide Us
7. Some Suffering is the Result of the LORD's Discipline

A. INTRODUCTION

John 16:33 **in the world you shall have tribulation**

(affliction - trouble - distress - persecution - pressure)

Acts 14:22 **Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

B. SUFFERING FROM SIN

1. MAN Brings GREAT SUFFERING to HIMSELF and OTHERS

Man's sinful nature pours forth: corruption - lies - deceit - stealing - murders - violence - guns - bombs - land mines - tortures - rape - incest - malice - the list goes on and on.

Jeremiah 17: 9 **The heart is deceitful above all else and desperately wicked.**

Hebrews 3:7-19 **Lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin**

SIN IS AT THE ROOT OF ALL SUFFERING IN THE WORLD TODAY.

The deadly poison of sin is in the veins of every person bringing suffering and death to him and then to others.

- Example: My friend bitten by the poisonous snake.

Sin is so exceedingly sinful that man does not know right from wrong:
Isaiah 5:20 **Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness.**

Because sinful man does not know good from evil he continually **makes CHOICES that bring him misery and suffering.**

- Galatians 6:7-8 **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption**

The choices of sinful man bring misery and suffering and **from the flesh he reaps corruption.** One of many examples is the misuse of chemicals and other means which result in genetic alterations and great suffering. Man not only NEEDS A SAVIOR, but also a righteous LORD to lead and guide his DECISIONS and CHOICES.

Luke 6:46-49 **Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?**

This should impress on all of us the importance of PRAYING CONTINUALLY so we can hear and obey and avoid **choices that bring suffering:** **praying always with all prayer and supplication** (Ephesians 6:18).

The Cross shows the magnitude of our sin. Jesus was recognized by all to be a great, wise, good, pure, innocent man. He was a man who came to set the captives free, to heal the broken, to teach us truth and show us the way. Yet men put Him to death in the cruelest way ever devised (**those who call evil good, and good evil** Isaiah 5:20), and set Barabbas free. (Luke 23:18-25)

2. SIN is satan's kingdom, the sphere in which he rules.

Without Jesus Christ man is held in **the snare of the devil having been held captive by him to do his will** 2 Timothy 2:26

Ephesians 2:1-10 **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the **sons of disobedience.** Among them we too all formerly lived in the **lusts** of our flesh, indulging the **desires** of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature **children of wrath,** even as the rest.

The Way Out - Jesus said "**I am the way**, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6
And **there is salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, Acts 16:30-31

Truly **BELIEVE**, which results in a commitment to Jesus Christ, and **OBEY** As **obedient** children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, (15) but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves** also in all your behavior. (1 Peter 1:14-16)

3. As a Believer, when I CHOSE To Sin, I Step Into satan's kingdom, and he Has A Legal Right to Attack Me.

Satan CONTINUALLY LURES US into his kingdom through **SIN**
2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Satan **DISGUISES HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT**. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

John 8:44 . . . your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a **MURDERER** from the beginning, . . . no truth in him . . he is A **LIAR** and the father of lies.

Revelation 12:9 The great dragon . . . the serpent . . . the devil and Satan who **DECEIVES** the whole world

1 John 5:19 The whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Ephesians 4:22-32 **DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY**

2 Timothy 2:26 . . the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will

Example: to catch a raccoon you put a bright, shiny object on the trigger of the trap. He cannot resist touching it to see what it is, or to play with it

WRONG DECISIONS –to pursue, take, play with, what we know to be wrong, or even those things that we do not realize are wrong, opens a door for the enemy's attack.

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh shall

from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal Life."

Proverb 13:21 Adversity pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.

- Satan tried to TEMPT, LURE, and DECEIVE JESUS. Luke 4:1-13

John 14:30 the ruler of this world is coming and he has **NOTHING** in Me That is - Nothing which belongs to him giving him a LEGAL RIGHT.

- Satan TEMPTED & DECEIVED Peter through **PRIDE**. (Luke 22:24)
Luke 22:31 satan has demanded to sift you like wheat

satan had **something** in Peter. Something that belonged to him giving him a **legal right** . . . **PRIDE**.

- **UNFORGIVENESS** gives the devil an opportunity

2 Corinthians 2:9-11 FORGIVE . . in order that no advantage be taken of us by satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes

Matthew 18:21-35 turned him over to the tormentors . .

- **SICKNESS** can be caused by many different reasons but one reason is sin

Luke 13:11, 16 a sickness caused by a spirit . . whom satan has bound for eighteen long years

John 5:5, 14 thirty-eight years in his sickness . . DO NOT SIN ANYMORE SO THAT NOTHING WORSE MAY BEFALL YOU

Example: My father divorced my mother for another woman. His sin was great. My mother became extremely angry and bitter to the point of saying if she had a gun she would kill them. Very soon thereafter she came down with Lymphoma cancer. She later totally surrendered to the LORD and forgave my father and the woman. Soon thereafter mother was healed of the cancer.

Proverb 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, **because the LORD disciplines those he loves**, as a father the son he delights in.

Sin gives satan a legal right, which the LORD allows and therefore accomplishes the discipline of the LORD.

Proverb 15:5 Only a fool despises a parent's discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise.

- **The Way Out** of the devil's traps, or How to avoid his traps:

James 4:7-8 **SUBMIT** therefore to God. **RESIST** the devil and he will flee from you. **Draw near** to God and He will draw near to you. **CLEANSE** your hands, you sinners; and **PURIFY** your hearts, you double-minded.

Jesus tries to make His listeners understand what sin is and the seriousness of sin. **Come to terms quickly** with your enemy before it is too late and you are dragged into court, handed over to an officer, and **thrown in jail**. (26) I assure you that you won't be free again until **you have paid** the last penny. (27) You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Do not commit adultery.' (28) But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with **lust in his eye** has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (29) So if your **eye causes you to lust**, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into **hell**. (30) And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into **hell**.
Matthew 5:25-30 NLT

- The Greek work translated '**hell**' above is geennan which is a valley south and west of Jerusalem which was the city's **sewage and dump**. **Later** the Jews used this name to also mean the place of torment.
- **The message is – avoid sin at all costs as it will bring you into a cesspool, or the filth, of this world.**

Matthew 26:41 Keep **WATCHING** and **PRAYING**, that you may **not enter into temptation**; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Luke 11:21-22 When a strong man, fully armed, **GUARDS** his own homestead, his possessions are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he **attacks** him and **overpowers** him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied, and distributes his plunder.

Satan attacks by: Deceit / Temptations and Lures by lust

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of **bitterness** springing up causes trouble and by it many be defiled.

Mark 11:25 And when you stand praying **forgive** if you have **anything** against anyone.

Joshua 24:15 **Choose ye this day whom you will serve**: whether the gods of Egypt or the gods in this land where you are living; but **as for me and my house WE WILL SERVE THE LORD**.

C. SUFFERING FROM SINNERS – The Result of a Righteous Life

1. AS I PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL WITH MY LIFE & WORDS.

Matthew 5:10-12 **Blessed** are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of righteousness . . .

Luke 21:16-19 But you will be **betrayed** even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to **death**, (17) and you will be **hated** by all because of My name. 18 Yet not a hair of your head will perish. (19) By your endurance you will gain your lives.

John 15:20 If they persecuted Me, **they will also persecute you**

2 Timothy 3:12 All who desire to **live godly** in Christ Jesus **will be persecuted**.

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to **endure ill treatment** with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him who has **endured** such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Philippians 1:29 For **to you it has been granted** for Christ's sake, not only to believe in him, but **also to suffer** for His sake

Acts 8:1-4 a **great persecution** arose against the church Because they Preached Jesus

- Acts 5:41 Rejoiced to suffer for His name.
- Acts 7:58 stoned Stephen
- Acts 9:16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my Name
- 2 Corinthians 11:23-33 Paul's suffering
- Hebrews 11:33-39 Those of whom the world was not worthy.

1 Peter 2:20-24 For **you have been called for this purpose**, since Christ also **SUFFERED** for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps. Who committed NO SIN, nor was ANY DECEIT found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

1 Peter 3:10-17 But **even** if you should **suffer for the sake of righteousness**, you are blessed. . . . For **it is better**, if God should will it so, **that you suffer for doing what is right** rather than for doing what is wrong.

1 Peter 4:13, 16-19 to the degree that **you share in the sufferings** of Christ, keep on rejoicing . . if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him **glorify God**. . . Therefore, let **those who suffer according to the will of God** entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

2. We Are At War. The Result of War is Suffering.

- Ephesians 6:10-18
- Matthew 11:12 "*the kingdom of heaven suffers violence*"
- Acts 14:22 "*through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom*"

D. SUFFERING THAT OUR FATHER USES

The **problems** you face will either **defeat** you or **develop** you depending on how you **respond** to them. Unfortunately most people fail to see how God wants to use problems for good in their lives. They react foolishly and resent their problems rather than pausing to consider what benefit they might bring.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and **reproofs of instruction are the way of life**

God often uses the problems in your life:

1. To Test Our Faith and Loyalty.

God uses problems to INSPECT you. People are like tea bags. . . if you want to know what's inside them, just drop them into hot water! Has God ever tested your faith with a problem? What do problems reveal about you?

James 1:2-3 When you have **many kinds of troubles**, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles **test your faith**, and this will give you patience.

James 1:12-15 **Blessed** is the man who **perseveres under trial**; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life

1 Peter 1:6-7 *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials**, that the **PROOF OF YOUR FAITH**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in **praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Revelation 2:10 **Do not fear** what you are about to **suffer**. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have **tribulation** ten days. **Be faithful until death**, and I will give you the crown of life.

The Purpose of the Wilderness Deuteronomy 8:2-5
You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, **testing you**, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. (3) He humbled you and **let you be hungry**, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD. (4) Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. (5) Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was **disciplining you** just as a man disciplines his son.

2. To PERFECT our CHARACTER.

1 Peter 2:19-20 This finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when **suffering** unjustly. (20) For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure

it with patience? But if when you do what is **right** and **suffer** for it you **patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**

God uses **problems** to **PERFECT** you. **Problems**, when responded to correctly, are **character builders**. God is FAR MORE INTERESTED in your CHARACTER than your COMFORT.

Romans 5:3-4 (LB) We can **rejoice** when we run into **problems**. . . they help us learn to be **patient**. And patience develops strength of **character** in us and helps us **trust God more** each time we use it until finally our **hope** and **faith are strong and steady**.

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to PERFECT the author of their salvation through SUFFERINGS.

Hebrews 5:8 Although He was a Son, He **learned obedience** from the things which He **suffered**.

JESUS gave up His throne / His position / Heaven to be one of us, to live with us, to teach us and be the sacrifice for us.

Philippians 2:4-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a **bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. (8) Being found in appearance as a man, He **humbled Himself** by becoming obedient to the point of **death**, even death on a cross.

HE SUFFERED the malice, mistrust and misunderstanding of men. He entered into our sufferings. He shared our sorrows. (Isaiah 53)

1 Peter 4:1-2 Therefore, since Christ has SUFFERED in the flesh, arm yourselves also **with the same purpose**, because **he who has SUFFERED in the flesh has ceased from sin**, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

In like manner – through difficulties, problems, suffering - we are perfected for our work of ministry and service to others.

It produces in us moral and spiritual victory where we can stand in HIS strength and not depend on the flesh. Experience is the best teacher, but it carries the highest tuition fee.

- Joseph is a good example: hated by his brothers (Genesis 37:4) sold into slavery (37:27), tempted by a woman (39:12) in prison for two years (39:20; 40:1).

1 Peter 5:8-10 And after you have **suffered** for a little while, the God of all grace, . . . will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

James 1:2-4 Consider it all **joy** brethren, when you encounter various **TRAILS**, knowing that the TESTING of you FAITH produces **endurance**. And let endurance have its perfect result, **that you may be perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing. (5:10-11) As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take **the prophets** who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we count those **blessed who endured**. You have heard of the **endurance of Job** and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

- Israel in the Wilderness continually complained, grumbled or murmured (1 Corinthians 10:10; Numbers 11:1). Refused to allow their character to be perfected.

Romans 5:3-4 And not only this, but we also rejoice in our **sufferings**, knowing that **suffering** brings about **perseverance**; and perseverance, proven **CHARACTER**; and proven character **hope**.

3. To Bring GLORY to HIS NAME

John 12:27-28 Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But **for this purpose** I came to this hour. FATHER, **glorify Your name**. Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and **will glorify it again**."

- Jesus had come to the time that, **to accomplish His mission**, He must face **great suffering**. It **will** be necessary for our mission also.

Hebrews 2:9-10 But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the **suffering of death crowned with glory and honor**, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. (10) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, **in bringing many sons to glory**, to perfect the author of their salvation through **sufferings**.

- **He did not ask to be delivered from the suffering. He knew it was necessary, and for a purpose.**

- His comfort was put aside **for His Father's glory**.

Much of the Church culture of the USA holds on to and believes that the **resurrection side of the cross** - the comfort side - is the **only side** we should ever encounter. This is wrong theology.

No! It is the "death side" of the cross that brings the FATHER GLORY! Then the resurrection side.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains **alone**; but **if it dies**, it bears **much fruit**.

Luke 9:22 The Son of Man **must suffer** (1st.) **many things and be rejected and be killed and be raised up** (2nd.) on the third day.

Through death, suffering, agony, pain:

- ❖ Sin was defeated. Death was defeated. Satan was defeated.
- ❖ The LORD's people were Justified and Redeemed.

Jesus is our example; our life should also be **FIRST** and **FOREMOST** to **bring GLORY to our Heavenly FATHER** at whatever cost.

As Satan tempted JESUS, so will he tempt us to seek **our own glory** and **not the glory of our FATHER**: *And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory"* Luke 4:6

- Jesus brought GLORY to HIS FATHER by showing the extent HE would go to Redeem HIS children. By PAYING THE PRICE TO REDEEM.

Luke 24:26 *Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?*

- JESUS PAID THE PRICE to Redeem – opened the Gates to Heaven – then on the cross, said: **It is finished!** (John 19:30). **His work** of Redemption **was finished**.
- Then JESUS **gave US** THE MISSION OF TAKING THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE (The Great Commission; Matthew 28:19).

As HIS mission REQUIRED Sacrifice and Suffering, so WILL our mission REQUIRE SACRIFICE and SUFFERING.

This is what Paul meant in Colossians 1:24

Now I **rejoice in my sufferings** FOR YOUR SAKE, and in my flesh I **do my share** on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up **what is lacking in Christ's afflictions**.

What is lacking is the suffering necessary for those of every tribe, tongue and nation to know WHO JESUS is and WHAT HE has done for them.

1 Peter 2:21-23 For **you** have been **called** for **this purpose**, since Christ also **suffered** for you, leaving **you an example** for you to **follow in His steps**, (22) who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; (23) and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while **suffering**, He uttered no threats, but kept **entrusting** Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Revelation 5:12 **Worthy is the Lamb** that was slain **to receive** power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and **glory** and blessing."

Revelation 5:13 To Him who sits on the throne, and **to the Lamb**, be **blessing** and **honor** and **glory** and dominion **forever and ever**.

4. The SUFFERING of SOME SICKNESS Is For HIS GLORY.

John 11:4 This **sickness** is not unto death, but **for the glory of God**, that the Son of God may be glorified by it.

John 9:2-3 Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, 'It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it **was in order that the works of God** might be displayed in him.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, **to keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! (8) Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. (9) And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **power is perfected in weakness**. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. (10) Therefore **I am well content with weaknesses**, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with **difficulties**, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

5. To Prepare Us For Ministry

John 12:24-26 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and **dies**, it remains alone; **BUT if it dies, it bears much fruit.** He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.

This verse clearly tells us:

- Death precedes fruit and death precedes new life.
- There is no resurrection until there is first death

This brings out the truth that there are **TWO SIDES to the Cross.**

- ❖ The **Suffering Side** first and then **The Life Side.**
- ❖ For a Fruitful life and ministry – **BOTH SIDES** of the **CROSS MUST BE ENCOUNTERED** and **EXPERIENCED.**

Matthew 10:38-39 He who does not **take his cross** and follow Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and **he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.**

Romans 8:35-37 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, "**FOR YOUR SAKE** we are being **PUT TO DEATH** all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. (37) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 . . . we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed: **always carrying about in the body the DYING of Jesus, THAT the LIFE of Jesus also may be manifested** in our body. For we who live are **constantly being delivered over to DEATH** for Jesus' sake, **that the LIFE of Jesus also may be manifested** in our mortal flesh. **So DEATH works in us but LIFE in you.**

The above verse again emphasizes the necessity of the **TWO SIDES OF THE CROSS** for ministry to others.

We must experience the **DEATH SIDE** before we can fully experience the **RESURRECTION SIDE.**

Philippians 3:10-11 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being **conformed to His death**; (11) **IN ORDER THAT I MAY ATTAIN TO THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.**

This verse clearly brings out BOTH sides of the cross, AND THE ONLY ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE EXPERIENCED.

We become a living example of the LOVE and SUFFERING of Jesus for others to see and learn of HIM.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8 . . . Love suffers long ... bears all things ... endures all things ... Love never fails.

John 15:2 every branch that bears fruit, **He prunes** it SO THAT it may bear **more fruit**. (8) By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Matthew 10:16-25 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves **scourge you** in their synagogues; (18) and you will even be brought before governors . . . (21) Brother will **betray** brother to death, . . . (22) You will be **hated** by all because of My name, . . . (23) But whenever they **persecute you** . . . (24) A disciple is not above his teacher. . . (25) It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher . . .

- ❖ It is especially hard for Americans to learn to die to self and to the pleasures of this world.
- ❖ A consumer-driven culture results in a strong desire to satisfy every want and to avoid suffering.
- ❖ This has carried over to a theology of health, wealth and prosperity now, with no suffering.

Philippians 1:29 For **to you** it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also **to suffer for His sake**

2 Timothy 1:8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in **suffering for the gospel** according to the power of God

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who **comforts us in all our affliction** so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the **SUFFERINGS** of Christ are ours **in abundance**, so also our COMFORT is abundant through Christ.

- THE COMFORTER - The Holy Spirit - is always with us to comfort us in every situation. However, sometimes we reject His Comfort, His Words, and chose only to look at the negative side and allow BITTERNESS to poison our mind.

- We must be careful in our dealings with people. If all we give them is some knowledge from our heads and not the COMFORT OF GOD from experience, we can add to their bitterness.

6. To Protect Us and/or Guide Us

The LORD sometimes uses problems to **DIRECT** us. Sometimes HE must light a fire under us to get us moving. Problems often point us in a new direction and motivate us to change.

- The example of Jonah
- Acts 16:22-34 Paul and Silas imprisoned and the jailer converted.

When we are persecuted it is not only us but Jesus that suffers.

- Acts 9:5 *And he said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'*

God uses problems to **PROTECT** you. A problem **can be a blessing** in disguise if it prevents you from being harmed by something more serious.

Example: a person dismissed from his job for refusing to do something illegal. But it saved him from being convicted and sent to prison later when the actions of the company were discovered. *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good. . .* Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

7. Some SUFFERING Is The Result of GOD'S DISCIPLINE

God uses problems to **CORRECT** you. Some lessons we learn only through pain and failure. We tell our children not to touch a hot stove. But almost all children learned by being burned.

Sometimes we only learn the value of something ... health, money, a relationship. . . by losing it. David said: *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.* (Psalm 119:71-72) and David was a man of integrity.

Hebrews 12:4-11 *You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your **striving against sin**; (5) and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the LORD, nor faint when you are reprov'd by HIM; (6) for those whom the LORD loves HE **disciplines**, and he **scourges** every son whom HE receives." (7) It is for **discipline** that you **endure**; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not **discipline**? (8) But if you are without **discipline**, of*

which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to **discipline** us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they **disciplined** us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He disciplines us for our good**, so that we may share His holiness. (11) **All discipline** for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, . . . for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

John 15:1-5 To help us be more fruitful, God will prune us.

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

We must realize this truth: God is at work in your life - even when you do not recognize it or understand it. But it is much easier and profitable when you cooperate with Him and endure the pain of suffering!

VI. Difficult Bible Questions

A. WHAT IF YOU HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR FAITH?

Since you became a Christian, have you ever had some doubts, or a question about your belief in Christ Jesus?

Does Jesus say: "Oh, he is not believing, I will throw him out." **NO!**

John 6:37 **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.**

"**certainly not**" in the original Greek language is: "ου με" it is a strong double negative meaning: "**I will not never**"

But what if I sin? JESUS said: "**I will not never**".

Jesus Christ loves you and His love for you is not based on how much you love Him or how you perform.

- 1 John 4:8 . . . **God is love.**
- 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 **Love . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.**
- 2 Timothy 2:13 **If we believe not, yet he remains faithful: he cannot deny himself.**

God's Love for you is not based on any response from you. He has **chosen you**, made a decision to love you, and **He will always remain faithful.**

God has **chosen** to love us. Romans 5:8

Romans 8:29-39 God is for us! Who can bring a charge against you? Who can condemn you? The only One who could condemn you died for you.

And because He loves us, **there is not anything we can do that can in any way change His mind.** So, **when we believe not, ...yet he remains faithful: he cannot deny himself.** 2 Timothy 2:13

HE HAS PROMISED !

Titus 1:1-2 Hebrews 6:17-18 Numbers 23:19 Romans 11:29

2 Timothy 2:13 **If we believe not, yet he remains faithful: he cannot deny himself.**

B. WHAT IS MEANT BY: "**ENDURING TO THE END**"?

Matthew 10:22 **You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.**

Vs. 23: Is speaking of the end time.

Compare: Matthew 24:3-14 Vs. 13 the same statement
Vs. 15, 21, 29 during the time of the tribulation.

This is not a threat, but Encouragement.

See: Luke 21:7, 12-19

In these verses He is speaking of: **Being Saved or Delivered from Persecution. NOT ETERNAL SALVATION.**

Compare: Matthew 10:28

It means: persecution is not to be feared.

Matthew 5:11-12	Rejoice
Luke 6:23	Rejoice and leap for joy
Romans 8:17	Suffer with Him
2 Timothy 2:11	if suffer . . . reign
Romans 8:18, 38	

Being a disciple does not make you a child of God:

Matthew 13:20-21 2 Timothy 3:7 John 6:66

What is? **FAITH that KEEPS ON !**

Hebrews 10:39; 12:2-3 1 Corinthians 2:4-6

C. WHAT IS DENYING CHRIST?

Matthew 10:32-33 *But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*

2 Timothy 2:12-13 *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny himself.*

What did the Apostle Peter do? Peter denied Him three times !

Matthew 26:33-35, 75 . . . *you shall deny Me three times.*

Did Jesus deny Peter? **No!** Mark 16:7; John 21:15-17

Called Peter by his name:

Isaiah 43:1; 45:4; John 10:3; 2 Timothy 2:19 Revelation 3:5

OUR CONCLUSION CAN ONLY BE THAT - OUR OCCASIONAL FAILURES IN BELIEF DO NOT CAUSE THE LORD TO DENY US.

The faith that is born of God may have occasional failures, but the end result is that IT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE and DOES NOT come to a final point of not believing.

IT DOES NOT PERMANENTLY CEASE TO BELIEVE.

Example: Abraham: Genesis 15:2-4; 16:1-2; 20:1-2
Moses: Exodus 4:14; Numbers 20:8-12

The faith that is NOT born of God will NOT continue to believe.

Example: 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4; The Lord Sees the Heart.

I John 2:19 (is the same as Matthew 10:33)

They went out from us, but they **were not of us**; for **if** they had been of us, they would have **continued with us**; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that **none** of them **were of us**.

Hebrews 10:39

But we are not of those who draw back to destruction, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

D. CAN A PERSON KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT STILL NOT BE A BELIEVER?

2 Peter 2:4-22 . . . 9 the Lord knows how to rescue the **godly** from temptation, and to keep the **unrighteous under punishment** for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. . . . ¹⁷ These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, ¹⁹ promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A *DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT*," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

Example:

A "**mixed multitude**" (Exodus 12:38) came out of Egypt with Israel. They enjoyed all the blessings of the people of God. They ate of the manna from heaven and drank from the water that flowed out of the rock.

They were "**sanctified**," set apart with the children of Israel (1 Cor. 10:1-5). But they, the mixed multitude, **were not** God's people.

The same is true today.

They were **sanctified** being with the people of God but they **were not justified** by faith in the Lord.

Example: 1 Corinthians 7:13-14

. . . For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.

We are talking about people who have escaped the pollution of the world in the same way that the mixed multitude escaped the pollution of Egypt. **Sanctified** (set apart) **but not justified**. They **were not true believers**. Did not have true faith.

Jude 1:5 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

Matthew 13:24-30

Tares never become wheat and wheat never becomes tares.

Example: 2 Peter 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "a dog returns to its own vomit," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.

Compare:

- Matthew 12:43-45 Unclean matter went out of the man as it did the dog in 2 Peter 2:22.
- Acts 16:16-22 a slave-girl with a spirit of divination cast out but no hint of belief.
- Luke 8:38-39 the demoniac, became a believer.
- John 6:53, 60, 66, 26 Why? 1 John 2:19
- The pig washed. Herod: Mark 6:19-20, 26
The Pharisees: Matthew 23:25

Matthew 1:21

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will **save his people** from their sins.

John 6: 44-45
John 8: 44
John 15: 16,19
Acts 13: 48

Romans 9: 14-16
Ephesians 1: 4
2 Thessalonians 2: 13

Matthew 6:9 Jesus told us to pray to: "our Father."

The Example of Lot:

Genesis 13: 1-12	The Controversy
Genesis 13: 12; 14: 12	Lots Downward Progression
Genesis 18: 17-33	Destruction of Sodom & Abraham's Intercession
Genesis 19: 16	Lot was not anxious to go
19: 22; 30-38	Incest resulting in Ammon & Moab

Was Lot Righteous??? 2 Peter 2: 4-9 Why?

He was Righteous by Faith. Romans 4: 3-6; 9: 16

And the LORD had made a Covenant with Abraham: Genesis 19: 29

David & Jonathan 1 Samuel 20: 8-17
Jonathan's Son: Mephibosheth 2 Samuel 9: 1-13

God Loves Sinners Luke 5: 30-32

Parable of Ten Virgins Matthew 25:1-13

Vs. 1: At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Psalm 119: 105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Vs. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

Matthew 23: 17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?

Spoken to the Scribes and Pharisees.

Matthew 23: 34 Therefore I am sending you prophets and **wise men** and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.

The wise are true believers.

Vs. 3 The foolish **took their lamps** but did **not take any oil** with them.

THEY HAD THE WORD BUT NOT THE SPIRIT OF GOD "IN" THEM.

The Scribes and Pharisees **had the Word but did not believe** in Him, therefore they did not have the Holy Spirit - the oil.

Vs. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

They had the **word** and the **Spirit**. **True believers**.

Vs. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all fell asleep.

Vs. 6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!

Vs. 7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

Vs. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.

Vs. 9 No, they replied, 'there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.

Your faith is for you alone and can not carry another person along.

Vs. 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was closed.

Vs. 11 Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!

Vs. 12 But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.

2 Corinthians 6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION, NOT THAT DAY! NOT THE DAY OF HIS COMING.

Vs. 13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

E. UNDERSTANDING: HEBREWS 6:6

The Context: Hebrews 5:12-14

(12) For though by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need **milk** and not solid food.

- "*milk*" is for babies to Grow in strength, size, and knowledge.

(13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an **infant**.

- compare Galatians 4:1-2
- He is speaking of a "legal position"
- The Children of Israel were forty years late coming into their legal position as sons.

(14) But solid food is for the **mature**, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

- Babies begin on milk but for full size, strength & knowledge need "solid food."
- "*Mature*" speaks of being a son and not a child.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to **maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

- "*maturity*" The question **is not** going to heaven, but **Growing Up!** Leaving "Dead works" and Legalism.

Hebrews 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.

- ". . . if God permits."

Hebrews 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

- "*once been enlightened*" by the Word of God.
Ephesians 1:18; Hebrews 10:32
- "*tasted the heavenly gift*" His provision: the manna in the wilderness. Exodus 16

- "*made partakers of the Holy Spirit*" His Presence: with His blood redeemed people, "Cloud by day, fire by night."

Hebrews 6:5 *and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,*

- "*tasted the good word of God*" Fed his blood-redeemed people in the wilderness and gave them water from the rock.
- "*powers of the age to come*" Exodus 14:13 "*stand and see the salvation of the Lord.*"

Hebrews 6:6 *and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*

- "*impossible to renew them again to **repentance***"

NOT Justification! **NOT** Salvation! BUT TO **REPENTANCE** !

Numbers 13:23, 27 Spies sent into the land. Tasted it's Goodness
But Giants! 13:31; 14:11, 31-34, 40-45

- GOD **DID NOT** LET THEM **REPENT**!
- Could not get in the land. Could not go back to Egypt.
They were the Lord's!

Hebrews 6:6 *crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.*

- Example of Moses:

Exodus 17:3 thirsted for water. 17:6 Moses strikes the rock.
(1 Corinthians 10:4 Hebrews 9:28 "**once**" only, not twice.)

water came out - The Holy Spirit John 4:14
tasted of the good Word of God and powers of the age to come.

Two years later: Spies go into the Land. Disbelieve & Disobey.

Numbers 20:2-13

- vs. 9 **Not** Moses' rod, but Aaron's rod (Num. 17:10)
A priestly rod for intercession. Not Moses' rod of judgment.
- Vs. 8 *speak to the Rock* (a word meaning - elevated place)
- Vs. 11 *struck the Rock twice* Moses disobeyed and in a figure he *Crucified again the Son of God.*

- Vs. 12 The results of his disobedience. Numbers 27:12-14
- Deuteronomy 34:1-7 Moses tried to **repent** -God **did not** accept it. Psalm 106:32-33 James 3:1 Luke 12:47-48
- Did Moses go to heaven? YES! Hebrews 3:5 Luke 9:28-31

Hebrews 6 **has nothing to do with going to heaven or hell**, but the believer leaving childhood and entering SONSHIP or OBEDIENCE, which is **The Kingdom of God** of which the Promised Land is a type.

Hebrews 6:7-8 For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; (8) but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

1 Corinthians 3:9 we are God's field

Matthew 13:37 The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man

- Ground=Believer; Seed=Word of God; Rain=Water of Holy Spirit
Joel 2:23 James 5:7
- Verse 8 **worthless** The Greek word means - disapproved
Same word in 1 Corinthians 9:27 "**disqualified**" from the prize or reward.

Not Abandonment but NO LONGER USEFUL.

2 Timothy 2:21 Galatians 5:7

- **thorns and thistles** - useless or damaging products of the flesh.
- **close to being cursed** Genesis 3:17-19 Adam . . . saved.
1 Peter 4:17-18 . . . **difficult for the righteous**
- **it ends up being burned** - ground, rain, thorns, thistles, are all metaphors therefore so is "being burned".

Compare: 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

but he himself **shall be saved**, yet so as through fire

The ground is not damaged but the trash is removed.

This is what the Lord is bringing into being –

A CLEANSED, PURIFIED, HOLY LIFE !

2 Timothy 2:20-22 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

F. Understanding: Hebrews 10:26

Hebrews 10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there remains **no more sacrifice** for sins (literal)

The Context:

Hebrews 7:25-27; 9:12, 14, 26, 28; 10:10, 18, 26

He is saying: **There is no other provision for sin.** If we go back to any other sacrifice - some other provision - THERE IS NO OTHER PROVISION FOR SIN. The **Blood** of JESUS CHRIST IS **THE ONLY ONE.**

This is the conclusion of Hebrews chapters 8 thru 10.

Hebrews 10:22 has to do with their daily walk, or cleansing.

Compare: 1 John 1:7 We are already forgiven. Ephesians 4:32

Example:

Paul Acts 23:1-5 Realizing his mistake, Paul confessed.

1 John 1:9

This is what is being spoken of here in **Hebrews 10:26.**

❖ **We NEVER go to any other sacrifice.**

❖ **If I do, that is WILLFUL SINNING.** Willful because believers have been told and know the truth. John 14:6

Example: Galatians 5:1-4 Paul is warning them not to return to the law.

Example: I sin, so to clear my conscience I go witness to five people. I fast and pray. I read ten chapters a day. All of this is "dead works."

❖ **THE BLOOD OF JESUS ALONE FORGIVES AND CLEANSSES SIN.**

The issue is: **ONLY ONE SACRIFICE IS SATISFYING TO GOD.**

If I turn from the cross, from the blood of Jesus Christ, to any other sacrifice for cleansing- I have turned away from grace.

I have turned from the only way to obtain forgiveness of sin:
"you have fallen from grace." (Galatians 5:4)

Hebrews 10:27-29 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on {the testimony of} two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:27 but a certain terrifying expectation of **judgment**

- The Greek word for *judgment* (krisis) is defined as: the receiving of justice. That is, receiving the due consequence of one's actions.
- He is speaking about the Judgment of **His** People. 2 Cor. 5:10
- 1 Peter 4:17 For it is time for **judgment** to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
(obey – Greek word means "do not believe")

Hebrews 10:27 the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries
..... **But purify His Believers.**

- We all will pass through the "Consuming Fire" 1 Corinthians 3:13-15
To purify and remove what is not right and therefore trash.

Hebrews 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on {the testimony of} two or three witnesses.

He is referring to: Deuteronomy 17:2-6 speaking of His people and natural death.

Hebrews 10:29 How much severer **punishment** (not rejection) do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as **unclean** the blood of the covenant by which he was **sanctified**, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

- Punishment – (timoria) also translated penalty
- Unclean – (koinos) common, not holy. Not special. Not sufficient.

- Sanctified – set apart, special, purify, made holy. Compare 10:14
- Insulted – by saying “no” to what the Holy Spirit says about the blood of Jesus. Placing their knowledge above the Truth.

When you turn away from Jesus Christ and His One Sacrifice which alone Forgives and Cleanses, you are turning to a religious activity and walking on what Jesus has done for us.

Hebrews 10:30 For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge **HIS PEOPLE**.

He is talking about "**His People**" who have believed in Him and His work of redemption but **ARE NOT walking** in the provision He has made for **daily cleansing**.

Example: John 13:8 Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have **no part** with Me."

Does He mean he is going to hell? **NO! Peter has believed.** He means, **No communion, no fellowship.** **part** is the Greek word: "meros" meaning "a share" or "portion". He would miss his portion of a full blessing.

(9) Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." (10) Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is **completely clean**; and **YOU ARE CLEAN**, but not all of you." (11) For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

John refers to this in: 1 John 1:6-10

Hebrews 10:14 because by **one sacrifice** He has made **perfect FOREVER** those who are sanctified.

- Read: Hebrews 10:26-29 Then Read: **Ezekiel 44:10-16**
They can not come near - only serve like servants.

Hebrews 12:6 **Whom the Lord loves, He disciplines.**

He is speaking about the discipline, chastening that the Lord brings on **His** people if they turn to something else for **CLEANSING**.

There is no other sacrifice for sins.

Joshua 7:10-13 After the victory at Jericho, Israel was defeated at the next battle. All because of one man's sin. STILL HIS PEOPLE.

1 Corinthians 12:26 We are one body / all suffer / therefore if one member is sent to hell, all would have to go.

Ephesians 4:25 We are members of one another. He is not going to take only a part of the body to heaven. But a bride without spot or wrinkle. Ephesians 5:27

Joshua 7:25-26 Did Achan go to Paradise? YES! The Lord disciplined him because he was His child.

For example: Matthew 13:28-29 "let the tares grow." Because they are not His. And - **The Lord disciplines His own.**

- Acts 5:1-11 "**A sin unto death**" (natural death) 1 John 5:16

When a believer stands in the way of what the Lord is doing, and brings shame on the Name of the Lord and His Church, The Lord may call him home. **Ananias & Sapphira were righteous by faith. Not by their works of honesty.**

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-7

Hebrews 10:35-37 **Therefore, do not throw away your confidence** (in the One Sacrifice) **which has a great reward.** For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was **promised.** For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

The issue is: **not losing the reward.** The same in Ezekiel 44.

This is why we must pass through the "**Consuming Fire**" Heb.10:27
1 Corinthians 3:13 2 Corinthians 5:10

Hebrews is written to the people of Israel, whose forefathers had come out of Egypt, through the Wilderness, but refused to enter the "Promised Land." They died in the wilderness along with Aaron, Miriam and Moses. They did not enter the Land.

Numbers 20:1; 33:39; Deuteronomy 34:1-5

Did they go to heaven? Have eternal life? **Yes, they did!**

And so did those spoken of in 1 Corinthians 10:8-10 who received the chastening of God. Again: 1 Corinthians 3:17

Hebrews 10:38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My Soul has no **pleasure** in him.

- **The issue is: PLEASING THE LORD.**

What happened to the children of Israel when they refused to enter the land? DESTRUCTION !

Hebrews 10:39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

- "destruction" Greek word means – ruin or loss
- "preserving" Greek: acquiring by extension, preserving

Stop walking with the world. He is **NOT** talking about going to heaven but **walking** in deliverance and the Salvation of God.

He is talking to Believers who were Justified but needed a "renewing of their mind," a "Saving, acquiring, preserving, of the soul" by Obeying the Word of God.

There is a difference between **being JUSTIFIED** and being **SAVED**.

"Once Saved always Saved" is NOT necessarily True.

"ONCE JUSTIFIED ALWAYS JUSTIFIED IS TRUE."

Romans 3:21 - 4:8; 5:1, 9-10; 6:1 plus; 10:9-13; Luke 6:46

All of these Scriptures are referring to righteous people who are not experiencing the Lord's deliverance (salvation) from the evil of this world.

Example:

Israel in the Land (a picture of the Kingdom of God): Justified & Saved.

Later because of sin - they were sent to Babylon.

They were still His - JUSTIFIED. BUT THEY WERE NOT SAVED from the results of their actions.

There is a lot of Justified people who are not Saved. That is – walking in daily victory over sin where satan cannot touch them.

Hebrews 9:12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption.**

G. UNDERSTANDING: NAMES WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

Revelation 3:4-5

You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and **I WILL NOT blot out his name from the Book of Life**; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

I John 5:4-5 For everyone **born of God overcomes** the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our **faith**. Who is it that **overcomes** the world? Only he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God.

Luke 10:20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that **your names are written in heaven.**

Hebrews 12:23 the church of the firstborn, **whose names are written in heaven.**

“are written” – Perfect Passive Participle, happened at a point in the past with on-going, continuous results.

Jesus said: “**I WILL NOT blot out his name**”

Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose **name HAS NOT been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb** who has been slain. NASB

Revelation 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names **have not been written** in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. (NIV)

Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose **name has not been written** in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. **Another book was opened, which is the book of life.** The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:15 If anyone's **name was not found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but **only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Jesus CHOSE YOU and WROTE YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE. HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND. HE WILL NOT BLOT YOUR NAME OUT.

Ephesians 1:4 Just as **He chose us** in Him **BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

Someone may appeal to Exodus 32.
The Children of Israel had made a golden calf. Idolatry. Broke the 1st. and 2nd. Commandment.

Exodus 32:31-35 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin-- but if not, then **blot me out of the book you have written.**" The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. **Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of**, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me **to punish**, I will punish them for their sin." And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

They WERE NOT blotted out of the Book of Life, but they were punished. He continued to lead them.

SO, WHAT IS THE SIN IN WHICH HE SAYS, "Whoever has sinned against Me I will blot out of My book?"

Psalm 69:28 **May they be blotted out of the book of life**, and may they not be recorded with the righteous.

What is He referring to? What is the context?

Psalm 69:21-22 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.

He is obviously speaking about the Cross. What should have been for their welfare became a trap, a snare.

❖ The **sin of UNBELIEF** is the sin that blots out.

The same Cross that Saves the Believing Sinner, Condemns the Unbelieving Sinner.

- ❖ NOBODY GOES TO HELL BECAUSE THEY ARE A SINNER.
- ❖ THEY GO BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT "*BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD.*" (John 3:18).

"Let their table become a snare before them." (Psalm 69:22).
They chose not to eat from the "communion table."

Psalm 69:23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; and make their loins shake continually.

To this day Israel is blind and they live in fear.

Deuteronomy 28:37 And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

Psalm 69:24 Pour out Your indignation on them, and may Your burning anger overtake them.

Psalm 69:25 Let their dwelling place be desolate; let no one live in their tents.

He destroyed their city, their Temple in 70 AD and the judgments of God have followed. Until:

Romans 11:25 that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

In 1967 Israel returned to the land. Is the "*fullness of the Gentiles*" complete or near completion?

Psalm 69:26 For they have persecuted Him whom You yourself has smitten, and they tell of the pain of those whom You have wounded.

Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Psalms 69:27-28 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.**

Romans 11:5-12

H. THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW & NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

The Ten Commandments or "The Law" is recorded in Exodus 20.

As we read verses 1 and 2 we see that it is not addressed to us but to the people brought out of Egypt.

Every command in the Old Testament that Christians are to observe is repeated in the New Testament AND IT IS USUALLY EVEN MORE STRICT.

For Example:

- No other gods. 1 Corinthians 8:4; 1 Timothy 2:5
- No images (as aids to worship) Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 10:7
- Swear not James 5:12
- The Sabbath: Christians are NEVER commanded to keep the Jewish Sabbath, the 7th Day, Saturday. The only one of the Ten Commandments not repeated in the New Testament for Christians.

- Honor parents Ephesians 6:1
- Not kill 1 Peter 4:15
- Not commit adultery Acts 15:20
- Not steal Ephesians 4:28
- Not bear false witness, lie Colossians 3:9
- Not covet Ephesians 5:3

Christians ARE NOT under the Law of Moses.

The Mosaic Law has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ for Believers.

- Galatians 2:16; 3:10-14; 5:4, 18
- Ephesians 2:13-16
- Colossians 2:13-16
- Romans 10:4; 6:14; 7:6; 14:5-6
- 2 Corinthians 3:7-11
- Acts 15:1-11, 13-21

The keeping of the Sabbath for the Christian is explained in Hebrews 4. Everyday the LORD is to be worshipped but Christians set aside the First Day of the week because:

1. Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the 1st Day of the week.
John 20:1
2. Jesus met with His disciples after the resurrection on the 1st Day of the week in the upper room two different weeks.
John 20:19, 26. Luke 24:13
3. Pentecost came on the 1st Day of the week. Acts 2:1
4. The Apostles met for preaching and taking the Lord's Supper on the 1st Day of the week. Acts 20:7
5. The Christians were commanded to bring their offerings on the 1st Day of the week. 1 Corinthians 16:2

The principle of keeping a rest day for God has never changed, however. It is to be a special day and not one like every other day. Isaiah 58:13

The Christians desire is to keep the Lord's Day in this special way, a day of rest and worship, and not a day of outings, housework, yard work, sports, etc. and neglecting the gathering together of Believers to worship.

What is the summary of the Old Testament Commandments?
Matthew 22:36-40
Romans 13:8-10

What is the summary of the New Testament Commandments?
1 John 3:23

<u>HOW DO WE</u>	<u>LOVE GOD</u>	<u>and</u>	<u>LOVE MAN</u>
Holy Living	1 Peter 1:14-16		1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
Prayer	Matthew 6:6, 9		Ephesians 6:18
Bible Study	2 Timothy 2:15		2 Timothy 2:2
Worship	Hebrews 13:15		Hebrews 10:25; Mat. 5:16
Giving	Romans 12:1-3		2Cor.8:1-5; 1Cor.16:1-2
Witnessing	Matt. 10:32; 28:19		James 5:19-20

In doing these things our Love for God and man is expressed. We want to obey His Commandments.

The Jews asked Jesus how they could please God. John 6:28-29

We CAN NOT please God or do any works that please Him UNTIL we BELIEVE Him.

Then our whole life is to be lived for Him and by obeying His commandments we are expressing our Love and Gratefulness to Him.

1 John 2: 3-6

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To Die Without Hearing The Gospel is One Condemned?

Notes by Franklin

The Question was asked: HOW GOD WILL JUDGE OUR FOREFATHERS, OR INFANTS, WHO DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAR THE GOSPEL AND HAD NO CHANCE TO ACCEPT JESUS, WILL THEY GO TO HEAVEN?

This is a very difficult question and is answered in different ways by those with different theological positions. Here is my answer.

- I. The LORD GOD **chose HIS Family** before the foundation of the world and wrote their names in "The Book of Life."

Ephesians 1:3-6 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as **HE CHOSE US in Him BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love** ⁵ He **predestined us** to adoption as **sons** through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

Philippians 4:3 . . . these women . . . together with Clement and the rest of my **fellow workers, whose NAMES ARE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.**

Luke 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your NAMES ARE RECORDED IN HEAVEN.**

Revelation 3:5 He who **overcomes** will thus be clothed in white garments; and **I WILL NOT erase his name from THE BOOK OF LIFE, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

- Hebrews 9:12 **eternal redemption** / 5:9 **eternal salvation** / 9:15 **eternal inheritance**
- A person **overcomes** when he is **born of God** (1John5:4) and his name WILL NEVER BE ERASED **from the book of life**

- **born of God** γεννάω (ghen-nah'-o) to procreate (properly, of the father, but by extension of the mother); figuratively, to regenerate: (Greek-Hebrew Dictionary) This same word is in each of these verses: John 1:13, 3:3; 1 John 2:29; 5:1, 18 and referring to **first or natural birth**.
- Those whose names **were not written in the book of life**
 - will worship "the beast" Rev.13:8; 17:8.
 - Will be "thrown into the lake of fire" Rev.20:15
 - The New Jerusalem: **no one . . . shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.** Rev 21:27

II. And to Redeem HIS Children and forgive their sin . . . Jesus Christ completely SATISFIED the just demands of a Holy God for the judgment of sin by **HIS BLOOD** shed on the cross.

Hebrews 9:24-27 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now **to appear in the presence of God** for US (those who are HIS) . . . but now, once at the end of the ages, **He has appeared to PUT AWAY SIN by the sacrifice of Himself.**

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the **children** have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, . . . ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things **HE had to be made like His brethren**, that HE might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation** (sufficient sacrifice) for the sins of the people.

The LORD - knowing who are His - who will believe - or would believe if they had heard the gospel - **The Blood of JESUS CHRIST has forgiven their sin. THEY WILL BE IN HEAVEN.**

III. Having (1) written their names in The Book of Life and (2) sending His Son to redeem HIS children by HIS shed Blood, The LORD GOD ALMIGHTY **WILL NOT FAIL.**

The Will of the LORD **will be accomplished** even if one or some, die before hearing the gospel.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, the **firm foundation of God stands**, having this **seal, THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO ARE HIS**

Those **WHO ARE HIS** - whose names were written in the "Book Of Life" - who died without hearing the Gospel - they will hear and they will believe and be saved as the following verses reveal the extent The LORD will go to for HIS children.

1 Peter 3:18-19 For Christ also **died** for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, **so that He might bring us to God**, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹ in which also **He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison**

1 Peter 4:6 For **the gospel** has for this purpose **been preached** even to **those who are dead**, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, **they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.**

This assures me that **those that are HIS** who do not have the opportunity to hear the gospel, **will not be penalized** for what they had no control over.

IV. The Will of The LORD will be accomplished:

HE WILL NOT be disappointed, crying or wringing HIS hands because one of HIS children did not make it.

John 18:9 **to FULFILL THE WORD** which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me **I LOST NOT ONE.**

Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts **has sworn** saying, "Surely, **just as I have intended so it has happened**, and **just as I have planned so it will stand**

Isaiah 46:9-11 Remember the former things long past, for **I am GOD**, and there is no other; I am GOD, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ **Declaring the end from the beginning**, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **My purpose will be established**, and **I will accomplish all My good pleasure**; ¹¹ **... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it and I will do it.**

Isaiah 55:11 So will **My word** be which goes forth from My mouth; **It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire**, and **without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.**

Psalms 33:11 **The counsel of the LORD stands forever**, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.

John 6:39 **This is THE WILL OF HIM** who sent Me, that **OF ALL THAT HE HAS GIVEN Me I LOSE NOTHING**, but raise it up on the last day.

John 18:9 **to FULFILL THE WORD which He spoke**, "Of those whom **You have given Me I LOST NOT ONE**."

Ephesians 1:11 also **we** (whom HE chose vs.4) **have obtained an inheritance**, having been **predestined** according to **His purpose** who **WORKS ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL**

James 1:18 In the **EXERCISE OF HIS WILL He brought us forth** by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Jude 24 Now to **Him** who is able to **keep you** from stumbling, and **TO MAKE YOU STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY BLAMELESS** with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and ¹forever. Amen.

If someone takes this teaching and says "well, I can do whatever I want to do since my sin is forgiven and I will go to heaven."

Then there are two options:

1. He **is chosen** and is one of the LORD's children but he has **little or no understanding** of God's ways and what the LORD has done for him. Therefore **his love for the LORD is small**. (1 Corin. 3:1-3)

And he does not realize that when **he sins** he opens a door and allows **satan to attack him** causing great anguish and misery. (John 5:14) **But he still has eternal salvation.**

2. He is **not chosen** and is not truly one of the LORD's children and therefore has **no love for JESUS** and therefore **no motivation** to live a life pleasing to the LORD.

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ **He who does not love Me does not keep My words**; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

Matthew 7:19-20 Every tree that **does not bear good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, **you will know them by their fruits**.