

**a. Zephaniah 3:17 (4 pages)**

Zephaniah grew up under the reign of Josiah and Josiah's predecessors: the evil king Manasseh his grandfather, and Manasseh's son - the young and evil Amon.

As a young man, he would have been surrounded by idolatry, child sacrifice, and unjust killings.

But Zephaniah grew into a man of God, able to stand before the people and proclaim God's message of judgment and hope to a people that had gone astray.

**Why is Zephaniah so important?**

This book mentions the day of the Lord more than any other book in the Old Testament, mostly clarifying, the picture of Judah's fall to Babylon. But also the eventual judgment and restoration of all humanity in the future.

Zephaniah wrote that the day of the Lord was near, that it would be a time of wrath, that it would come as judgment on sin, and that ultimately it would result in the blessing of God's presence among His people in Zephaniah 3:17. So let's go through this verse – well worth memorizing .....

**Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV Bible)**

**The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.**

**He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing**

**The LORD your God is with you,**

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:27-29)

**David exclaims in 2 Samuel 22:47, "The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!"**

**About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). (Matthew 27:46).**

Is Jesus YOUR personal GOD?

Here we see God talking to all of Judah personally. Can He not be YOUR personal God and if He is then cannot our relationship with Him grow?

**The LORD your God is with you IMMANUEL: God is with us!!**

**he is mighty to save.**

Jesus **is** our Savior. Our personal Savior. He was Israel & Judah's Savior again and again when they rebelled and God delivered them.

Jesus **has** saved us through His shed blood at the cross and through His resurrection if we've put our faith in His shed blood for forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus **is** saving us: He continually works in our life on a day to day basis as we call out to Him.

Jesus **will** save us:

**But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)**

**He will take great delight in you,**

Christ's Baptism and at the Transfiguration:

**He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (2 Peter 1:17).**

**Take delight in the LORD, & he will give you the desires of your heart. (Psa.37:4)**

**Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God. (Psalm 43:4)**

**The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; (Psalm 37:23)**

**the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. (Psalm 147:11)**

**He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me. (2 Samuel 22:20)**

**For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. (Psalm 149:4)**

**he will quiet you with his love,**

**When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. (Ruth 3:7)**

“Teach me, and I will be quiet; show me where I have been wrong. (Job 6:24)

**He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, (Psalm 23:2)**

But I have calmed and **quieted** myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. (Psalm 131:2)

it is good to wait **quietly** for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:26)

**This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. (Isaiah 30:15)**

The fruit of that righteousness will be peace; its effect will be **quietness** and confidence forever. (Isaiah 32:17)

**He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. (Mark 4:39)**

Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a **quiet** place and get some rest.” (Mark 6:31)

**Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight. (1 Peter 3:4)**

How **delightful** is your love, my sister, my bride! How much more pleasing is your love than wine, and the fragrance of your perfume more than any spice! (Songs 4:10)

**he will quiet you with his love,**

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for your love is more **delightful** than wine. (Songs 1:3)

**God demonstrated his love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

**he will rejoice over you with singing.**

**David sang to the LORD the words of this song when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me. (2 Samuel 22:1-3)**

The great songs in the Bible are:

Moses and the Israelites after the Red Sea, the Israelites after God supplied water,

Moses when summoned to depart from this world, Deborah & Barak after the defeat of Sisera, Hannah when the Lord promised her a son, David when bringing the Ark home, David for all the mercies given him by God, The Israelites in captivity when asked to sing songs of Zion, Mary after God’s calling on her, Zechariah after being restored, Angels singing, Your Song: “Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things” (Psalm 98:1)

But the Song of Songs is the greatest of all the Biblical Songs.

It is called the SONG of Songs - the greatest of ALL SONGS!!

We see this in the HOLY of Holies.

Also, Jesus is the KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS

– the preeminent and greatest One.

Think of the greatest altos, sopranos, tenors, bassists all brought together to sing in harmony. The greatest from every generation of mankind.

Think of the greatest choirs ever whether mankind or angelic.

Think of the greatest composers: Mozart, Beethoven, Bach.

None can match GOD rejoicing over YOU with singing.

**Prayer: (Recite or sing!!)**

I can’t even walk without You holding my hand

The mountain’s too high and the valley too wide.

Down on my knees I learned to stand

Cause I can’t even walk without You holding my hand.

### **b. Caste All Your Cares Unto GOD (3)**

Commit means to hand over, to trust wholly to another.

So, if we give our trials to Him, He will carry them.

If we walk in righteousness, IN HIM, He will carry us through.

The following are some verses on “commit” that we will look at.

Remember, to COMMIT means to hand over, to trust wholly to another.

**For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." (2 Chronicles 16:9a)**

Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.

(Psalm 31:5)

**Commit your way to the LORD (Psalm 37:5)**

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3)

There are many things, if not “everything” we can commit to the Lord.

Our lives, our families, our jobs, our future, our hopes, our dreams, our ministries.....

.....everything can and should be committed to the Lord.

Next let’s look at 1 Peter 5:6-7:

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)**

There are two hands here – when we choose to “humble ourselves”, it allows God's hand to press us down & humble us.

Humbling keeps away “self”, “pride”, and all the negative consequences of that.

Then there’s God's hand lifting us up. Once we are humbled, we can be lifted up.

It is a “spiritual lifting up” where “self” is crucified “experientially” and we are able to then live in the “Resurrection Life of Christ”.

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)**

**Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)**

Here we see “our anxiety”. And we see the Almighty’s care. The Almighty cares for you!!!

Cast your anxious cares on Him and take His Almighty care instead.

We need to learn to no longer be overwhelmed by trouble, but believe God is able to sustain us through it.

Believe that if you trust and obey Him and meet His will, He will look after your interests.

Simply exchange burdens. Exchange “your” anxiety and burdens for “His”

Almighty, Gracious and Loving Care!!

**Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)**

**Take His yoke upon you, and let Him care for you.**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

Let's look at Philippians 4:6-9

**<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God.  
<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God,  
which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers,  
whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—  
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**

We must also "let him" allow, give Him permission. He won't force Himself on us. Ask Him to remind you to pray throughout the day, to come close to Him, to fellowship with Him and the list goes on and on and on. ....

**Let him** kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—  
for your love is more delightful than wine.

**<sup>3</sup>Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes;  
your name is like perfume poured out.  
No wonder the maidens love you!**

**<sup>4</sup>Take me away with you—let us hurry!**

**Let the king bring me into his chambers.**

**Friends**

We rejoice and delight in you;  
we will praise your love more than wine. (Song of Songs 1:2-4)

At the beginning of the sermon, I defined "commit".  
Commit means to hand over, to trust wholly to another.  
So, if we give our trials to Him, He will carry them.  
If we walk in righteousness He will carry us through.

**'TIS SO SWEET**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to take Him as His Word  
Just to rest upon His promise  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more!**

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust His cleansing blood  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just from sin and self to cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest and joy and peace

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend  
And I know that Thou art with me  
Wilt be with me to the end

Let's now take a few moments and "commit" our cares, struggles, problems, worries, and ourselves wholly over to God. We have a place to go. It is the cross of Jesus Christ. And when we lay our burdens down – He will resurrect more of Him in our lives. The cross – then Resurrection life – the life of Jesus!!

**c. Apollos USEABLE! Acts 18:24-38 (3)**

- a) Probably the biggest insult you can give a person is to say that he/she is "useless". No Christian is useless! He or she is a child of God (John 1:12) and God has plans for each Christian's life (Eph. 2:10).**
- b) Instead of being useless, Christians are to be useable.
- c) Christians should be used of God to promote God's work and Word.**
- d) One such useable person was Apollos.

**HE WAS TALENTED Vss. 24**

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man,

- a) A learned man doesn't have to go to university.**
- b) A person can learn things in many ways. You can learn by reading, listening, watching, and talking to people.
- c) Most important, we learn by God's Word & being taught by God through His Holy Spirit.**
- d) God teaches us through His Word and also through our day to day life experiences.

with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

- a) Apollos knew the Scriptures. He has spent time learning the Scriptures. Jewish boys would spend many years memorizing the Scriptures.**
- b) Many people "know" the Bible but without the LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT the Bible is just another book. Only the Holy Spirit open Scripture so we can understand God's Word.
- c) If we want to be used by God we need to spend time knowing and learning the Scriptures.**
- d) It is so important to know the Word of God for our own salvation and encouragement. More and more people are coming against the Word of God. We must study to show ourselves approved (2 Timothy 2:15).

## **HE WAS TRAINED AND TEACHABLE - Vs. 25, 26**

25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord,

- a) **It is a special thing to be instructed in the way of the Lord.**
- b) As we walk in “THE WAY” we will continually be instructed by God.

and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately,

- a) **Apollos loved God and spoke with great emotion and vigor**
- b) We also see that he taught about Jesus accurately

though he knew only the baptism of John.

- a) **Apollos did not know all the information about Christ.**
- b) His knowledge extended only to John's Baptism.

26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

- a) **He allowed Aquila and Priscilla to instruct him further. He was teachable. A good teacher is always teachable!!**

## **HE WAS TRUSTWORTHY.- Vss. 27-28**

27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him.

- a) **What a joy to be “encouraged” and “welcomed” by brothers.**
- On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.
- a) **Our goal should be to be “A GREAT HELP” to others.**

28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

- a) **Apollos used “public debate” to prove Jesus was the Christ.**
- GOD USED APOLLOS BECAUSE HE WAS talented, trained, teachable, and trustworthy. These should be our goals!!**

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**DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK GOD CAN'T USE YOU?**

NOAH WAS A DRUNK  
ABRAHAM WAS TOO OLD  
ISAAC WAS A DAYDREAMER  
JACOB WAS A LIAR  
LEAH WAS UGLY  
JOSEPH WAS ABUSED  
MOSES HAD A STUTTERING PROBLEM  
GIDEON WAS AFRAID  
SAMSON HAD LONG HAIR & WAS A WOMANIZER  
RAHAB WAS A PROSTITUTE  
JEREMIAH & TIMOTHY WERE TOO YOUNG  
DAVID HAD AN AFFAIR & WAS A MURDERER  
ELIJAH WAS SUICIDAL  
ISAIAH PREACHED NAKED  
JONAH RAN FROM GOD  
NAOMI WAS A WIDOW  
JOB WENT BANKRUPT  
PETER DENIED CHRIST  
(Mark 16:7 "Go and tell the disciples & Peter)  
THE DISCIPLES FELL ASLEEP WHILE PRAYING  
MARTHA WORRIED ABOUT EVERYTHING  
THE SAMARITAN WOMAN WAS DIVORCED  
ZACCHEUS WAS TOO SMALL  
PAUL WAS TOO RELIGIOUS  
TIMOTHY HAD AN ULCER  
LAZARUS WAS DEAD

**Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called.**

**Not many of you were wise by human standards;**

**not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.**

**But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise;**

**God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.**

**God chose the lowly things of this world**

**and the despised things**

**—and the things that are not—**

**to nullify the things that are,**

**so that no one may boast before him.**

**(1 Corinthians 1:26-29)**

### c. BIBLICAL MEDITATION (5)

The practice of reflection or contemplation.

"A private devotional act, consisting in deliberate reflection upon some spiritual truth or mystery, accompanied by mental prayer and by acts of the affection and of the will, especially formation of resolutions as to future conduct."

The word meditation or its verb form, to meditate, is found mainly in the Old Testament. This concept is reflected in Ps 1:2, **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.**

The psalmist also prayed that the meditation of his heart would be acceptable in God's sight (Ps 19:14). **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.**

Joshua was instructed to meditate on the Book of the Law for the purpose of obeying all that was written in it (Josh 1:8). **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

The idea of meditation is also found in Phil 4:8 and Col 3:2.

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

**And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth. (Col 3:2)**

Meditation is a duty that all Christians who wish to know God and His will in their lives ought to attend to. It should be done in the Power of God's Holy Spirit by faith deliberate, close, and continuous..

We should meditate on the works of creation (19:1-6); the perfections of God (Deut 32:4); the character, office, and work of Christ (Heb 12:2-3); the office and operations of the Holy Spirit (John 15-16); God's Providence (Ps 97:1-2); the promises of God's words (Ps 119); the depravity of our sinful nature, the grace of God in our salvation, etc.

Meditation is a lost art for many Christians, but the practice needs to be cultivated again.

**We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. (Ps 48:9)**

I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. (Ps 77:12)

**I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. (Ps 119:15)**

Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works. (Ps 119:27)

**My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes. (Ps 119:48)**

Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts. (Ps 119:78)

**O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. (Ps 119:97)**

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. (Ps 119:99)

**My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord. (Ps 104:34)**

Many times we can give the devil too much credit. He is NOT Almighty, NOT Omnipresent (not present everywhere), NOT Omnipotent (not all powerful), NOT Omniscient (not all knowledgeable), NOT uncreated, NOT able to conquer death, etc.

The devil is NOT able to read our minds and that is why we give him room in our lives by our negative words as it reveals to him where we are spiritually and then he can work on our weaknesses. Thankfully God will then purge us of these areas.

He is NOT the Head of the Church – Jesus is!!

He is NOT seated at the right hand of the Father – Jesus is!

He is NOT to be feared - we are to fear God.

He is NOT the truth but the father of lies – Jesus is the truth!!

He is WAITING HIS DEMISE and does not care anything about anybody – He just wants to hurt God by destroying His children Whom God loves.

We should know our enemy – the Bible says, we are not unaware of his schemes.

We should understand that he masquerades as an angel of light.

The main power he has is the power to lie and deceive. God allows him into our lives for God's purposes. He is God's vehicle to make people come to Him. The devil can only do what God, others, and we allow him to do.

He CANNOT gain entry into a born again person's spirit for it is sealed by the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption.

He CAN attack our soul and our body. This is called oppression – not possession. Possession is for non-believers but believer's can be oppressed in their soul & body.

He CAN attack our mind by putting thoughts in our heads usually first personal pronouns such as, “I’m no good.”; “I can’t do anything.” “I’ve sinned so I won’t go to heaven.”

He CAN attack our will by lying to us so we commit sins of commission and omission.

He CAN attack our emotions by making us “feel” a certain way.

He CAN attack our bodies.

That is why we must understand that our HOPE is “Christ in You.”

We MUST ALLOW the Holy Spirit access into every bit of our lives by faith.

If we are born again believers than Jesus is in our spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17 says, **“but he that unites himself to the Lord is one with him in spirit.”**

At the same time we can allow ourselves to get polluted in our being so we can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit in our spirits by faith and believe He will.

We can ask God to fill our emotions with Him by faith.

We can ask God to fill our minds with Him by faith.

We can ask God to work in our will, **“For it is good who works in you to will and act according to His good purpose”.**

We can ask God to come and fill our bodies with Him so that disease, arthritis, etc. don’t overtake us. Certainly we must eat properly, exercise, and take care of our bodies. Certainly there are many outer things such as processed food, pollution, etc. that can affect our health. But if we are born again believers, we can rebuke the devil, tell him to get away from us, and ask God to fill our spirit, soul, and bodies with Him.

I also want to say that the worst “cancer” that can happen in any Christian is to allow the devil entry by unforgiveness. For example, a person gets hurt by someone else and the enemy sees that hurt – then he attacks that person through their mind and gets them over and over again to think about what the other person did wrong. A mountain gets made out of a mole hill. If you’ve been hurt by someone, go to them and say, “Dear brother/sister, can I talk to you? The other day, you did/said such and such. I was hurt by that. I just want to make this right with us so the enemy can’t get a foothold in my life.” Then give the person a chance to respond because many times they see it entirely different. We are not responsible for their reaction – hopefully there is forgiveness & reconciliation – but if not you’ve done all you can. Don’t give the enemy a foothold. It can turn out to bother you again and again and cause bitterness, grief, and even people to end up leaving the church. It takes prayer, wisdom, discernment but God promises to be with us.

**Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him. For to this end I also wrote, that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:8-11)**

The devil has NO POWER OVER THE HOLY SPIRIT for the Holy Spirit is ALL POWERFUL. God will allow Satan to attack Christians or non-Christians for God's purposes whether to get people to call out to Jesus or draw closer to God through trials and tests.

**Meditation** can be Godly meditation where the blood bought saint is filled with the Holy Spirit and meditates on God and His Word day and night by faith. But a person should not just open up their mind to meditate on whatever comes into their minds. It must be with the filling of the Holy Spirit.

**Waiting on God** can be the blood bought saint who is filled with the Holy Spirit and allows God to come into Him and upon Him to reveal His thoughts, His will, and His power by faith. Again, do not be one who just sits and allows their mind to be open to anything. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Praying** can be the born again Spirit-filled saint allowing God's Holy Spirit to come in them and upon them so they can commune with God Himself by faith in the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. It can also be praying to a tree, a god, gods, rocks, etc. without God's Holy Spirit.

**God's Word** can be read by a born again Spirit-filled saints allowing God's Holy Spirit to come on them and reveal His Word to them through His Holy Spirit or it can be used to distort God, confuse people, spiritually abuse people, etc. if one isn't filled with God's Spirit.

**Church** can be Spirit-filled saints allowing God's Holy Spirit to come in them and upon them so they can Worship God in Spirit and in Truth, hear God's Word by the Power of the Holy Spirit, pray in the Spirit, receive Healing by God's Holy Spirit, Pray for others in the Power of the Holy Spirit, etc. and by faith expecting God to move upon those saved and unsaved or a place to come and sing some songs, hear some prayers, listen to the Bible, etc.

Everything has a choice. The Bible says, **“Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, but instead be filled with the Holy Spirit.”** Which is worse, a pagan drinking wine or a saint not filled with the Holy Spirit?

So in conclusion, rebuke the enemy, tell him to go to Jesus and He'll deal with him, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Know your enemy but don't allow him to get you retreating. Sit in your position in Christ by faith, walk with God through faith in His Holy Spirit, and Stand on the promises of God's Word by faith.

Jesus told Paul after His Damascus conversion, **I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'** (Acts 26:17-18)

**The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).** (John 10:10)

**For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.** (Romans 16:19-20)

**Rom 12:21 says, Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good".**

My mentor once told me the best way to get the enemy is to "love" for "love covers over a multitude of sins".

When he has beaten you down— repent that you allowed yourself to be deceived and then praise God outloud!!

When your life is a mess – come to Jesus and lay your burdens at His feet. Then thank Jesus for what He is going to do!!

Lead people to Christ, encourage the hurting, accept the lost, love the unlovable, bless people. It drives the enemy crazy and glorifies our Father in heaven – and we need God's Holy Spirit for that.....

#### d. WAITING ON GOD (4)

##### Let's read Psalm 37:1-7.

- 1 Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong;  
2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.  
3 Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.  
4 Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
5 Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:  
6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.  
7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

##### **Psalm 37 shows us a beautiful model for the Christian life.**

- verse 1: Fret not (don't worry).  
Verse 3: Trust in the Lord and do good  
Verse 4: Delight thyself also in the Lord  
Verse 5: Commit thy way unto the Lord  
Verse 7: Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him

We also see throughout this Psalm many promises God has for those who do these things.

Psalm 37:7 tells us to, **Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him**

Many times we can get caught up in getting too busy not only in our lives but even in our prayer life. God calls us to wait on Him.

Waiting on God is described by Andrew Murray as "Absorbing God".

Imagine a "dry sponge" that is parched, shriveled, rough, brittle.

As the sponge soaks up the water, the sponge begins to moisten, soften, dampen, and become subtle.

This is a picture of a parched, shriveled, rough, brittle heart.

The heart needs God's Holy Spirit, Living Water, to be poured into it so it begins to become alive and soften in its love for God and others.

Life is full of waiting.

We wait in life at grocery stores, banks, buses, etc.

We wait for meals.

We wait anxiously for things in our life we feel important: a visit from a friend, our future husband/wife, a baby to arrive, and many other examples.

Life is full of waiting.

There is much the Holy Spirit reveals to us about “waiting” in the Word of God.

1. Adam waited for God to bring him a suitable partner.
- 2. The devil waited for a suitable time to tempt Eve.**
3. Adam and Eve waited in the bushes after they had sinned and covered themselves with tree leaves.
- 4. God waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.**
5. Noah waited seven days twice after the flood for the dove to return.
- 6. Abraham and Sarah waited for the “promised child” but Sarah became impatient. Finally God brought Isaac.**
7. Isaac waited for his bride and Christ waits for His bride the church.
- 8. Jacob waited seven years for his bride.**
9. Joseph waited in jail
- 10. Moses waited for God to deliver his people but got ahead of God and ended up waiting 40 years longer.**
11. Joshua waited for the tribes to take possession of the land
- 12. Ruth waited to see what Boaz would do after he promised to redeem her and become her legal husband.**
13. Esther fasted and waited before she talked to the king about saving God’s people.
- 14. Simeon, was waiting for the consolation of Israel, the promised Messiah to come, and moved by the Holy Spirit he went and prophesied over the Christ child at the temple. (Luke 2:25).**
15. The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ (John 3:15).
- 16. The Jews and religious leaders were always waiting to catch Him in something He might say or to kill Him. (Luke 11:54; John 7:1)**
17. Peter had to wait outside at the door after Jesus had been taken away to be killed (John 18:16).
- 18. Joseph of Arimathea, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body (Mark 15:43).**
19. Jesus after His Resurrection commanded the disciples, And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. (Acts 1:4)
- 20. Paul shared his testimony of how Ananias came to him and said, And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)**

21. We, And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. (Romans 8:23)

**22. And in 1 Corinthians 1:7, it says, while you wait and watch [constantly living in hope] for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and [His] being made visible to all.**

23. And 1 Thess 1:10 says, And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

**24. We are told in James 5:7-8 to, Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.**

So we can see that not only men and women of God in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible were waiting on God but that God also waited. And we see this most in the fact that from all eternity past, Jesus has waited for His Bride the Church. It has been the longest betrothal ever. And this will finally come true after God catches out His Church home and the Wedding of the Lamb takes place!

**Now here are some bible verses encouraging us to wait on God:**

If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. (Job 14:14)

**In the morning You hear my voice, O Lord; in the morning I prepare [a prayer, a sacrifice] for You and watch and wait [for You to speak to my heart]. (Psalm 5:3)**

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)

**Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield. (Psalm 33:20)**

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. (Psalm 37:7)

**For in thee, O Lord, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God. (Psalm 38:15)**

I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. (Psalm 40:1)

**I am hoping and waiting [eagerly] for Your salvation, O Lord, and I do Your commandments. (Psalm 119:166)**

I wait for the Lord, I expectantly wait, and in His word do I hope. (Psalm 130:5)

**I am looking and waiting for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, I say, more than watchmen for the morning. (Psalm 130:6)**

Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. (Isaiah 26:8)

**And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.**

**(Isaiah 30:18)**

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. (Lam.3:26)

**Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually. (Hosea 12:6)**

Therefore I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. (Micah 7:7)

**So much depends on our “waiting on God”.**

Trustfully, waiting on God for answers to prayer.

Trustfully, waiting on God to fill us with HIM.

Trustfully, waiting on God for His promises.

Trustfully, waiting on God for His plan for our lives.

Trustfully, waiting on God for His return.

#### **LET'S SING**

Those that wait upon the Lord  
shall renew their strength  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles.  
They shall run and not grow weary  
they shall walk and not grow faint.  
Teach me Lord, teach me Lord, to wait!!

**Wait for the Lord  
Be strong and take heart.  
And wait for the Lord.  
(Psalm 27:14)**

### **e. Can we trust that the Bible is the Word of God? (6)**

The Bible has shown an amazing ability to survive. Most books never survive over 25 years, fewer over a century, and a very small amount last over 1,000 years. This shows the Bible's uniqueness. When you look at the conditions and persecutions the Bible has gone through its longevity is amazing.

It is an amazing book in that it is read by millions of believers around the world and has been translated into hundreds of languages.

The Bible contains the revelation and character of God. It shows how we got here, shows man's fall, God's sovereign rule, God's plan for salvation, and sets forth the end times of man.

The Bible is a unified book. Even though written by some 40 different authors over 1600 years it is one book. Its doctrine, moral standard, plan of salvation, and program for the ages are all unified.

No man could have set forth to write such a harmonious book. If they could have written such a book then we would have another Bible. Only God could have written the Bible.

No other book has benefited mankind more with its answer to sin and the hope & promises it provides. We can find great comfort and reassurance every time we read it.

The Bible contains fulfilled prophecy. God's fulfilled predictions of future events shows it is a divine book. All books combined can't show fulfilled prophecy like the Bible. These prophecies concerned Israel, Gentile nations, individuals and Christ Himself.

In the Old Testament the Bible conveys the message of God's word using phrases such as "The Lord said," "Thus says the Lord," "Now the Lord said to", etc. These kinds of phrases are used over 3800 times in the OT showing God actually speaking to people.

Over 500 times in the New Testament authors claim to give the message of God (1 Cor.14:37, 1 Thess.2:13; Gal.1:8; John 5:10; 2 Peter 3:2; Heb.2:1-4)

Moses' writing in the Pentateuch are very credible. He was a witness to many events as well as being given credibility thruout the Bible by other writers as well as Jesus Christ.

Here are some proofs that God spoke to Moses and had him write the Pentateuch: (Exodus 24:4): Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.

(Exodus 31:18): When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tables of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

(Exodus 32:16): The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

(Numbers 33:2): At the Lord's command Moses recorded the stages in their journey.

History and archaeology provide many proofs of the biblical characters, events, and dates of the Bible.

In many cases the NT writers were eyewitnesses to Christ's miracles, fulfilled prophecies, life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

The NT writers were honest, believing what they wrote. Their belief cost them their social standing, material possession, and even their lives.

The Gospels harmonize with each other. They don't contradict but supplement information. Even the "so-called" difference in the Gospels have been proven valid and show the four Gospel writers did not collaborate but gave four valid versions.

Men throughout the Bible testify to their sinfulness. David with Bathsheba, Moses killing an Egyptian, Jonah running from God and being vomited on the shore, etc. Men would not write these things about themselves - the Bible was God-inspired.

The Bible was written by people from different time periods, social standings, and backgrounds. Yet the unity and literary expertise and wonder of it is amazing.

The total account of NT manuscripts is now around 5,000 with a 99+% accuracy of copy. No other book from history compares to it.

The Bible consists of 66 books: OT contains 39 and NT contains 27.

To be included as a book they had to follow two steps:

- a) inspiration by God: God determined the canon by co-authoring it
- b) recognition by men: Man recognized what God revealed and accepted it as Canon

Quote: A book is not the Word of God because it was accepted by the people. It was accepted by the people because it was the Word of God.

**Jesus pointed people to the Scriptures:**

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me." (John 5:39)

**Jesus recognized “3” major divisions of the OT** which included 39 books.  
“This is what I told you while I was with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44)

- a) The Law of Moses (Torah) 5 books
- b) The Prophets (Nebhiim) 21 books
- c) The Psalms or Writings (Kethubhim) 13 books = 39 books

Jesus does not quote from every book of the OT but he does quote from all three of the main divisions showing that he accept the entire OT as canonical.

The Council of Trent accepted the OT Apocrypha as canonical in 1546.  
Jesus and His apostles did not accept these books as part of the Scriptures  
There are no NT references to any of the Apocrypha as being authoritative among other reasons. eg) they include unbiblical teaching such as praying for the dead.  
And ancient Jewish leadership rejected the Apocrypha (Josephus & Philo)  
This is the problem: if you accept some books you have to start looking at others.

The Canon of the NT is more universally accepted though over 300 other books have been proposed by some as Scripture. Again, they were written after the first 27 were settled on by the Holy Spirit and the books were within a generation of Christ.

They were written by apostles (Matthew, John, Paul, Peter) or a close associate of the apostles (Mark, Luke James, Jude). Thus the writings had to be “apostolic” as well as showing evidence of inspiration. Again, written within a generation of Christ.

One interesting point is how Genesis 1-3 wonderfully coordinates with Rev. 20-22.  
eg) “but you must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil for when you eat of it you will surely die (Genesis 2:17) **DEATH ENTERED THE WORLD**

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or crying, or mourning, or pain for the old order of things has passed away” (Rev.21:4)  
**NO MORE DEATH**

“To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing: with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you.” (Gen.3:16) **SORROW MULTIPLIED**

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or crying, or mourning, or pain for the old order of things has passed away” (Rev.21:4)  
**NO MORE SORROW**

**Scientific Truth:** Now let's look at the Bible where there are scientific truths unknown by mankind with all its wisdom and resources. Also, stated as facts hundreds of years in advance of the discovery of these truths by men:

**Free float of earth in space:**

At a time when it was believed that the earth sat on a large animal or a giant (1500 BC) the Bible spoke of the earth's free float in space.

**“He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing (Job 26:7)**

**The earth is a sphere:**

Science thought the earth was a flat disk. Isaiah also tells us the earth is round.

**“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy and spreads them out like a tent to live in” (Isaiah 40:22)**

Secular man discovered this 2,400 years later. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat this was the Scripture that inspired Columbus to sail around the world.

**Ocean contains springs (Job 38:16).**

Used to believe the ocean was fed only by rivers and rain.

**“Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?” (Job 38:16)**

**Each star is different.** Used to believe all stars were the same.

**“The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and stars differ from stars in splendor.” (1 Corinthians 15:41)**

**The sun as the greater light and the moon as the lesser light.** People used to believe (and some still do) that the moon was the greater light (a full moon looks so big) and the sun was the lesser light (looks small).

**“God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.” (Gen.1:16)**

**Science expresses the universe in 5 terms:** time, space, matter, power, motion. Genesis 1:1-2 revealed these truths to the Hebrews in 1450 BC. The first thing God tells man is that He controls all the aspect of the universe.

**“In the beginning (time) God created (power) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter). And the Spirit of God moved (motion) upon the face of the waters.” (Gen.1:1-2)**

**Up till over 120 years ago,** sick people were “bled” and many died because of it. If you lose your blood you lose your life.

**Leviticus 17:11 says, “For the life of the creature is in the blood....”**

The Bible taught that blood is the source of life and health.

**Medical Science has only recently discovered that blood clotting** in a newborn reaches its peak on the eighth day and then drops. The Bible consistently says circumcision should be done on the eighth day.

**All nations of one blood. “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings” (Acts 17:26)**

There are 332 prophecies fulfilled in Christ’s Messianic life. The probability of all them being fulfilled is 84 times ten to the 123<sup>rd</sup> power (84 followed by 123 zeroes). As well, Christ five times talked of His suffering, death, resurrection.

**DISCREPANCIES???** There are also some “so-called” discrepancies in the bible.

**1) “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.” (John 1:18)**

**“Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elder of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself.” (Exodus 24:9-10)**

Both statements are correct. They did not see God for God is a Spirit. They saw a physical reflection of God. When I look in the mirror I see a reflection of myself in the mirror but I’ve never seen my face as others have. Also, again, they could not see the Glory of the Spirit of God for they would have died.

**Above his head they placed the written charge against him:**

**THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Matthew 27:37)**

**The written notice of the charge against him read:**

**THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Mark 15:26)**

**There was a written notice above him, which read:**

**THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. (Luke 23:38)**

**Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read:**

**JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. (John 19:19)**

These accounts supplement, but do not contradict one another.

Combined is: “This is (Matthew, Luke) “Jesus” (Matthew, John) of Nazareth (John) “the King of the Jews” (all Gospels)

**Some cults, denominations, etc. accept:** Some accept in addition to the Bible:

a) traditions of their church which have developed over the years. (**Mark 7:8:** 1-9)

Papal or ecclesiastical decrees: which allow such traditions or decrees over Scripture.

b) Latter Day Prophets (Mormons, etc.)

Modern day revelations allowed to take precedence over the Scriptures.

2) When people appeal to other sources for their authority in religion:

a) they reject the All-Sufficiency of the Scriptures & religious confusion is the fruit

- The way out of religious confusion is to recognize the need for the same standards of authority which ought to be the Scriptures alone.

**Paul wrote of the value of the Scriptures:**

“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16)

**In the Scriptures we have all we need:**

1. To believe in Jesus.

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

2. To have life in His name.

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

3. To have help when we sin.

My dear children I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One (1 John 2:1)

4. To know that we have eternal life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

**Can we trust the Bible?**

a) Yes, for it has been faithfully preserved and translated.

b) Yes, for it contains the books that rightly serve as our canon & authority!

c) Yes, for it is inspired of God. d) Yes, for it can be understood!

e) Yes, for it is an all sufficient guide for salvation.

**Those who would deny such things are either:**

a) Atheists and skeptics who reject the Bible which condemns their lifestyle

b) Leaders of cults or man-made religions who desire full allegiance to themselves.

**Consequently, faith come from hearing and hearing comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17)**

Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth (John 17:17)

**Thy Word is a light unto my feet and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105)**

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

**f. ROMANS 8:28-39 (TLB) (3)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all that is happening to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.

**You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Genesis 50:22)**

**God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor.1:9)**

<sup>29</sup> For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him—and all along he knew who would—should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers.

**He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, (2 Timothy 1:9)**

**In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. (Hebrews 2:10)**

**And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:18)**

**And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. (1 Corinthians 15:49)**

<sup>30</sup> And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us “not guilty,” filled us with Christ’s goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory.

**He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— (Ephesians 1:5)**

**In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, (Ephesians 1:11)**

**But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)**

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)**

**What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— (Romans 9:23)**

<sup>31</sup> What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

**The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? (Psalm 118:6)**

<sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he surely give us everything else?

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

<sup>33</sup> Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! **For He has forgiven us and given us right standing with himself.**

**He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. (Isaiah 50:8-9)**

<sup>34</sup> Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? *No!*

For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God, pleading for us there in heaven. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

**You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)**

**After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19)**

**Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)**

<sup>35</sup> Who then can ever keep Christ's love from us?

When we have trouble or calamity, when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because he doesn't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless or in danger or threatened with death, has God deserted us?

**To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. (1 Corinthians 4:11)**

<sup>36</sup> No, for the Scriptures declare that for his sake we must be ready to face death at every moment of the day—we are like sheep awaiting slaughter; (Psalm 44:22)

**For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. (2 Corinthians 4:11)**

<sup>37</sup> but despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us. (more than conquerors)

**But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)**

**I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)**

**and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, (Revelation 1:5)**

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow,

**far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. (Eph. 1:21)**

**who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (1 Peter 3:22)**

<sup>39</sup> or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us. (Romans 8:28-39)

**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)**

**But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. (1 Cor. 6:17)**

**if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)**

#### **g. Jesus Drew Near (4)**

After Jesus rose from the dead He ministered to hurting people. Many times people are uncomfortable around those who are hurting. But not Jesus!!

In John 20:10-18, Jesus ministered to Mary Magdalene who was confused and crying. Jesus spoke truth into her life and revealed the truth about His resurrection. Jesus drew near.

Jesus appeared to Peter who was hurting because he had denied the Lord three times. In the Gospel of John, Peter had gone back fishing and Jesus restored him by asking Peter to “feed my lambs”, “take care of my sheep”, and “feed my sheep”. Jesus drew near.

Jesus appeared to the 10 (no Thomas) who were hurting because they ran when Jesus was arrested. In John 20:19-23, Jesus appeared to them in their fear, spoke “peace” to them, proved to them it was He by his “hand and side”, then their sadness turned to joy and He instructed them and filled them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus drew near.

Jesus in John 20:24-31, appeared to Thomas who was hurting because of his unbelief. Jesus proclaimed “peace”, allowed Thomas to put his fingers where the nails were and to see Him, proved He was God through His resurrection from the dead, and taught truth. Jesus drew near.

Jesus also appeared to as many as 500 disciples in 1 Corinthians 15:6, who would have had many reasons to be hurting. Jesus drew near.

Jesus drew near to Saul who was so “obsessed” with religion that He missed Jesus.

Jesus drew near, revealed Himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and set Paul free from “phariseical religion” and placed him in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. Jesus drew near.

Jesus also appeared to two of His followers on the Road to Emmaus. They were confused, downcast, had lost hope, and had trouble believing in Jesus’ resurrection. Luke 24:15 says, “Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.” Jesus drew near. Jesus joined them in their conversation just like he joins us in ours. He asked what they were thinking and gave them a chance to talk. He corrected them where they were wrong by showing them the truth

of the Scriptures. He broke the bread and they remembered – His statements at the Passover meal about His body being broken.

He opened their eyes – the eyes of their hearts – to the truth.....a great truth ending their confusion, wrong state of mind, and loss of hope...the truth that He was alive....death had been defeated.

Jesus has not changed. In our health problems, our marital or family problems, our financial problems, our relationship problems – Jesus will draw near to help us!!

**And if we continue drawing close to Him He will draw near to us. God is also preparing us for something new:**

God prepared Noah in an ark for one year and Noah's family restarted mankind.

God prepared Jacob by taking him to Laban's home to have him escape Esau's wrath. 20 years later he became Israel: new name, new identity, new family.

God prepared Joseph from 17 to 30 years old. His slavery and imprisonment prepared him to save many lives in Egypt.

God prepared Moses in a remote desert for 40 years so he could liberate the Jewish people from Egypt.

God prepared Naomi from a foreign country where she experienced loss and pain to discipling Ruth and continuing the Promised line of the Messiah.

God prepared David after his anointing by Samuel. For 15 years he ran from Saul eventually becoming the King and a man after God's own heart.

God prepared Jonah for 3 days and nights in the belly of a great fish so that he would be used for one of the greatest revivals ever in Nineveh.

God prepared Daniel by training him in Babylon and then using him to write the amazing Book named after him.

God prepared Esther from the palace of the Persian king to being used to save the Jews.

God prepared the Disciples, uneducated and a motley crew to being used powerfully after the Holy Spirit fell upon them and filled them.

God prepared Paul for three years in the Arabian desert to becoming an anointed missionary and Biblical writer.

God prepare John on the Isle of Patmos to write the Book of Revelation.

God took Jesus from a Tomb to Salvation for the world.

**God is no respecter of persons. He loves us all the same and the Father loves us as much as He loves Jesus. If we press on God will continue to prepare us and use us as we draw close to Him.**

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

**Deuteronomy 31:6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”**

**Deuteronomy 31:8: The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”**

**Joshua 1:5: No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach God’s

throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Matthew 11:28-30: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”**

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Luke 24:32 says, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures.”**  
**That was good heart burn. I pray God’s Spirit will burn in your hearts and that His Word will continue to guide you, your family, and ministry as you draw close to Him. God is faithful to keep His promises.**

Near the end of Joshua after God had done so much for Israel, Joshua 21:45 says,

**Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.**

#### **h. BEGINNING A NEW LIFE (Deut.7:1-11) (4)**

The children of Israel were going into the Promised Land.

God had set them free from Egypt, and after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness they would begin a new life in a new land.

##### **REMOVAL OF THE OLD - Vss. 1-5**

Because of the bad influence the people of the land and their idols were to be destroyed.

We should remove all things in our lives that are not pleasing to Christ!

Jonah 2:8, “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

Of course, we are talking about killing anyone, but to get away from detrimental influences.

I remember as a new Christian, God quickly put His hand on many things in my life.

I was told to get rid of my secular music collection so I got rid of all my secular music.

Secular music has never drawn me closer to Jesus and I have never regretted it.

**<sup>1</sup> When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you-**

As Christians God wishes to drive out the many things that are not of God that will try to destroy our lives as Christians.

These things are “larger” and “stronger” than us. Only God can drive them out.

**<sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.**

We are to separate ourselves from these things totally.

If we let them in a little they are like “yeast that works its way through the whole dough”.

**<sup>3</sup> Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,**

We are to marry Christians and not marry someone “hoping” they will become Christians.

People who have married non-believers can end up having their walk compromised or spend years praying for their spouse to become a Christian. And then what about the children?

**<sup>4</sup> for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.**

It is “natural” for the non-believer to follow their own ways because it is impossible to live a Christian life without the Spirit of Christ.

**<sup>5</sup> This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. (Deuteronomy 7:1-5)**

As Christians, we have left the bondage of sin, and shouldn't wander, but settle into a new life in Christ.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

The instructions Israel was given for new life in the land also apply to us concerning our new lives in Christ.

Don't be like “Lot's wife” and look back. Flee from your old life and start anew in Christ.

You see God is great. There is nothing better than walking with and serving God. NOTHING.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

I trust we all will continue to realize that it is worth getting rid of the old and living in the NEW LIFE OF CHRIST.

### **REASONS FOR THE NEW - Vss. 6-8**

We should act in a new way because:

1. We are a holy people.

**For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. (Deut.7:6)**

I love the words “treasured possession”. We are so “costly” to the Lord for He bought us as a treasure with His precious blood.

**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)**

This is who we are: chosen, a royal priesthood, holy, and belonging to God. And we have been called “out of” DARKNESS into HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT.

2. The Lord loves us and kept his oath.

**<sup>7</sup> The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.**

The Israelites were nothing special but were the fewest of all peoples.

We were nothing special but God in His grace and love chose us.

**<sup>8</sup> But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers (Deut.7:7-8a)**

God loves you. What beautiful and special words. We are loved by God.

And God keeps His oath and promises. He cannot lie.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

Love GIVEN by God AND love DEMONSTRATED by God.

And the result is ETERNAL LIFE – living in the Life of God for all eternity.

Remember, we are a NEW CREATION in the Life of Christ.

3. The Lord has delivered us.

**that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, (Deut.7:8b)**

The Israelites looked back to their land of slavery in the desert and thought of the garlic, leeks, and fish.

They forgot that they had been SLAVES.

We too should realize that we have been delivered and are no longer slaves to the world and sin but SLAVES TO GOD – the PERFECT, LOVING MASTER.

**As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (Ephesians 2:1)**

It was a life of death for sin causes death.

Now the Life of God!!

4. The Lord has redeemed us.

**from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deut.7:8b)**

And we look forward to our “redemptive bodies” when Christ returns.

**<sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19)**

The PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST.

A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH OR DEFECT.

### **REPAYMENT FOR BEHAVIOR - Vss. 9-10**

The Lord rewards us according to our behavior.

**<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. <sup>10</sup> But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction;**

**he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.**

**(Deut.7:9-10)**

God is a FAITHFUL GOD.

He keeps His Covenant of love to those who love Him and keep His commands.

And those who are trying to destroy Christ and His children will be repaid – God is a Just Judge for “ONLY” He has the right to Judge.

### **REMINDER TO OBEY - Vs. 11**

**Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today. (Deut.7:11)**

Let us do all we can to follow Jesus under the power of the precious Holy Spirit.

### i. How We Function (2)

God is Spirit and is an infinite, eternal, perfect Spirit, unchangeable and infinite in His being, wisdom, power, unapproachable holiness, justice, goodness, knowledge, love, grace, mercy and truth in whom all things have their source, support, and end.

We are spirit, soul, body.

If we are born again then our spirit is united to Jesus. "He that unites himself to the Lord is one with him in spirit." (1 Cor.6:17) (God-consciousness)

Our soul has a mind (thinker), will (chooser), and emotions (feeler).

(Conscious of others)

Our body has sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste. (Conscious of the world)

"Oh, be careful little eyes what you see (2x) ears/hear, nose/smell, hands/touch, mouth/taste

For the Father up above He is looking down in love.

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see (2x)

Now the Child of God's spirit functions in the following three ways:

**1) Communion:** you are able to commune with God, hear God's voice, sense His presence & love. You have a deep desire to worship God & love God!

**God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1 Cor. 1:19) May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor.13:14)**

**2) Conscience:** your conscience is now sensitive to God's standard of "right and wrong". Man's conscience is his standard but now it is God's standard. You feel grieved when you sin and you desire to let Jesus be your guide and shepherd.

**So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:16)**

**3) Intuition:** you have a deeper knowledge and belief in God not obtained by reason nor by perception but by an instinctive knowledge or belief that is within you. You are "in tune" with God being led and guided by Him!!

Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. (Job 22:22) Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life. (Proverbs 4:13)

**Our soul** has a mind (thinker), will (chooser), and emotions (feeler). Jesus had/has a mind, will, emotions. (Conscious of others)

**Our body** has touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight as did/does Jesus. (Conscious of the world)

**We need to learn to walk in the spirit:  
explain how: start with our spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)  
The order is SPIRIT – SOUL – BODY.  
Allowing the Holy Spirit into each area.**

**Christians CANNOT be possessed. Christ is in their spirit, they are  
joined to Him, and sealed by the Holy Spirit.  
The enemy tries to make us think we are not saved.**

**Then we allow the Holy Spirit into our SOUL. mind, will, emotions**

**Finally into our bodies. Our “old adamic” man is dead. Now we must  
make our bodies instruments of righteousness.**

**Romans 12:1-2 Romans 6:13**

### **j. JESUS –OUR ALL AND IN ALL (3)**

Matthew 7:24-27: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

**1 Corinthians 3:11 says, “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

Jesus Christ is the center of Christianity. He is The Door, The Gate, The Bread of Life, Living Water, The Light of the World, The Resurrection and The Life, The Rock of our Salvation, and the list goes on and on.....

If you take Jesus out of Christianity it falls apart. For Jesus IS Christianity. He is the Cornerstone and the Foundation every Christian should build their life on.

Many people are searching for the truth or a way to fill the emptiness inside of them. God has created a vacuum inside of everyone and He wants to fill it with Jesus.

**and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, (Revelation 1:5)**

As THE FAITHFUL WITNESS He is PROPHET.

As THE FIRST BORN FROM THE DEAD He is PRIEST – THE LAMB OF GOD.

As THE RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH He is KING – THE LION OF JUDAH.

Many Christians ask God:

For more love. Jesus is love.

**For more joy. Jesus is joy. “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”**

For more peace. Jesus is peace. “May God Himself, the God of peace

**For healing. Jesus is THE HEALER.**

and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. (Luke 6:19)

**Many are looking for HOPE. Jesus is the God of all hope (Romans 15:13).**

Life is so important. Jesus is Life. (eternal life)

**Many want to be clean inside and holy. John 15:3,**

**“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”**

Many want more faith. Jesus is our faith. Here’s a precious nugget...

**“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal.2:20 KJV)**

Jesus is our SAVIOR

Sins / power of sin / death / enemy / world

He HAS saved us – His shed blood at the cross. Ours is to believe, repent, and receive Him and thereby “become” children of God.

He IS saving us – His continual sanctifying/cleansing work in us.

He WILL save us – we will get a new body just like His.

Jesus is our LORD. We make Him our Savior – now LORD!

Jesus is our FRIEND

He listens – He cares – He prays for us – He loves us – He was willing to die for us. He will never forsake us.

Jesus is our LIFE. ETERNAL LIFE!!

He who has the Son has life!!

From everlasting to everlasting you are God.

I have written these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life!!

2 Timothy 1:12, “I have known “whom” I have believed.”

Our SAVIOR, 2) Our LORD, 3) Our FRIEND, 4) Our LIFE.

Do you get off track at times? Struggle at times? remember 3 things:

JESUS as your SAVIOR, LORD, FRIEND, LIFE

JESUS’ FINISHED WORK AT THE CROSS,

JESUS CONQUERING DEATH AT THE RESURRECTION!!

Who is Jesus to you? Is Jesus your everything? Is Jesus your ALL AND IN ALL? Is Jesus your First Love? Is He Who you live for more than anything else?

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT CHRIST'S HUMANITY**

- 1) Jesus was true man in every sense except that he was without sin.**
- 2) 1 Tim.2:5 says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus."**
- 3) In order to mediate between God and man, he had to be both God and man.**
- 4) To "mediate" means to be a "lawyer". He speaks for us in our defense.**
- 5) In 1 Cor.15:21 the first Adam brought death; the second Adam, Christ, brought life.**
- 6) He was given the human name Jesus which means, "Savior" and "The Lord Saves."**
- 7) He was given the title "The Son of Man" which showed his humanity.**
- 8) "The Son of Man" means "all-inclusive man".**
- 9) To be human, Jesus had to have a human parent. Mary was that human parent. (Luke 2:7; Galatians 4:4)**
- 10) Jesus came from the human line of Judah. Jesus came from the line of David.**
- 11) Jesus became "flesh" (John 1:14). He had a human nature.**
- 12) Jesus suffered, learned obedience, increased in wisdom, asked questions, grew physically, was tempted, worked as a carpenter, sweated, was tired, suffered, hungered, thirsted, cried, slept, loved, had compassion, got angry, was grieved, groaned, and prayed.**
- 13) Jesus had a spirit, soul, and body. His spirit returned to His Father at death, His soul was sorrowful in Gethsemane, and His body was buried in the grave.**
- 14) At the age of 33, Jesus physically died. He was completely man.**
- 15) Jesus still possesses a body – a "spiritual body" which qualifies him to be our mediator (Luke 24:39; John 20:27; Acts 7:55,56)**

### **k. ABEL, THE MAN WHO PLEASSED GOD (Genesis 4:1-8) (5)**

Pleasing God is the most important thing in the world. Abel shows us how to please God.

#### **PROPER APPROACH TO GOD Vss. 1-4**

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”<sup>2</sup> Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.<sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

#### **1. Abel came in the righteousness of another.**

**(He came with an offering from the flock. We come in the righteousness of Christ.)** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus who has become for us wisdom from God: that is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. As it is written, Let him who boasts boast in the Lord. (1Cor. 1:30-31)

#### **2. Abel came through a blood sacrifice.**

**We come through the shed blood of Christ. (Heb. 9:22) (Romans 5:9)**

#### **3. Abel came to God by faith. (Hebrews 11:4)**

**We come to God by faith. (Hebrews 11:6) (Romans 5:1)**

#### **PERFECT ACCEPTANCE BY GOD Vs. 4**

<sup>4</sup> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,

**When we come to Christ by faith, we are accepted by Him.**

to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace (Ephesians 1:6-7)

#### **LESSON ON ANGER:**

<sup>5</sup> but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup> If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup> Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

## **PREDICTABLE ATTACK BY THE UNGODLY**

<sup>18</sup> “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ (John 15:18-25)

### **HOW TO PLEASE GOD:**

I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.  
This will please the Lord more than an ox,  
more than a bull with its horns and hoofs. (Ps 69:30-31)

### **HONESTY:**

The Lord detests differing weights,  
and dishonest scales do not please him. (Proverbs 20:23)

### **LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT:**

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. (Romans 8:5-9)

### **DON'T PLEASE OURSELVES BUT PLEASE OTHERS:**

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." (Romans 15:1-3)

### **MAKE IT OUR GOAL TO PLEASE GOD HERE:**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> We live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it our goal to please him, whether

we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Cor.5:6-10)

**PLEASE GOD FIRST:**

10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Gal.1:10)

we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed — God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. (2 Thess.2:4-6)

**PLEASE THE SPIRIT:**

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:7-10)

**FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL:**

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord **and may please him in every way**: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)

**PLEASE YOUR “MASTERS” (BOSSSES)**

9 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, 10 and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. (Titus 2:9-10)

**ENOCH, COMMENDED AS ONE WHO PLEASED GOD:**

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:5-6)

**REQUEST TO PLEASE GOD:**

14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

**FRUIT OF PLEASING THE LORD:**

7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him. (Proverbs 16:7)

**GOD'S WILL IS PLEASING:**

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

**HOW TO PLEASE GOD:**

17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. (Romans 14:17-18)

**GOD CAN EQUIP US TO PLEASE HIM:**

20 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

**GOD DOES SPECIAL THINGS WHEN HE IS PLEASED:**

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of

the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them." (Numbers 14:5-9)

**THE SON PLEASED THE FATHER: (shouldn't we as His children)**

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17)

**THE FATHER IS PLEASED TO GIVE US THE KINGDOM: (GIVES HIM JOY)**

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32-33)

**SON GIVES LIFE:**

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.(John 5:21)

**GOD WAS PLEASED:**

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

**WHAT DOESN'T PLEASE GOD:**

8 First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). 9 Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:8-10)

**THE SON PLEASED THE FATHER:**

16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. (2 Peter 1:16-18)

The joy of pleasing God.....

k. **BOOK OF RUTH: (4) *Decision / Work / Rest / Reward***

**Ch.1:16-17 - Decision:** Ruth makes a decision to follow Jesus

**"Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."**

We must all make a decision in our life whether to be an Orpah who went back to her people or a Ruth. We all need to decide at some point in our life who we will serve (1 Kings 18:21). Will we serve Jesus or will we serve the powers of sin, the world, the devil, and eventually, death.

**God loves us:** You see at just the right time when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6,8)

**We are sinners:** and need to turn from our sins and ask for God's forgiveness. His forgiveness comes already because we go to the cross of Jesus Christ and believe that His shed blood gives us forgiveness. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

**Christ is the way:** He shed His blood for us to give us forgiveness, healing, & power.

His death brought our death to our old man (sinful nature).

"For we know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin." (Romans 6:6)

"In the same way count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus". (Rom.6:11) Romans 6:13: yield your members to God

"I have been crucified with Christ and I myself no longer live. And the real life I now have within this body is the result of my trusting in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal.2:20)

**Receive Him:** He came to his own but his own did not receive him. But to all who received him, to those who believed in His name he gave the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, or the will of man, but born of God. (John 1:11-13)

**CH. 2 – WORKING:**

**And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."**

**Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." (Ruth 2:2).**

After salvation most Christians begin to work for the Lord. But in whose power? Is it by faith in Christ's power?

**The Christian's N.T. Judgements:**

- 1) **Believer as to sin – judged at the cross!! Jesus took our judgement upon Himself.**
- 2) **Believer’s judgement as to Works: will take place after the Rapture at the Judgement Seat of Christ.**

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10).

**We will receive rewards or suffer loss:**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

**gold/silver/costly stones: not burned up.**

**Wood/hay/straw: burned up.**

“The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent”. (John 6:29)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Col.3:23-24).

“Do not grow weary in doing good for at the right time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Gal.6:9)

“You shall go out with joy and be led for in peace...(Isaiah 52.....)

**CH. 3 – REST:** So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. (Hebrews 3:19-4:1)

**Most work is done in the “flesh” or “carnal nature”. But God will take us through very difficult times until we learn to enter HIS rest by faith and work for Him because of our love for Him. And we work for Him in His Resurrection Power through the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

<sup>7</sup> When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! <sup>9</sup> “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer of our family.” (Ruth 3:7-9)

**Let us rest at the foot of the cross understanding that if we have repented and trusted in Christ's Works that we have been saved. Then we rise in the Resurrection Power of Christ to do His works out of a love for Jesus in His Resurrection power.**

#### **CH. 4- REWARD:**

**4:13** - So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Naomi is rewarded with a son.

The father of the prodigal son said, "all that is mine is yours" (Luke 15)  
"And when Christ who is our real life comes back again, you will shine with him and share in all his glories. (Col.3:5)

**Here are our crowns that will be rewarded for the N.T. speaks of 5 crowns:**

a) **The Crown of Life or Martyr's Crown**

Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (James 1:12)

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *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. (Rev.2:10)

b) **The Crown of Glory or Elder's/Pastor's Crown**

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but <sup>1</sup>willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>2</sup>nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup>and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (1 Peter 5:2-4)

c) **The Crown of Rejoicing or the Soul Winner's Crown**

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. (Philippians 4:1)

d) **The Crown of Righteousness or The Crown of Those Who Love His Appearing**

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:8)

e) **The Crown Incorruptible or the Victor's Crown**

And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*. (1 Corinthians 9:25)

And what will we do with our crowns – we will lay them at His feet because **Romans “For from him, and through him, and to him are all things. To God be the glory.” (Romans 11:36)**

The rewards God has for us are wonderful. But even more wonderful is GOD IS OUR VERY GREAT REWARD. God is our Reward and is a rewarder!!

**“After this the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision; ‘Do not be afraid, I am your shield, YOUR VERY GREAT REWARD.’” (Genesis 15:1)**

Decision – Work – Rest - Rewards

## **I. Galatians 5:22-23 CHAMPIONS OF THE SPIRIT (11) (PART ONE)**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**a) This passage gives us the "fruit of the Spirit."**

**b) In the Bible, there are people who showed each part of the fruit during some part of their lives.**

### **1) LOVE: MARY - Luke 10:38-42**

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

**a) Mary loved Jesus.**

**b) Mary loved everything about Jesus.**

**c) She loved what He had done for her. He had set her free from "sin and death".**

**d) He loved that Jesus would spend time with her.**

**e) And she would love that Jesus would raise her brother Lazarus from the dead.**

**f) Mary had "LOVE" in her heart. For love is the "fruit of the Spirit" that causes us to be so filled with "love" that we share this love of Jesus with others.**

**g) Finally, God is LOVE. From God, love is manifested because He is love. Jesus is LOVE!!**

### **2) JOY: PAUL AND SILAS - Acts 16:19-25**

19 When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. 20 They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar 21 by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice."

22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. 23 After they had been severely

flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. 24 Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

**a) Paul and Silas had been severely flogged or whipped. Then thrown in prison, put in the innermost cell, and had their feet fastened in the stocks so they couldn't move. A most difficult situation!**

**b) Yet, they had JOY – THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS “JOY”.**

**c) This was “supernatural joy”. This was not just “feeling happy” but THE JOY OF THE LORD.**

**“for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10)**

**d) Jesus is OUR JOY!!**

**e) When we walk with Jesus, deep in our heart we will feel a JOY that makes our situation seem unimportant because Jesus' JOY will overwhelm us.**

**f) True JOY is knowing, loving, and experiencing JESUS!!**

**3) PEACE: DANIEL - Daniel seemed to be always at peace when in difficult situations. (Daniel 1,2,5,6)**

**a) Daniel was taken from his homeland, brought to serve a foreign king, was to learn the language and literature of the Babylonians, and eat food that God disallowed.**

**b) Daniel, using God's wisdom, requested that they be tested for 10 days and see how their health was after eating their own food. God gave Daniel PEACE in difficult times. (Chapter 1)**

**c) When the King had a terrible dream that nobody could help him with, Daniel was called. God gave Daniel wisdom to interpret the dream – and PEACE in difficult times to listen to God. (Chapter 2)**

**d) When God wrote on the wall to King Belshazzar, Daniel was called to interpret the writing. God gave Daniel wisdom to interpret the writing – and PEACE in difficult times. (Chapter 5)**

**e) When evil men had a royal decree made saying that anyone who prays to any god or man except to the king would be thrown into the lions' den, Daniel went up to his room and prayed – and he had PEACE in difficult times. (Chapter 6)**

**f) How did Daniel receive PEACE throughout his stay in Babylon. Let's read Daniel Chapter 6:10:**

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem.

Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

**f) Daniel received PEACE because he prayed three times a day. The more we pray, the more PEACE we will receive!!**

**g) Isaiah 26:3 says,**

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

**g) We need to ask God to give us a steadfast mind and a trusting heart. And most of all we need to spend time in prayer so God's PEACE will stay upon us at all times.**

#### **4) PATIENCE (LONGSUFFERING): JOSEPH - Genesis 39-41**

**a) It has been said that if you aren't "patient then you will become a patient" (in a hospital).**

**b) A young Joseph was not wise, showing off his coat of many colors to jealous brothers.**

**c) Joseph after being taken to Egypt was very patient when Potiphar's wife kept harassing him.**

**d) After being falsely accused with wrongdoing to Potiphar's wife, he was put in jail.**

**e) After helping the Cup Bearer by telling him the meaning of his dream, Joseph patiently waited in jail and kept serving God.**

**f) Two years later, Pharaoh called Joseph to interpret his dream. Joseph responded patiently and was made second in command.**

**g) Joseph continued to serve Pharaoh and "wait patiently" on God.**

**h) Finally, Joseph's patience paid off. Joseph's family was restored to him.**

**i) But most importantly, God had divinely showed that by Joseph being patient, God would save a nation from starvation.**

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Genesis 50:20).

**j) Joseph had learned patience over the years. He learned not to complain but trust God. God had a purpose for Joseph's suffering and it was to save many lives!!**

**k) Do we try to get ourselves "out of our problems" or do we "try to learn patience" knowing God has a bigger plan?**

#### **5) KINDNESS: RUTH - Ruth 1-4**

**a) Ruth's husband, brother-in-law and father-in-law had all died.**

**Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth headed out towards Naomi's home in Judah.**

**b) Naomi insists that her daughter's- in-law go back to their own people but Ruth would not leave Naomi. Ruth was KIND to her mother-in-law even after her husband's death.**

**a) Ruth and Naomi return. Ruth sets out to "work" in the field to support them. God's KINDNESS was being manifested through Ruth.**

**b) By God's providence, Ruth "works" in Boaz's field and begins to glean the leftover grain.**

**c) Boaz notices Ruth's KINDNESS and she finds favor in Boaz's eyes.**

**d) Boaz has heard how Ruth had left her people and country to be with a people she did not know. He also heard how Ruth had helped Naomi.**

**"May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." (Ruth 2:12)**

**e) Ruth had found favor with Boaz and she had gleaned much. Even Naomi noticed her KINDNESS.**

**a) Naomi recognizes that Boaz is a kinsman and that he can redeem Ruth.**

**b) Naomi instructs Ruth in the customs. Ruth is being rewarded for her KINDNESS.**

**c) Ruth rests at the feet of Boaz - stepping out in faith – trusting God – and walking in God's Spirit.**

**d) Boaz senses again the KINDNESS of Ruth**

**a) Because of Ruth's KINDNESS, Ruth is rewarded.**

**b) Boaz redeems Ruth. Boaz takes Ruth to be his wife. She conceives a son.**

**c) God rewarded her with a husband, child, and graciously put her in the line of David.**

**d) KINDNESS brings reward. God will reward us "here" with "blessings" and when we get home with "eternal rewards" that will never perish. (see Galatians 6:9).**

## **6) GOODNESS: Onesiphorus - 2 Timothy 1:15-18**

**a) In talking about GOODNESS as the "fruit of the Spirit" let us look at 2 Timothy 1:15-18**

15 You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

**a) Imagine being Paul. "Everyone" had deserted him. He was left alone.**

16 May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.

- a) But Onesiphorus, “refreshed” Paul. He showed Paul GOODNESS.**
- b) He was so good to Paul that he was not “ashamed of Paul’s chains”.**
- c) It is very easy to forsake someone in prison, yet God tells us to visit them.**
- d) Because of the fruit of the Spirit called GOODNESS, Onesiphorus and his family were prayed for by Paul. Paul prayed that the Lord show him and his household “mercy”.**

17 On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me.

- a) When everyone else had deserted Paul, this man was not only unashamed of Paul being in jail but he searched and searched for Paul until he found him.**
- b) The fruit of the Spirit is GOODNESS. Can you imagine Paul’s joy when Onesiphorus came to visit him in jail? What a joyous meeting. God is GOOD and God’s GOODNESS would have been manifested then.**

18 May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.

- a) Paul again prays for the Lord’s mercy for him.**
- b) Then Paul reminds Timothy how much Onesiphorus had helped him in Ephesus.**
- c) GOODNESS gives us good character references. Paul talked about his GOODNESS to others – and God was glorified!!**

**7) FAITHFULNESS: STEPHEN - Acts 6-7      PART TWO**

**a) Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. It is so important that we continue on with God and remain faithful to Him because God is faithful to us.**

**b) Stephen was one of the “seven” chosen who was “full of the Spirit and wisdom”.**

“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 6:5)

**c) After being chosen he was prayed for and the apostles laid their hand on him. (v.6).**

**d) The result of this was the word of God spread, disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. (v.7)**

**e) Stephen though was seized and brought before the Sanhedrin because the Jews could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.**

**f) He was falsely accused and lied about.**

**g) As he was being falsely accused, "they saw that his face was like the face of an angel" (v.15)**

**h) When asked to answer the charges, Stephen under tremendous pressure was FAITHFUL to God.**

**i) He gives one of the great testimonies about God’s FAITHFULNESS to the Jews throughout Biblical history.**

**j) At the end of his testimony, Stephen accuses the Jews of persecuting God’s prophets and crucifying Jesus – the Savior of the world.**

**k) Even though Stephen was stoned to death, God remained FAITHFUL to Stephen and the Bible says, “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.”**

**l) Stephen remained FAITHFUL to the very end and God was with him in Stephen’s entry into glory!!**

**m) God is FAITHFUL to us. We have seen how FAITHFUL Jesus was to His call to the cross of Calvary.**

**m) The fruit of the Spirit is FAITHFULNESS and we obtain it by continual trust in the Spirit of Jesus Christ – the FAITHFUL WITNESS of Revelation 1:5. Jesus can give us His Spirit to be FAITHFUL!!**

**8) GENTLENESS: MOSES - Numbers 12:3**

**a) God changes people by the power of His Holy Spirit.**

**b) Let’s look at Moses trying to do things without the Holy Spirit.**

“One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Glancing this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.” (Exodus 2:11,12)

**a) Moses did it “his” way. Man’s way always leads to “death.”**

**b) Here Moses’ way led to “physical death” and “separation from God” which is spiritual death.**

**c) But God wants us to be “spiritual”. So God sent Moses out to the desert to learn to be “spiritual”.**

**d) Then after 40 years, God called Moses at the Burning Bush.**

“But Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

**a) Moses’ reply to God’s calling was one of “fear & doubt”.**

**b) Moses thought “HE” had to do things and had not learned that “GOD DOES THINGS THROUGH MAN”.**

**c) But God saw the potential in Moses and sent him Aaron his older brother to help him.**

**d) Later we see God’s Spirit has transformed Moses.**

“Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.” (Numbers 12:3)

**a) The correct word here is “meekness” or “gentleness” and not “humble”.**

**b) The verse talks about God’s Spirit changing Moses into a man of “gentleness”.**

**c) God used Moses powerfully and changed him from a “murderer” trusting in his own ways to a “Man of God” filled with God’s Spirit and “gentleness”.**

**d) The “fruit of the Spirit” is gentleness. Jesus is “gentle” in power, love, conviction, etc. In everything Jesus is “gentle”. We need to ask Jesus to fill us with His Spirit of “Gentleness”.**

**9) SELF-CONTROL: DAVID had two opportunities to kill his enemy Saul & didn’t. 1 Sam 24 & 26**

**a) David knew he was going to be King. God had told him and he was patiently waiting for God.**

**b) But God sent David into his “desert experience” to learn to be a leader.**

**c) Let’s look how God trains a leader in “self-control”.**

David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father’s household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those

who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him. (1 Samuel 22:1-2)

**a) God sent three kinds of people to David to lead.**

**1) those who were in distress; 2) those who were in debt; 3) those who were discontented**

**b) This is God's school for leadership. Many go to Bible School, which is great, but this is truly God's school and His way to train leaders. He puts leaders in difficult situations to learn to lead.**

**c) Can you imagine how many times David must have had to call out to God for "self-control" in order not to get angry with men like these?**

**d) Now let's look at how God continued training David in "self-control" with Saul trying to kill him.**

3 He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. 4 The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.' " Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

5 Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. 6 He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way. (1 Samuel 24:3-7)

**a) God's Spirit gave David "self-control" in a time when he could have killed his enemy, left the caves he was living in, and become king.**

**b) Let's look at the second time David could have killed his enemy.**

7 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. 8 Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice." 9 But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless? 10 As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. 11 But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go." (1 Sam. 26:7-11)

**a) David again showed God's Spirit of "self-control".**

- b) And we must remember here Jesus' "self-control" when He was being tempted by the devil after he had fasted for 40 days.**
- c) The enemy tempted Jesus by saying, "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:8-10).**
- d) Jesus could have worshiped Satan then and received "all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor" but just as David, it was "not God's time". He could even have avoided the cross but we would not have been saved.**
- e) Jesus is our model for "self-control". And the Spirit of Jesus, the "fruit of His Spirit" is SELF-CONTROL.**
- f) We cannot and should not try to have "self-control" but we should by faith allow God's Spirit to give us "God's control" of our life and we will become "self-controlled".**

#### **HOW DO WE OBTAIN THIS WONDERFUL HOLY SPIRIT?**

**How can we have Christ's Spirit in order to have His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?**

**m) When a person is saved, he or she is baptized with the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13.)**

**n) If the Holy Spirit is not present in the life, a person is not born again (John 3:5-8, Romans 8:9).**

**o) Although there is only one baptism of the Spirit, there is to be many "fillings" of the Spirit. We need to empty ourselves of "self" continually and continually, by faith, ask God to fill us with His Spirit!!**

**p) The filling of the Spirit is the control of the Spirit of God in the life of the born-again believer!**

**q) Let's look at Ephesians 5:18-21:**

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**The Filling of the Spirit is NOT ARTIFICIAL –**

**a) Vs. 18 - "Do not get drunk on wine..."**

**b) Satan is a deceiver. He tries to substitute God's work with his own.**

**c) Alcohol is the substitute for the filling of the Spirit mentioned here.**

**d) When alcohol controls it is not only devastating, but temporary.  
THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT ACCIDENTAL - Vs. 18 -  
"Instead be filled with the Spirit."**

**a) Spirit filling does not just happen, it is commanded.**

**b) The original text conveys the idea of being constantly filled, or controlled by the Spirit.**

**c) To be filled with the Spirit, one must confess sin, and be a "clean" container for the Spirit to fill.**

**(see 2 Timothy 2:19-21, 1 John 1:9.)**

**d) Once you are a clean container, then, ask God to fill you with His Spirit. (1 John 5:14-15).**

**e) Then "believe by faith" that God has filled you with His Holy Spirit and "walk in the Spirit" by faith.**

**THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT IS NOT AVERAGE - Vss. 19-21**

**a) The results of Spirit filling include:**

**1. Supernatural Praise Vs. 19**

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,

**2. Supernatural Thanksgiving Vs. 20**

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**3. Supernatural Submission Vs. 21**

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**4. Supernatural Fruit Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22,23)

**THE WALK OF THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE Galatians 5:24-25**

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

**a) In order to have the "fruit of the Spirit" we must be "filled with the Holy Spirit".**

**b) Let's bow our heads and "confess all known sin in our life" right now.**

**c) Now, let's ask God by faith, to fill us with His Holy Spirit.**

**Let's Pray:**

**Father God, You command us to be filled with Your Holy Spirit.**

**Father God, we want to be empty so You can fill us with You.**

**Lord we confess the following sins to You.**

**Lord, we ask You to forgive us of these sins.  
Thank You for forgiving us.  
Now, Lord Jesus, come and fill us with Your Holy Spirit.  
Fill us from the top of our head to the bottom of our feet.  
Fill us with Your love, joy and peace.  
Fill us with your patience, kindness, and goodness.  
Fill us with your faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  
Fill us Lord because we need You so badly.  
We want to be vessels of honor fit for the Master's service.  
Lord we believe You have filled us with Your Spirit. We believe dear  
Lord.  
And so we say, THANK YOU for filling us with Your Spirit.  
Thank You Lord for Your Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that filled the  
Apostles on the Day of Pentecost – the day the Church was birthed!!  
Than You Lord for filling us with the same Spirit that filled the  
Apostles – those Apostles that changed the world for You!!**

## I. Christ's Deity (11) [altogetherlovely.org/apologetics](http://altogetherlovely.org/apologetics)

**Matthew 16:13-17:** <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

<sup>14</sup> So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

As you can see, there were a variety of opinions in Jesus' day as to who He really was. His disciples (Peter in particular) knew who He really was: Jesus was the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God. But those on the fringes, who didn't know Jesus intimately, thought He was actually John the Baptist, Elijah, or some other prophet who had perhaps risen from the dead.

Two thousand years later, not much has changed. Today there are still a variety of views regarding who Jesus was and is.

### A VARIETY OF VIEWS AS TO WHO JESUS IS:

- **Muslims:** believe Jesus was one of Islam's many prophets, a good and holy man, but not the Son of God. Jesus is mentioned more times in the Quaran than Muhammed
- **Mormons:** believe God created Jesus through a relationship with one of His celestial wives. In fact, according to the Mormon publication, *Pearl of Great Price* and the LDS website, even Satan was a son of God and a brother of Jesus, equal with Jesus in nature. This doctrine resides in the four "standard works" of scripture (the Holy Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine & Covenants and the Pearl of Great Price),
- **Jehovah's Witnesses:** believe Jesus was and is merely an angel who is just one of many "gods" they say exist. To underscore their belief that Jesus is not Almighty God, they give Jesus the title "god" but with a small "g" in their self-published New World Translation of the Bible (**John 1:1**). They have a history of leadership changing the Bible to make their doctrines from people with less than Bachelor Degrees in Greek.
- **New Age Adherents:** believe Jesus was a great enlightened teacher who realized He was God, just like we *all* can realize we are God.
- **Hindus:** believe Jesus was one of many great and holy men. Many Hindus believe Jesus was a good teacher and perhaps one of their 330 million incarnations of Brahman (Hinduism's impersonal, pantheistic deity).
- **Buddhists:** believe Jesus was an enlightened man. God in the flesh? No.
- **SDA:** Paul went to Synagogue on Saturday (to preach Jesus).  
Day 7: grave Day 8: resurrection.  
Matthew 5: "You've heard it said (the Law) but I say, "  
The Law: given to Jews. Romans 8:1-2,

**Beware of people who make doctrine from OT without NT backing. We have a NEW COVENANT!!**

**WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?:** If you believe what Christians down through the centuries have believed, you hold to a much higher view of Jesus. Christians believe Jesus *was* and *is* God Almighty, absolutely equal in nature with the Father and the Holy Spirit (the other two persons in the Trinity). God is in ESSENCE One God but FUNCTIONS as three different persons. Why do we believe that? Plain and simple, that's what the Bible teaches and we believe there are **good reasons to trust the Bible.**

### **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT JESUS**

Where does the Bible teach that Jesus is God? Lots of places. Here are a few examples:

- **PAUL** called Jesus “our great God and Savior” (**Titus 2:13**)
- **JOHN** called Jesus “God” in the very first verse of his Gospel when he said that “the Word was God” (**John 1:1**).
- **JESUS** took the name of God revealed to Moses in the burning bush at **Exodus 3:14** (“I AM”) and applied it to Himself in **John 8:58**.
- In **John 5:18**, Jesus claimed to be “equal with God.”
- In **John 10:33**, He made Himself “out to be God.”
- **THOMAS**, called Jesus: “My Lord and my God!” (**John 20:28**)
- **ISAIAH**, the Old Testament prophet, said that the coming Messiah would be God. **Isaiah 9:6** says, “For unto us a Child [a reference to His humanity] is born, unto us a Son is given (adoption); and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God [a reference to His deity], Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- **GOD** the Father called Jesus “God.” **Hebrews 1:8** says, “But to the Son He [God the Father] says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.’” [Quoting **Psalms 45:6-7**]

**The Son of God and the Son of Man are TITLES.** Jesus was the Son of God – meaning “all-inclusive” God. Jesus was the Son of Man – meaning “all-inclusive” Man. “THE” is very important. It means singular –the ONLY. Not “a son of God but “THE Son of God”. The Jews knew He was claiming to be God – Jesus accepted this title.

**In the Virgin Birth,** God would be coming to live with men

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (fulfilled Matthew 1:23)

**Jesus claimed to be the “I AM” of Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3)** (John 8:58: Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.) (Exodus

3:14: And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.) (Exodus 6:2-3: And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.) This was blasphemy as far as they were concerned. They immediately set out to stone Jesus. Jesus was/is/always will be THE GREAT "I AM".

**Only God can forgive sins.** Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? (Mark 2:7) Yet Jesus forgave sins When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. (Mark 2:5). So he was either blaspheming or He was God. It's an amazing thing that God can forgive sins.

**For someone to put their name beside or with God's was blasphemy.** God's name was so holy to a Jew that nobody could be associated with God's name. Yet Jesus claimed equality with the Father and Holy Spirit: through the Baptismal formula Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28:19) & in the benediction: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor.13:14)

**Jesus was all – powerful by His statement in Matt.28:18,** "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." He showed his power by calming storms, by curing diseases, by creating fishes and loaves, by his conquering death, etc. Jesus Christ had the power to create. He created and is maintaining the world: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. (John 1:1-3) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: (Heb.1:3) He created fishes and loaves for the four and five thousand, turned water into wine, etc.

Jesus Christ showed power over storms by calming them, over gravity by walking on water, and over death by conquering it.

**Jesus Christ received worship from men.** Only God was to be worshiped.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>1</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matt. 2:1-2)

**And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Luke 4:8)**

yet Jesus readily accepted the worship given Him.

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. (John 9:38)

In John 20:28, Thomas called Jesus, “my Lord and my God.” Jesus readily accepted this statement and never rebuked him.

**God was manifest in the flesh** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:14) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Tim.3:16) He was therefore able to have flesh and bones and at the same time be God who is Spirit.

**Jesus’ Resurrection shows His deity.** If He had been a fake, God the Father would have kept Him in the grave for judgment. But God raised Him from the dead (Rom.6:4), and Romans 1:4 He was “...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” The Father God, by raising Jesus from the dead, showed the world that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was not a created being. He was “incarnated” or “became man”. “Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made.” (John 1:3).

#### **Jesus possessed the attributes of God:**

**Eternal:** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2) (John 8:58) (Col.1:17) (Rev.1:8).

**Unchangeable:** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

(Heb.13:8) **Omnipotent:** And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. (Luke 8:24) (Matt.28:18)

**Omnipresent:** For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matt.18:20) (John 1:48; John 3:13; Matt.28:20);

**Omniscient:** But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? (Luke 5:22) (Mark 11:2-6) (John 2:24-25) (Matt.24:3-31)

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

(Mark 1:24) Sinless: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (1 Peter2:22) ( John 19:4)

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“**Holy, holy, holy** is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, **and is to come.**” (Revelation 4:8) 3x holy!!

**We are a “son of God” or “child of God”.** But Jesus is **the** “only begotten Son of God” For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16). The main word here is the word “THE”. Jesus is “THE Son of God.” When Jesus said he was the Son of God, the Jews took that to mean “deity” and tried to kill him. The Jews had no doubt what the Son of God meant. To a Jew, sonship was equality.

**Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost as far as His humanity but His deity always existed.** Jesus coexists with the Father. They are “one”. They are one in nature (eternal Spirit), but they have different offices and responsibilities. They are both indivisibly linked together All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. (Matt.11:27) (Luke 10:22) And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me. (John 12:45)

**The Father was the Jehovah of the O.T.** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1) and Jesus in the N.T. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. (John 10:11) Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (Heb.13:20) For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. (1 Pet.2:25) For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Rev. 7:17)

**In John 5:18, Jesus called God his Father.** Again to a Jew they saw this as making himself equal with God and tried to stone him. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:18) In John 14:9 Jesus said, “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father...”

**In John 10:33 the Jews again tried to stone** Jesus because they believed He was only a man claiming to be God. The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. (John 10:33)

**We saw Jesus Christ’s glory at the Transfiguration.** Peter, James and John were eyewitnesses of His majesty!! And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. ... (Matthew 17)

**In Col.2:9 we see that** “For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” In Jude 25, Jesus is addressed as, “To the only wise God our Savior.” In Col.1:15, “Who (Christ) is the image of the invisible God...” Jesus was equal with the Father Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:5-6)

**Jesus had glory before He came to earth as a man** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (John 17:5) For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another. (Isaiah 48:11) I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42:8)

**In John 1:1**, we see that Jesus (the Word) was God. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1) All the different Bible versions claim this and only the Jehovah Witnesses' Bible says "The Word was a god". Are all those Greek scholars wrong? Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43:10)

**In 1 John 5:20**, Jesus is called the "true God and eternal life." Eternal life is a "eternal life" – "eternal past" to "eternal future". "From everlasting to everlasting you are God."

**In Titus 2:13**, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

### **VERSES THE CULTS USE TO DISPROVE JESUS' DEITY**

Now let's look at the verses the cults and adherents to false religions use to try and support their erroneous views of Christ. Not only do they deny Jesus is God, they try to quote the Bible to prove they are right.

#### **COLOSSIANS 1:15 ~ JESUS, THE FIRSTBORN**

**Colossians 1:15:** "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

**Jehovah Witness:** "Look at that. Paul says Jesus is the "firstborn" of all "creation." Paul is saying that Jesus was the very first of all of God's creations. He was brought into being some-time in eternity past (before the creation of the world). So, because that is the case, obviously Jesus can't be the eternal, Almighty God."

In **Colossians 1:15**, that word "firstborn," there, is the Greek word "prototokos." It means: 1. Superior 2. Preeminent in rank 3. Above all creation  
*Why* is Jesus superior over all creation? The very next verse explains. Notice the flow.

**Colossians 1:16-17:** "For by Him [Jesus] all things [How many things? ALL THINGS] were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Jesus is superior to everything. He is the One who *made* everything!

To deal with the implications of these two verses (**Col. 1:16-17**) the Jehovah Witnesses added the word "OTHER" after "ALL" four times into their Bible

translation that are not in the original Greek to give people the impression that Jesus only made *some* things—not ALL things.

### **JOHN 3:16 ~ JESUS, DOES "BEGOTTEN" MEAN CREATED?**

**John 3:16:** “For God [speaking of the Father] so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**Jehovah Witness:** “Look at that! Jesus says he was begotten! This verse surely indicates that he was created and therefore not the eternal God.” They are taught this phrase “only begotten” (*monogenes* in the Greek) means “created.” Well, they’re wrong again. The word does not mean that. And a wealth of Greek scholars & lexicons back this up.

The Greek word *monogenes* comes from two Greek terms: *monos* meaning “one” and the noun *genes* which means “kind” or “type.” So, you put these two words together and you have *monogenes* which means: “unique,” “only,” or “one of its kind.”

**John 3:16** is not saying that God the Father created Him. He’s saying that He is God’s only, unique, one of a kind Savior! This is why Peter could boldly pronounce to the Sanhedrin in...**Acts 4:12:** ..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.”

Jesus is the “monogenes,” the only, one of a kind Savior! There is salvation in no one else”.

### **REVELATION 3:14 ~ JESUS, THE "BEGINNING" OF CREATION?**

Here in **Revelation 3:14**, Jesus refers to Himself with a few different titles, but there’s one in particular the cults focus on. Let’s read what Jesus said...

**Revelation 3:14:** “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, “These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God...”

**Jehovah Witness:** “Jesus calls himself the “Beginning of the creation of God.” If Jesus had a beginning or if he is any part of the creation of God, he cannot be Almighty God.”

In **Rev. 3:14**, the Greek word here for “Beginning” is the word “arche.” It’s the word from which we get our English word *architect*. Greek scholars say that this word (“arche”) can be properly interpreted as: Origin, Source, Designer, Supervisor, First Cause, Ruler. This is why God the Father can also refer to Himself with the very same word in **Revelation 21:6**! In fact, **Revelation 21:6** is a great cross-reference to write in the margin of your Bible at **Revelation 3:14**.

Notice what **Revelation 21:5-6** says:

**Revelation 21:5-6:** 5 “Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.” 6 And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning

[arche] and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”

So, notice that, God the Father refers to Himself with the very same title, the *arche*, the Beginning. **Rev. 3:14** Jesus is not saying that He *had* a beginning or that He is the first thing that God *made*. He is saying that He is the One who *began* all of creation, that He is the designer, origin, the first cause, or ruler of all creation! Also For example, John writes in... **John 1:3**: “All things came into being [How?] through *Him*.” Through Jesus. He’s the designer. He’s the architect.

### **Isaiah 44:24: IS JESUS THE CREATOR?**

**Jehovah Witness**: “Well, we believe Jesus is a creator *in a sense*. After God created Jesus, Jesus helped God create the other things.”

**Isaiah 44:24**: “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, the LORD [YHWH], am the maker of *all* things, stretching out the heavens [How? With someone else’s help? No.] by Myself, and spreading out the earth [with help? No.] all alone.”

“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, I the LORD am the maker of ALL things; stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone.”

If God created everything “all alone” as this passage (**Isaiah 44:24**) says and Jesus created “all things” (**John 1:3**; **Colossians 1:16-17**) you have to conclude that Jesus must be that God, the God of the Old Testament—Yahweh!

### **JOHN 5:25 ~ JESUS, THE SON OF GOD**

**Jehovah Witness**: If he’s the *Son* of God, surely he can’t be the eternal Almighty God.” They believe Jesus’ title (“Son of God”) somehow means Jesus is inferior to God.

**John 5:25**: “Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”

What *did* Jesus mean when He said He was “the *Son* of God”?

Was this a way of saying that He was *less* than God, as Jehovah’s Witnesses contend? Not at all. In fact it was actually a claim to deity (equality with God). In context now:

**John 5:18**: “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, [Why?] because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His *Father* [implying that He was the *Son* of God], making Himself [What?] equal with God.”

Those listening to Him understood that a son is of the same nature, the same species, the same essence, as his father. And so they immediately understood what Jesus meant by referring to Himself as the Son of God. *'He's claiming to be equal with God!'* And they sought to kill Him. So this title “Son of God” actually helps to *verify* Jesus’ deity rather than *undermine* it. “The Son of God” actually means, “All Inclusive God.”

## **JOHN 14:28 ~ JESUS SAYS THE FATHER IS "GREATER"**

**John 14:28:** “You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is *greater* than I.”

**Jehovah Witness:** “Look! Jesus says right here that his Father is “greater” than him. You keep saying that Jesus is equal in nature with the Father; but that contradicts what Jesus himself said!”

The Greek word for “greater” in **John 14:28** is the word *meizon*. This word is a *quantitative* term, not a *qualitative* term. Let me explain.

- A quantitative term describes quantities, levels, positions, etc.
- A qualitative term describes qualities, character, nature.

When I say, “The amount of water in this glass is greater than the water in that glass,” I’m speaking quantitatively. I’m not saying that the water in this glass is *better* than the water in that glass.

When Jesus spoke of His Father being “greater” than Him (**John 14:28**), He was speaking *quantitatively* (as the word *meizon* implies). Jesus was referring to His Father’s position, *not* His nature. He was not saying His Father was *better* than Him or more worthy of worship. That would contradict what the Bible says elsewhere.

**Hebrews 1:3** says. Speaking of Jesus, it says: “He [Jesus] is the radiance of His glory [God the Father’s] and the exact representation of His nature.”

Jesus is absolutely equal in nature to God the Father. But in **John 14:28**, while Jesus was here on the Earth having “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant” (**Phil. 2:7**), having been made for “a little while lower than the angels” (**Heb. 2:9**), it was completely appropriate to speak of His Father being greater than Him (positionally). He was not saying that the Father was better than Him in character or in nature.

And the same is true with Jesus’ statement there in **John 14:28**. When it comes to Jesus and the Father’s nature, Jesus said...**John 10:30**: “I and the Father are one.” They are so identical in nature, Jesus told Philip in **John 14:9** “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

## **MATTHEW 19:16-17 ~ JESUS IS NOT GOOD?**

**Matthew 19:16–17:** Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call *Me* good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

**Jehovah Witness:** “Jesus says, no one is good but God! Jesus was saying, in effect: ‘*Whoa! Watch who you call good. Don’t call me good!*’ Jesus was clearly denying equality with God.”

**Two Key Questions to ask here:**

## 1. Is it true, according to the Scriptures, that God alone truly is good?

The Bible makes it clear that the hearts of men are desperately wicked (**Jeremiah 17:9**), all of mankind like sheep have gone astray (**Isaiah 53:6**), there is “none righteous; no not one” (**Romans 3:10**) and Jesus even called His own disciples evil: “If you then, being *evil...*” (**Luke 11:13**).

And Jesus Himself just said, “No one is good but One, that is, God,” here in the verse we’re examining (**Matt. 19:17**). So, ask the person that cites **Matthew 19:17** this question: Is it true that God alone is good? They should have no qualms about answering YES. Then ask the second question...

## 2. Was Jesus good?

What’s the answer to this one? YES. Uh-oh. The person who thinks **Matthew 19:17** *disproves* the deity of Christ is trapped! Why?

If God alone is good (as Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 19:17**) and Jesus is good, that means: JESUS IS GOD.

**Jehovah Witness:** “Well then, maybe Jesus wasn’t good!!”

If they say something like this, you’ll want to have two verse references handy. I encourage you to write these down in the margin of your Bible sometime right there at **Matthew 19:17**...

Notice **Hebrews 7:26**, speaking of Jesus, it says: “For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, *holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners* and exalted above the heavens.”

**John 10:11**, Jesus even calls Himself good:

“I am the *good* shepherd. The *good* shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

So again, if God *alone* is good and *Jesus* is good, that means: Jesus is God. See how that works? **Matthew 19:17**) with the question: “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.” Jesus was, in effect, asking him, “*Do you realize who you are saying I am when you call Me good? Are you saying I’m God?*”

## CONCLUSION

Every attempt to use the Bible to deny the deity of Christ crashes to the ground with a careful examination of the passage. And as we carefully consider these verses, we see more clearly why Christians for 2,000 years have arrived at the same conclusion we have, that... **JESUS IS GOD.**

And because this is the case, how important it is that we heed what He had to say. His words were not the words of an angel, or the speculation of some philosopher, good teacher, or self-proclaimed prophet. His words are the very words of your Creator.

This also means that God did not send one of the angels or some other created creature to die there on that cruel wooden Roman cross for your sins (as Jehovah

Witnesses and Mormons teach). He Himself came. Ponder that! God Himself, Jesus, Your maker, left the comfort and glory of Heaven so YOU could be saved and enjoy everlasting life with Him. It was *God* who endured the arrests, scourgings, the mocking, the spitting, the punches, the lies, the trials, and the agonies of the Roman crucifixion. He endured all that for you! **Romans 5:8** says... “God [not an angel or mere man] demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Because of His great love for you, Jesus died on the cross, taking the judgment you deserved for your sins, so that you could be forgiven, so that you could be reconciled back to God. He rose from the grave three days later and today He’s offering all humanity the free gift of everlasting life and the forgiveness of sins to all who will place their faith in Him.

What awesome love God has shown you and me!

- How could you possibly not want to love Him back?
- How could you not want to know Him better?
- How could you not want to serve Him?

Oh my friends, I exhort you to love the Lord! Get to know Him better. Live for Jesus. Serve Him! Worship Him! He is so worthy! Amen?