



ANGLES AND ASPECTS OF SALVATION

Where
in
Heaven's
name
are you
going?

How on
Earth do
you
Know?

Angles and Aspects of Salvation

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*In thankfulness for what the Lord, in
His love, has done for me, and for the
people, who in their love, answered
His call, and took the time to tell me
about it.*

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The Infinite Perfect God Loves You

Greetings. It is of utmost importance that you understand that you are a person who is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), who Jesus Christ, the Alpha, the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last (Revelation 22:13); the very Word of God, who was with God in the beginning, who IS God, through whom all things that were made were made (John 1:1-3), humbled Himself and came to earth as a man and died for (and resurrected from the dead 3 days later [1 Corinthians 15:1-4]), so He could spend eternity with you. He loves you **THAT** much; **FAR** more than you or I can possibly comprehend in this life; this side of eternity. This makes you someone of extremely great importance and worth, with much to gain...or lose/forfeit, with potentially very much to live for. Some years ago I was struggling with my own understanding of much of what is explained in this short book, and I would have very much liked to have had something like it in my hand to read at that time. For the aforementioned reasons, along with the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I thought it fitting to write it.

Some of the points that I will present here may seem repetitive, and for that I [sort of] apologize in advance, but I very deeply want you to understand and/or be refreshed and fully assured in the Gospel (good news) message, which is the message proclaimed here and throughout the Bible. It is the most important and comforting message there is for all of humanity. The title of this writing is, of course, "Angles and Aspects of Salvation," so as we ponder these various angles and aspects of looking at the single truth of the good news of salvation, some repetition is inevitable. I did not attempt to wholly and conclusively outline and solidify the "boundaries" of these various angles here, which upon examination harmonize perfectly with one another. I will leave any such finalization of categorizing these angles to be determined by you, the reader, along with the prompting of the Holy Spirit. I did, however, insert some headings in order to assist in ease of reading and mental organization. The wisdom of God is far beyond that of man (Isiah 55:8-9), and therefore it need not, and will not be confined and/or limited in order to fit neatly into any man-made categorization scheme.

Whether you are someone seeking the truth in regard to eternal life and salvation, or you are a seasoned saint enjoying a read about his/her blessed assurance, I pray that God uses this humble piece of writing to minister to you and to bless you. He certainly blessed me as I wrote it. That is how He is; that is how He works.

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Born In Sin

It is of utmost importance to also understand that you, myself, and everyone who has ever lived as a human being on this earth, with the exception of Jesus Christ Himself, was born in sin; born as a sinner (Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:10, 5: 8,12, 6:11, 8:10, Ephesians 2:5). You are not a sinner because you have sinned, you sin because you are a sinner and it is your nature. Sin therefore comes naturally to us humans. Again, you were BORN AS a sinner. Think of it this way: A cherry tree is a cherry tree before it ever has any cherries on it. It produces cherries because it was conceived as a cherry tree. It germinated as a cherry tree, its DNA is cherry tree DNA, and therefore it is a cherry tree. It is still a cherry tree even when it does not have any cherries on it, or even if it never produces any cherries at all, and it will always be a cherry tree as long as it exists. In the same way, you were born a sinner from sinners (yes, your parents), thus you ARE a sinner, even during a moment where you manage somehow to not be sinning at all (if such a moment were ever to occur). Just as a cat is a cat and it behaves like a cat, because it was born as a cat from cats, and a dog is dog and it behaves like a dog, because it is born as a dog from dogs, and so on, you are a sinner and you sin because you were born of sinners. Think about this: Does anyone have to teach a child how to be naughty? ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). All have missed the mark of perfection, which is what sin is; sin is also transgression of the law (1 John 3:4), these are one in the same as God requires the law to be kept perfectly, as in from birth to death; NO mistakes AT ALL.

Our Just Desserts

The wages of sin, ANY type of sin, and ANY amount of sin, is death (Romans 6:23, James 2:10). Before we go any further, let us review what wages are. I think that the extremely noteworthy significance of what wages really are often gets lost when this verse/topic is discussed. Consider it like this: When I go to work and do my job, my employer deposits money into my bank account every 2 weeks. This is not because my employer is nice or naughty, it is not because my employer hates me or loves me, it is because the money that I earned (my wages) is due to be paid to me, and that money is rightfully MINE; I already rightfully own it (humanly speaking) as a result of keeping my end of an agreement; a contract; a set standard.

Just as a given amount of money is my due WAGE for working for my employer, death is the due WAGE for my sin. Death is what sin EARNS, just as my work for my employer earns me money. God does

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not punish sin because He enjoys doing so (Ezekiel 33:11 makes it clear that He does not enjoy doing so), just as my employer does not necessarily want to pay me, it is simply what is demanded, thus what must be done. Again, my employer is rendering unto me what BELONGS to me; what is rightfully MINE. There is no gift giving involved here. Granted, humans are not always just and reliable to do what they say they are going to do, because they are imperfect, thus they will make mistakes. It is therefore of course possible that the amount of wages paid for someone's work (by humans) to be unfair, or that wages which are due may not be paid or be late due to an error of some sort. God, however is error free (PERFECT), just, and He is ALWAYS on time. The wages of sin are fair and just and MUST be paid, and therefore WILL be paid...this is part of God's nature, which is ABSOLUTE PERFECTION.

God Does Not Want To Give Us Our Just Desserts

God does not want to condemn you! Even though the wages of sin is indeed death, and as already stated, these wages MUST be paid, God does not want you or me to receive the wages of sin. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* I will talk more about what repentance is below. The wages of sin (death) may seem like very bad news, but this is by no means the end of the story. God has provided us with a way out. The second part of Romans 6:23 is: *"but the **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

We Cannot Earn Even Part of Our Salvation

Ephesians 2:8 and 9 tell us: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the **gift** of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Salvation; being saved; the way out of receiving what our sin has earned us; receiving the irrevocable gift of everlasting life, CANNOT be earned by anything good that we do or anything bad that we keep ourselves from doing. We are not even a little bit capable of earning salvation. No matter how hard we may try to work for it, we CANNOT. It does not matter how many good things we do or may promise or try to do, or how hard we try not to do bad things, we all miss the mark (God's mark, which again is perfection...the bullseye, as it were). In fact, even if someone were able to somehow miraculously NEVER sin again (on this side of eternity), he or she still could not have eternal life, based on that. Again, all of us have already sinned, and therefore we have rightfully earned the wage of sin; just like if I were to only work one hour at my job this week and then quit, I still have a paycheck (wages; money) coming. The wage of sin is MINE; I have that "paycheck" of death coming no matter how "good" I may now be, even

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for the rest of my life. James 2:10 tells us that if we break even one of God's laws, we have broken the whole of God's law. Therefore even one sin in a lifetime earns death; the wage of sin.

Our "Goodness" Is Not Good Enough

You may still be thinking something like: "Well, I'm still not as bad as someone like a serial rapist or a mass murderer, so I should be OK." That does not matter. Think of it this way: Liquid raw sewage may be fouler to us than water in the bowl of a public toilet. I am not however going to sit back and sip on a tall cool glass of either one of them, because they are both UNFIT FOR CONSUMPTION! They are both polluted and tainted. The parallel here is that even though your sinful behavior (toilet water) may not appear to you to be as bad as someone else's sinful behavior, especially not nearly as bad as someone like Adolph Hitler's (raw sewage); he being a person we may typically think of as someone who "should be in Hell," you still have sin; you are still a sinner and fall short of the glory of God. You still miss the mark of perfection; the bullseye that God requires. Your sin and Adolph Hitler's sin both fall short of the glory of God. Your sin and Hitler's sin both miss the bullseye that is required. Your sin and Hitler's sin make both of you unfit to enter God's kingdom (just as both the toilet bowl water and raw sewage are unfit to enter my body). Your sin and Hitler's sin both ultimately earn the same wage, that being death; more importantly (and more tragically) they both earn the terrible second death (more on this below). I know that this may sound absurd and even offensive to some of you, but I humbly implore you to keep reading, because despite this perhaps disturbing truth, there is another wonderful truth that ever so greatly overshadows it. That overshadowing truth is that no matter how bad any of us may be, Jesus is able, willing, and desires to (Revelation 3:20) save us from this terrible fate (more on this below). Remember, we are dealing with the infinite wisdom and perfection of God, which supersedes the finite wisdom and imperfection of men (more on this below as well).

The Just And Loving Judge

As we ponder all of this, we could say that Jesus took our rightful paycheck for sin. This paycheck, so to speak, is however also a perfectly just judgement, and a just judge (God) MUST judge justly. Think of it like this: You are in a hypothetical courtroom in a hypothetical country. You have committed a very costly offence, something that has resulted in around \$5 million in damages. According to the law of this hypothetical nation, the judge MUST sentence you to pay complete restitution for the damage that you caused; the full \$5 million. Under this law you will also be obligated to remain incarcerated until you have

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paid the entire fine, even if that incarceration winds up being for the rest of your life. The judge is just. He therefore hands down the sentence that he MUST hand down to you, which you deserve in accordance with the law, which he MUST be true to and uphold. His gavel falls. The bailiffs escort you out of the court room. In this example you do not, nor will you ever have anywhere near enough money to pay this fine. The judge, being aware of your inability to pay, in the meantime takes off his robe, leaves the bench, and begins to walk out of the courtroom. This parallels how Jesus left His glory and humbled Himself to become a man and walk among us, as described in Philippians 2:5-8. As the bailiffs are walking you in front of the clerk's desk, to your surprise you hear the judge's voice behind you. He orders them to wait. He approaches the clerk and tells her that he will be paying the fine for you. He gets out his checkbook and begins writing. Please understand that he is not revoking the sentence! He has handed it down, and HE IS PAYING THE REQUIRED FINE ON YOUR BEHALF, AND IT WILL COST HIM THE FULL AMOUNT OUT OF HIS OWN PERSONAL RESOURCES AND COST YOU NOTHING!! This action parallels how the perfect and sinless Jesus took the mandatory wage/judgment for our sin upon Himself, on the cross at Calvary (Romans 5:8, Philippians 2:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21). However, at this point, you have a choice to make. You can either trust the judge and let him pay the fine for you, accepting his wonderful and generous GIFT, and then experience immediate freedom, or you can in shame and/or arrogance/pride, refuse the gift, and go back to your cell. If someone truly gives me a gift and I accept it, it is mine; it belongs to me, and I did ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to earn ANY of it. If I do not accept it, it is NOT mine, and it does not belong to me. Perhaps you will tell the judge that you have the situation under control, and that you will find your own way of earning the money to pay the fine yourself. Again, this is something that you will never be able to do, especially under the circumstances of being incarcerated, where you are in no position to earn any significant amount of money whatsoever. Relying on your own efforts in this example will result in life-long incarceration. Unfortunately, this response of rejection is what parallels the response of most people to Jesus: They will reject the free gift (Romans 5:15) of removal of their sins with the promise of incomprehensibly wonderful eternal life; something that only He can provide (John 14:6), out of ignorance, shame, or arrogance/pride, or a combination thereof. Because of this rejection they will remain in bondage, and then tragically die in their sin and reap the unspeakably terrible eternal consequence thereof.

To TRULY Believe

Please understand, in the above example, if I let the judge pay my fine for me, I am relying totally on him to do so, as I am unable to help myself AT ALL. This is how we must trust Jesus. He tells us in John

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6:47: "Verily verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life." The original Greek word "pisteuo" that is used in the New Testament, which is translated to "believe," in the English Bible translations means to totally rely upon; to commit one's trust to something; to truly have faith in something. I like to think of it like this: I am up on the edge of a balcony of the fourth or fifth floor of a building that is very much on fire, so much so that I cannot go back inside of it. I am obviously too far up to jump to safety either. I am alone, and I am trying to figure out a way to get myself out of the mess that I am in that is going to most certainly result in my death, if I do not find a way to get myself out of it. Obviously there is no way that I am going to be able to get myself out of it. While I am pondering my dire situation, the first response team shows up with their truck with the big extension ladder. It is extended up to me, along with a first responder, who tells me to take his hand and step over to him. At that point I have to repent. In most of the New Testament, the English word "repent" is translated from the Greek words "metanoia" or "metanoeo." Both of these words mean to change ("meta") your mind ("noia is a noun, noeo is a verb). In other words, I have to change my mind about relying on any of my own feeble and useless efforts to get myself out of this deadly predicament of fire and a long drop to the ground; I must make the decision instead to simply take the hand of the first responder, step on to the ladder and allow (FULLY trust) the first responder and his team to save me from my otherwise fatal predicament. In the same way, I must repent of; as in change my mind about relying on any of my feeble and useless works at all, including promises to somehow change my life, as well as religious rites and rituals, etc., to somehow help to make me good enough or "eligible" to be saved from the fate that I deserved, and thus be able to come into God's presence. None of these useless efforts that I make contribute even a little bit to making me eligible for the free gift of salvation. Instead, I must simply trust and fully/completely rely upon Jesus, and Jesus alone, to save me. My example with the first responders is, however, somewhat flawed. In the example, I had to actually do a few small things in order to help the first responders save me. In terms of Jesus saving me, I simply trust him, PERIOD. In terms of salvation: Jesus plus something is NOTHING, Jesus plus nothing is EVERYTHING!

Our Cleanest Is Filth

Isiah 64:6 tells us that our righteousnesses, as in our attempts to be good or to not be bad, are as filthy rags. The English translators of this passage were gentlemen, however, because the filthy rags that the original Hebrew language actually points to are used menstrual cloths; something extremely vile, filthy, and nasty. This shows us just how unimpressed God is with our best efforts to be righteous, outside of the righteousness of Jesus, which He freely gives to (imputes, or places

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upon) those who put their trust in (believe on) Him.

Skip The Religion And Do The Father's Will

Just about every religious system, other than the true Gospel of Jesus Christ (gospel means good news), including many forms of "Christianity," [falsely] teach that it is necessary for us, to one degree or another, to somehow work at being good or enlightened enough to go to Heaven, get reincarnated into something better, go in to Nirvana, or whatever the case may be, in terms of the afterlife. People who ardently follow a false "Christian" gospel, that somehow mixes works with grace for salvation, who never **fully** put their trust in the finished work of Christ; the Gospel (again, good news), which is His death for our sins according to Scripture, His burial and Resurrection according to Scripture (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), and die in such a state (die in their sin), are in for a very rude awakening, so to speak, at their final judgement. Jesus portrays it like this in the following passage:

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Notice in verse 21 where Jesus points out the fact that those who enter the kingdom of heaven are those who do the will of His Father which is in Heaven. With that in mind, at this point I think it would be extremely wise and of ETERNAL importance for us to nail down just what the will of His Father is! Is the will of His Father that we keep the law? We cannot keep the law! If we could have done so, Jesus never would have needed to do what He did for us in order to save us. As I pointed out at the beginning of this writing, we were BORN in sin; we ALL fall short of God's standard; God's standard is perfection. Therefore, if the will of the Father were for us to simply keep the law, something that Jesus laid out the specific requirements for to an even greater and more specific/difficult degree than in the Old Testament, in passages such as Matthew chapter 5, NO ONE from the human race could or would EVER enter the kingdom of Heaven, and the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross at Calvary would have been nothing more than a tragic waste of life (Galatians 2:21). Jesus Himself tells us **the will of His Father** in the following passage:

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

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John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

*John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and **believeth on him**, may **have** everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

The last verse sums it up and nails it down what the will of the Father is. This is what one must do to enter the kingdom of Heaven: To look upon the Son (Jesus), meaning to recognize and acknowledge Him for who He is, (the sinless Son of God who has come to us in the flesh to save us from our sins, see Hebrews chapter 1 and John chapter 1, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans chapters 3, 4 and 5, and numerous others), what He has done for us (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), and BELIEVE on Him. He states/emphasizes what is necessary again in verse 47 of the same chapter: "*Verily verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me **hath** everlasting life.*" Please note that only God COULD have done what He did for you (1 Peter 1:19-20, Hebrews 1:3), and that only God WOULD have done what He did for you (Romans 5:6-8). The more you walk with God and study His word, the more self-evident this truth will become to you.

Note also the present tense expressed in verses 40 and 47 (and numerous other verses). The Greek word "echo," rendered in the English translation as "hath," indicates **present possession** of something. That something is EVERLASTING LIFE. If something is everlasting/eternal and presently in my possession, that means that I HAVE IT and I CANNOT lose it (verse 37 emphasizes this as well), otherwise it would not be eternal/everlasting and I would not be in present possession of it. When you put your trust in Jesus you HAVE everlasting life. If not, then God would be a liar. God CANNOT LIE!! (Hebrews 6:18, Numbers 23:19, Titus 1:2). Dr. Hank Lindstrom rightly said that this is a message of confirmation, not probation! ©

Now notice what the people are saying to Jesus in verse 22 of Matthew 7. They are bragging about their works. They are not talking at all about their TRUST in the finished work of Jesus, because they NEVER had it; they had NEVER been saved. Remember Ephesians 2:8-9: "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" They had never put their faith/trust in Jesus, thus had never been born of the Spirit (I will discuss that below), thus they were "serving" God out of their own sinful nature. We have already talked about how unimpressed God is with that. Meaningful service to God ONLY occurs when it is done in the Spirit; in whom we are sealed with at our new birth, which takes place at the moment we believe on/trust in the finished work of Jesus

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(Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). A side note: In a sense one may indeed correctly argue that the will of the Father is for us to perfectly keep the law, however the Father is quite aware that we cannot, so He sent His Son to keep it for us. We have the sinless perfection of Jesus (which is the law kept perfectly and not transgressed [1 John 3:4, 9]) placed upon us at the moment we believe on Him; when we do the will of His Father (John 6:40, Romans 4:11, 21-25).

The saddest verse of our passage in Matthew 7 is verse 23: He tells them that He NEVER knew them; NOT that he once knew them and then didn't know them anymore. The worst part of that verse is where He tells them to depart from Him, while he pointed out the fact that they were WORKERS of INIQUITY (sin). Look at Nahum 1:7 "*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*" The people in this passage never trusted Jesus, thus He never knew them.

Another thought that I take from the Matthew 7:21-23 passage is that Satan does not care if you follow Jesus, if you serve Jesus, or even if you worship Jesus; just as long as you do not TRUST Jesus (the following, the serving, and the worshiping will however be quite empty without receiving what comes from the trusting). A prime example is Judas Iscariot, who in Jesus' earthly ministry followed, served, and worshiped Jesus, but never trusted in Him, particularly for salvation. The fate of Judas was very tragic indeed (Acts 1:25). More about this concept in the section below entitled "Former Christians" (you may have figured this already: there really is no such thing as a former Christian, if one rightly defines a Christian as a sinner who has been saved by grace, as a result of truly believing on Jesus).

Saved By Grace Means Saved By Grace

When someone tries to add their works to what Jesus did for us, in order to somehow "do their part" in "earning" or "making themselves eligible" for salvation (as in NOT fully trusting and relying Him, which is blatant disobedience to the will of the Father), it pollutes the finished work of Jesus, and is thus a meaningless and impotent "faith." With this kind of "faith," I have something to wrongfully boast about in my sinful state. Jesus purged our sins by Himself (Hebrews 1:3). In the previous section, we have clearly seen the tragic results of adding works to grace, regarding salvation. Salvation is either of grace or works, not of both (Romans 11:6). Your works fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), because you were born in sin (Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:10, 5: 8, 12, 6:11, 8:10, Ephesians 2:5) and thus they are tainted/polluted by sin, so salvation must therefore be accomplished by Jesus alone. If you are relying at all on your works to obtain the irrevocable gift of salvation, you are not trusting Jesus; you are disobeying (sinning), and thus failing to meet the one and only requirement for salvation.

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Let us briefly revisit the metaphor of the filthy menstrual rags that I discussed earlier. Let us compare Jesus to someone who is cleaning an operating room, using only proper technique, sterile equipment and cleaning agents in order to do so. Let us compare someone insisting upon the supposed "necessity" to somehow "do their part" in order to earn, or somehow make themselves "eligible" for or "worthy" of God's grace/salvation; who has never fully put their trust in the finished work of Jesus for salvation, to someone trying to help Jesus clean the operating room with some of those filthy menstrual rags. They may meticulously wipe the scalpels, probes, tables, etc. with the filthy rags, however it obviously does not help, no matter how meticulous their efforts may be. It obviously fouls all of the cleaner's efforts and ruins everything, and it will likely result in a dead patient! The cleaner not only does not need their "help," their "help" is a hindrance of the worst order! This metaphor works well, because as I emphasized earlier, sin results in death. Everything that one does in the flesh, without the new birth, is somehow tainted with sin (contaminated), to one degree or another. Therefore, our efforts to "help" with our salvation serve only to contaminate, infect, foul, and thus ruin (and insult) the pure, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

One Gospel Means Only One Gospel

There are many who preach false (and fouled) gospels that mix grace with works for salvation. Perhaps blatantly, perhaps subtly. Please DO NOT listen to them. These people may be eloquent, they may indeed [mis]use the Bible to "prove" their point, and they may even be well intended. Their message may sound very wholesome, inspiring, clever, convicting, convincing, spiritual and deep, and have only subtle differences from what I am telling you about here (what I am telling you about here is what the Bible says). But such teachings are of course false gospels; damnable counterfeits. They are much like counterfeit money that looks almost just like the real thing, but it is not only worthless, it is also terribly deceitful and robs people of what should be theirs. Such false teachings are to be discerned (recognized) by comparing them to the true Gospel, and then completely dismissed and rejected. The Apostle Paul proclaims in Galatians 1:6-12 that anyone preaching ANY OTHER Gospel other than the one that he preaches to us, the one that Jesus Himself revealed to him (which is summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4), is to be accursed. He even goes out of his way in this passage to say it twice! Satan masquerades as an angel of light, and his ministers will do the same (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). They are often very attractive and convincing, but they ultimately lead to, and lure people into eternal destruction/damnation. Again, some of these ministers may indeed be well intended, however the truth is that they are very sadly deceived, and even more sadly, are deceiving others.

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Always remember that God is not the author of confusion, and that the true Gospel of Christ is straight forward and simple, not difficult and/or confusing, or out of reach (2 Corinthians 11:3, 1 Corinthians 14:33), as Satan would like you to believe. Remember that Jesus already did the hard work that you or I could never do (Hebrews 1:3).

We Are All Sick

Matthew 9:12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

...and we are ALL sick, meaning that we all have sin. This does better than to simply serve as a metaphor, because sin, which is a spiritual sickness, like physical sickness, ultimately leads to death, unless something or someone intervenes. We all need Jesus; the Great Physician; the Savior, to intervene. **You do not get better to get saved, you get saved to get better!** Please know however, that you are not too sick or too far gone for Jesus to heal and save you, no matter what you may have done or what you may have failed to do. Once again, He is the Great Physician. Yes indeed, neither you nor I are worthy of what Jesus did for us on the cross at Calvary; no one is. Remember, the ultimate and only cure for death is salvation, which is a free gift that Jesus gives to you (Romans 5:15), that He completely paid for, and is there for the (your) taking. Teaching that promotes the idea that you need to somehow “clean up your act” before you can come to Jesus and have Him save you (or the notion that you are even remotely capable of adequately cleaning up your act), is not only absolutely ludicrous, it is flat out heresy (which means teaching that is contradictory to the Bible; A.K.A. false). Again, James 2:10 makes it very clear that if we have broken one point of the law that we have broken all of the law. Sin is transgression (breaking of) the law (1 John 3:4). Again, you get saved to get better, you do not get better to get saved!

Think of it like this: You are sitting with a friend and he starts showing very serious signs that he is having a heart attack. You get out your phone and start to dial 911 to get help. Your friend then says to you, “No, don’t call. I am in no shape right now to see a doctor. I would be embarrassed to be seen in a hospital looking like this, and they probably won’t even let me come in, being such a wreck as I am right now. I am going to go home, start working out, make sure that I eat right, get enough sleep, and lower my stress level first. I’ll see a doctor about this problem when I’m in better shape and looking presentable. Thanks, but no thanks.” Now how stupid would that be?! This is obviously not going to work! It is going to most likely result in death (again, like sin)! It is fatally out of order!

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Unfortunately, this example correctly reflects the incorrect mentality, the uselessness, and the flat out danger of the erroneous teaching (false gospel) that says (or implies) that we somehow have to "clean up our act" before Jesus will save us. Such a false gospel can only lead to damnation. Tragically, some variation of this false (counterfeit) gospel is being preached and taught in many churches today; it is often taught that one way or another you somehow have to manage to repent of all of your sin (in this case "repent" erroneously means to somehow forsake and turn from all of your sinful ways), or genuinely promise to do so, BEFORE Jesus will save you (look out if you somehow break your promise!...and you WILL break such a promise!). NO ONE can do this (James 2:10, Romans 7:14-25)! Even if someone were actually able to do this, it is still an unbiblical (heretical) and worthless WORKS based "salvation" message (although many preachers will deny this fact as they preach grace out of one side of their mouth and works out of the other, in some subtle way). Again, we are saved entirely by grace, NOT of works AT ALL (Ephesians 2:8 and 9 again, Romans 11:6, etc.). The phrases "repent of your sin(s)," or "turn from all your sin(s)," as well as other phrases with implications like it, such as "surrender your life/all to Christ," or "make Jesus Lord of your life," are found nowhere in the New Testament in connection with the message of receiving the free gift of salvation and the promise of eternal life that is given to (and in NO way earned by) the believer. These are all works of the law and we are not saved by works of the law (Galatians 2:16, Romans 3:20). A side note: Jesus IS LORD of all, whether you or I like it or not (Philippians 2:9-11, Luke 2:11)! He is in absolutely no need of any of us to somehow "make" him Lord.

Order Please!

Indeed, once someone is saved by GRACE they absolutely SHOULD live for the Lord (Ephesians 2:10); fully surrendering their life (their all) to Him and fully obeying Him. They should be seeking Him for more and more power to continuously keep progressively conquering the sins of the flesh that they were originally born into. There is no question that this is indeed the VERY BEST way to live, for many reasons. God blesses a believer's obedience (in this life and in the hereafter) and chastises (punishes) a believer's disobedience (Proverbs 3, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Hebrews 12:5-11), possibly even with an early physical death (1 Corinthians 11:30, Acts 5:1-10). But this is an issue of discipleship; which is growing in the Lord ONCE WE HAVE BEEN SAVED; as in born again (I will get to that shortly). There CANNOT BE any real discipleship until there is salvation, which one can be fully assured of, and cannot lose once they have it (John 6:47, 10:28 and many more)!

Let us revisit the example of the friend that you are sitting with who is having the heart attack: Now let us say that he lets you call 911, then goes to the hospital, then gets his heart repaired and ultimately heals.

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THEN he goes home and exercises, eats right, avoids undue stress, etc., in order to get in better physical condition. This scenario parallels the order of salvation (which is permanent and cannot be undone) being FOLLOWED BY discipleship (growing in the Lord). This is the correct order that the Bible teaches; we have the proverbial horse before (pulling) the cart now. Remember this: we do not turn from our sin for Jesus to save us, we turn to Jesus to save us from our sin!

The Perfect, Sinless Second Birth...

Now, let us talk about what it is to be "born again." Consider the following Scriptures from the Gospel of John, chapter 3; arguably the most famous chapter in the Bible:

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We are born first of water, which I believe for a number of reasons is our physical birth; our flesh. The majority of our body mass is water. There is also lots of water in the womb, as well as in the materials that the man provides for conception. After this we must be reborn sinless (born of sinless God) in order to enter the kingdom of God. When does this happen? It happens ONLY when we put our trust in the finished work of Jesus. Note that the verse directly below, which is one of the most famous verses in the Bible, is in the very same chapter, even in the very same conversation (between Jesus and Nicodemus) as the verses that are directly above:

John 3:16 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.

Being born of the Spirit (born of God) and belief in Jesus (fully trusting in who He is and what He has done for you) are mutually inclusive. He tells us that we must be born again to in order to enter the

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Kingdom of God. He tells us that when we believe, that we have eternal life, and the only people that have eternal life are sinless people; people that do not earn death, death is of course the wage of sin (Romans 6:23). The only kind of people that are sinless are those born of the Spirit, as in born again, born of God (1 John 3:9). Only born again people can enter the kingdom of God. God will have no sin whatsoever dwelling in His kingdom. A reason for this is that if sin were to dwell there, then death (the due wage of sin) would then be required to dwell there also. The kingdom of God is a place of eternal life and perfection. Sin and death have absolutely no place there, whatsoever (see Revelation, chapters 21 and 22). Again, belief on Jesus and the second birth are mutually inclusive. Those of us who have eternal life have believed on Jesus. We are born again, and our new/Spiritual birth is sinless (1 John 3:9), thus we are ultimately free from death, this is a condition which is absolutely necessary in order to enter the Kingdom of God (and to truly/meaningfully serve God). We are also told in 2 Corinthians 5:17 that anyone who is in Christ is a new creature. Ponder the passage below that also weighs in on this wonderful truth.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Apostle Paul, of course, adds emphasis to this in Ephesians 1:13 where he tells us that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit when we believe the Gospel. See also 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 for another angle on contrasting the flesh birth and the Spiritual birth.

Those of us who have put our trust in Christ have indeed put off the old sinful self and put on the new self; the second birth that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and Christ living in us (Colossians 3:9, Galatians 2:19-20, 5:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Please remember however, that on this side of eternity, we born again people still reside in our fallen flesh that was born in sin, therefore we obviously still sin. The new sinless man; the one born of the Spirit, and the sinful flesh will be opposed to one another (Galatians 5:16-17). Please refer to Romans 7:14-25 where the Apostle Paul talks about his own personal struggle with the flesh that he continuously had AFTER his conversion (being born again/receiving salvation). We will one day shed the sinfulness of our flesh once and for all, when we meet Jesus face to face (1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 13:12, 15:50-54). More on that below.

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...That Cannot Die!

God inspired the apostle John to write more Scripture; 3 letters, also referred to as epistles (1, 2 and 3 John) and the book of Revelation. Look at 1 John 3:9:

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Once again, my new birth is sinless, in other words, it has NO sin, past, present or future; this is why Jesus can tell me that I HAVE (as in present tense) everlasting life when I believe on Him. Again, no sin, no wage of sin, which means no death! No death means EVERLASTING LIFE! Notice how the verse says "*for his seed remaineth in him,*" that would be the seed of Jesus. Galatians 6:7-8 tell us that we reap what we sow, how much more true would this be of God?! Jesus has sown His seed in me, he WILL reap me! He WILL also sow His seed in you and reap you, if you will put your trust in Him and believe the Gospel. If you do so, there is no one, including yourself that can prevent this reaping once that seed has been planted (John 10:28, as well the numerous other passages plainly tell us that we have eternal life, present tense, when we believe on Jesus). Again, He promises everlasting life to us because of the sinless Spiritual rebirth that He gives us: No sin means no wage of sin, thus no death. No death means everlasting life! If you do not die, you obviously remain alive!

A side note: Obviously the bodies (sinful flesh) of Christians still die. However, Paul points out in 2 Corinthians 5:8 that for the believer to be absent from the body is for him/her to be present with the Lord; in other words, very much alive! I also believe that not all Christians will physically die. I will not develop that topic here, but 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 provide a very good introduction to the study of it.

Live In Your New And Sinless Self

Galatians 5:16 tells us to Walk in the Spirit, which is of course sinless, and it is the power of our new sinless self, that we may not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Being sinless not only refers to not doing what is evil, it equally refers to doing what is good. In Scriptures such as 1 John and in Matthew 22 we see commandments and admonitions to love one another. Failing to obey such things would be sin. Not doing what we should do (often referred to as sins of omission) is sin, just as much as doing what we should not do (often referred to as sins of commission) is sin (James 4:17). If you have broken one law (sinned), you are guilty of them all (James 2:10). If the new birth/new self is not sinless in both respects, then it is not sinless. This would then render what I have been talking about in this book to be nothing but nonsense. This emphasizes

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why it is so important for believers to walk in the Spirit, which again is sinless and directly opposed to the sins of the flesh, so we will not fulfill that sinful lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17), and then have to deal with the consequences of doing so. We of course cannot walk in the Spirit unless we have the Spirit. We only get the Spirit ONLY when we put our trust in (believe on) Jesus. We can only truly serve God and submit to God when we walk in the Spirit, in whom we are sealed when we believe the Gospel (Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The wording in Ephesians 1:13 indicates that the Holy Spirit Himself is the seal. This is something (someone) that IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT going to be broken.

When we have the Spirit, again who is the power of the new and sinless self, only then can we bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23) and serve/honor God, and grow in our walk with God. Trying to do so without the new birth; the righteousness that HE gives us, takes us right back to the examples of the filthy rags of Isaiah 64:4 and the impure works of Matthew 7:21-23. They are one in the same and are absolutely useless for serving and honoring God.

His Grace Is ENOUGH

Jesus tells the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that His grace is **SUFFICIENT** for him and that His (Jesus') strength is made perfect in (Paul's...our) weakness. Sufficient and necessary are not the same thing. For example: My beating heart is necessary for me to sit here and type the words of this book. However a beating heart by itself is not enough to get the job done. It is not sufficient. For me to actually be able to accomplish my task, I also need the rest of my body, a computer, etc., to get the job done, to be sufficient for accomplishing my task. The grace of Jesus is SUFFICIENT for us; not just necessary for, but sufficient for our salvation. Jesus accomplished the task BY HIMSELF (Hebrews 1:3) without any help from you or me! We are indeed weak, and His strength WILL be made perfect in the weakness of the believer. Weakness is something that we all have plenty of, especially in comparison to the infinite power of God. JESUS is the savior! HE is the AUTHOR and the FINISHER of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). In other words, it is He who gives us the ability to trust Him, and it is He who did ALL of the work that we trust Him ALONE for! HE ALONE saves us (Hebrews 1:3). His grace is enough. I cannot begin to emphasize (or even begin to comprehend, for that matter) just how powerful and magnificent Jesus really is!

God Needs ZERO Help In Saving You

...and He will not accept any. If by some strange turn of events I have not managed to do so already, I want to make it abundantly clear that salvation is not a result of any works or law keeping (Romans 3:28,

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11:6). Salvation is not a 2 step process, which it is often falsely (and often subtly) presented as. It is a one step process and it is purely a result of what **God does for you** when you put your trust in the finished work of Jesus. Remember, you are not saved by giving your life to Jesus, you are saved because Jesus gave His life for you! He did the hard work that you could never do! In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas answered the Philippian jailor, who fell down before them and asked them what he must do to be saved. "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved...*" was their response. Paul and Silas mentioned nothing about water baptism, church liturgy, church rituals, penances, going to weekly confession, turning from one's sins, praying any sort of prescribed prayer, getting up the nerve to walk down a church aisle in front of a bunch of people, promising to turn over every aspect of one's life to God (which is however what every saved person should be striving to do, by the grace of God, who has already saved them), or anything else like that, in order to get saved or to stay saved. We believe on Jesus, period, to get saved, and then we stay saved once and for all. Again, HIS grace is SUFFICIENT. How do we believe on Jesus? As I pointed out earlier, we fully trust Him and believe that He finished the WHOLE job; we believe the Gospel (again, summarized in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4). We believe that He is who He says He is. We do not try to add ANYTHING to what HE has done for us. We RECEIVE his GIFT and do not try to somehow pay Him (not even partially) for it, or try to help Him (again, not even partially) with it. We then enter into His rest (Hebrews 4:3). Gifts are not earned, otherwise they are not truly gifts! Also, we read in Romans 11:29 that God does not repent of His gifts and callings, in other words, He does not change His mind about them or take them back once He has given them. Again, when God gives us the gift of eternal life, we HAVE it FOREVER! Again, if it can be lost, then it is not eternal/everlasting.

An important note: Every believer of the Gospel should most certainly receive water baptism. Water baptism is an act of obedience and a blessing that is to be received by saved people (Acts 8:37, 16:33). You do not want to miss out on it.

God is A Whole Lot Smarter Than We Are

There are those that think that what I am presenting here is crazy. They will argue that it is too easy or cheap, or that it is the proverbial nonexistent "free lunch," etc. I think that very often the reasoning of these people ultimately stems from pride (a lust of the flesh), because they want at least some of the credit for their "purity," thus for their salvation (whether they will admit it...or even fully realize it or not). This is of course of the old self and the flesh of someone who has not been born again. Another possibility is that a person has been born again, but they have gone astray from the truth of the Gospel (they are living in the flesh). It is important to note here that going astray (which can

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happen to a saved individual) and becoming unsaved (which cannot happen to a saved individual) are NOT the same thing. Whether the folks who disagree with me like it or not, what I have been asserting here about the free gift salvation is what the Bible (and thus God) also asserts about the free gift of salvation. Please understand that this is not human wisdom. This is the INFINITE wisdom of God (Psalm 147:5, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 32:17, Matthew 19:26, Colossians 1:17), which is inconceivably higher than the extremely finite "wisdom" of men, or the ways of men (Isiah 55:8-9). Please also read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 for a better understanding of this.

We Have To Be Born Before We Can Grow

Some may read this book and think that I am somehow promoting a "license" to sin. Nothing could be further from the truth! I talked about walking in the Spirit; which is just the opposite of sinning (Galatians 5:16, 19-21), and I said that you cannot walk in the Spirit unless you have Him (the Holy Spirit). Logic would follow that if you have the Spirit to walk in, you are saved (sealed with the Holy Spirit, as we have already discussed), and thus you are going to Heaven. To be clear, the Apostle Paul was writing these words (and the words in all of his epistles; letters/books of the Bible) to believers; who are saved people that are guaranteed everlasting life; who are people that had been born again (born of/sealed with the Spirit). You have to be born first before you can grow! Think of it like this: when you were physically born, you were helpless. You learned and you grew. You learned to walk, talk, etc., and as time went by, you progressively matured. You obviously did not know everything and have your whole life mapped out at your physical birth. You needed to grow and needed others to instruct you. The same applies to Spiritual birth. We are of course born again when we trust in/believe on Jesus. Old, wise, and mature people are not physically born as old, wise, and mature people. They are physically born as helpless babies and then they mature. Neither are people spiritually born as mature Christians/believers. They are born as babies in Christ, and then they progressively grow and mature as they walk with God (some mature much faster than others). Please note that sometimes even the most mature Christians make mistakes and have setbacks. God uses those for good as well (Romans 8:28).

Paul spends a great deal of time in his epistles (the books of Romans through Philemon in the New Testament) instructing SAVED PEOPLE on how to grow in God, and live for Him. This is quite the opposite of giving them the proverbial "license to sin" (Romans 6:1-2). As believers/saved people, we do indeed need to pay very close attention to and obey the instructions that Paul gave to us under the inspiration of God! Failure to do so is of course sin, and as stated before, there are consequences for sin, perhaps even early physical death. And of course if we are obedient, there will be blessing/reward, both here and in the hereafter (Hebrews

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12: 5-11, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 5:5, 11:30, Revelation 22:12). Yes, as a believer I can indeed go off and sin. It is somewhat like how a citizen of the USA can choose to commit a crime. No one gets a "license" to commit a crime, but they can choose to commit one. There are consequences for committing that crime, perhaps very severe consequences, but not loss of citizenship. Again, when a believer sins (lives according to the flesh), there may indeed be consequences (again, possibly very severe consequences) for that sin, but not ejection from the family; not loss of salvation! A believer cannot become unborn, and his/her new birth is eternal!

As already stated, believers most definitely should live for the Lord and serve Him (Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:1, etc.), but we do not serve to get saved. We are also not to look at our service to God for proof of our salvation, or at anyone else's for there's. Doing so wrongfully takes the focus off of the sinless Christ and puts it on the sinful us, and back-loads works into salvation, which amounts to work based "salvation." As I have pointed out already, it is impossible for our works to earn us even a miniscule portion of our salvation. We are saved purely because of what the Bible tells us, not at all because of how we may feel or what we may or may not do. We serve in order to deepen our fellowship with God and thus have the most fulfilling life here on earth that we possibly can, followed by an abundantly rewarded life in the eternal hereafter (1 Corinthians 3:8, 14, 2 John 1:8). The all-knowing, all powerful and omnipresent God does not need for His children (believers/saved people) to do anything at all for Him. He allows (privileges) them to do so in order to bless them, and it pleases Him.

Another note: If true Christians (again, who Paul was addressing in his epistles) were going to automatically live perfect lives, they would not need instructions in order to do so. The Holy Spirit did however see fit to have Paul write down many instructions in these epistles for us Christians. We are imperfect. Again, we still have the flesh as well as the new sinless nature. Christians desperately need these instructions.

I Need Holy Help to Confess the Lord Jesus

The Apostle John also affirms that God dwells in us when we confess that Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 4:15-16). Confessing that Jesus is the Son of God means that we approve of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God; that we agree that Jesus is the Son of God; that we believe that Jesus is the Son of God, which is who He says He is (John 5, 8, 10, 14, 17). And if He is who He says He is, we therefore believe Him and embrace the fact that He finished the work of salvation for us (Hebrews 1:3, John 19:30); the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). This is something that only the perfect and sinless Son of God could do, and those of us who truly confess Him are those of us who fully trust

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in/believe on Him. We cannot confess Him, the Lord (who He says He is; as in the Alpha, Omega, the beginning and the end, the Lamb who was slain), except for by the Holy Ghost, [synonymous with Holy Spirit] (1 Corinthians 12:3). Romans 10:9 also tells us: "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*" Once again, no one can truly confess the Lord Jesus; the Son of God without the Holy Spirit, whom we receive and are sealed with when we fully put our trust in the finished work of Jesus and believe the Gospel (Ephesians 1:13, 1 John 4:4, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

With The Son Comes the Father

We can in no way divorce Jesus from being God Almighty. Jesus tells us in John 10:30 that He and the Father are one. He goes on to tell His disciples in John 14:9 that if they have seen Him, they have seen the Father. Scripture makes it clear that the Father, whom Jesus is one with, raised Him from the dead, and that when we are truly believing on Jesus, we are believing on the Father also (Romans 4:24, 6:4, 10:9, Galatians 1:1). It would also be right to say that in order for one to rightly believe on the Father, that one must believe on the Son (Jesus). Therefore, if we are denying Jesus, we are denying the Father also. They, along with the Holy Spirit, are a package deal, so to speak. The three of them are one:

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

"The Word" referred to in this verse is Jesus. (John 1:1-18). There are numerous other Scripture passages that speak to the wonderful mystery of the triune God (the oneness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), which is well beyond the human ability to fully comprehend. It would not be at all practical to attempt to fully develop this topic in the scope of this writing.

Know Who's Saying What, And To Who, And Why It Is Being Said

We must always be very careful to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15); this essentially means to correctly apply the Scriptures. The Bible is, among many things, a book of instructions. It contains instructions on a lot of topics. Those included are salvation (receiving the free gift of salvation/eternal life), and discipleship, which is the growing in the Lord that we do AFTER we have received the free gift of salvation. Salvation of course must come FIRST (I really hope I have made that clear). Think of a mechanic using a comprehensive repair manual for instructions to work on a car. If he is trying to fix the brakes, but refers to the chapter on the electrical system for instructions on how to repair those brakes, no matter how diligently he may do so, it is not

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going to go well. It may very well wind up resulting in the death (again, like sin) of the driver, as well as anyone else who may be in the car with him, and/or whoever may be in his way! In comparison, when passages that are meant for instructions on discipleship are treated as instructions that are necessary for salvation (words works being mixed with grace for "salvation"), a situation resulting in a far deadlier disaster very well may occur: that being people believing, as well as teaching and spreading, a deceptive false gospel that has zero power to save, thus resulting in them ultimately receiving the second death; eternal damnation; the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15)!

Please know that this unspeakable, incomprehensibly terrible and permanent second death is the fate of ANYONE, no matter how "good" or "nice" or religious they may be, who goes to their death without believing on/fully trusting in the finished work of Jesus! Satan does not care who or what you may trust or believe in, just as long as it is not the real Jesus Christ of the Bible, along with the finished work that He accomplished for you. Satan does not care, because no matter how he can keep you from fully believing on/trusting in Jesus, he gets the same result (John 14:6). He hates you and will go any length to keep you out of the Kingdom of God, and in eternal damnation, which he is destined for (Revelation 20:10). To those of you who are parents: Satan hates your children and wants eternal damnation for them as well. Ponder that for a little while!

Seeing Clearly Through The Correct Lens

When we read the Bible through the lens of the true Gospel message, with the understanding that the believer has two natures (the flesh that is born of man in sin, and the spirit that is born of God in perfection), treating discipleship passages as discipleship passages, and treating salvation passages as salvation passages, differentiating between the addressing of a nation or a church (such as the letters to the 7 churches in Revelation 2 and 3, and the numerous prophecies made about NATIONS in the Old Testament), versus the addressing of individuals, also differentiating between the addressing of people before the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, versus addressing people after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, etc.; all of these being examples of rightly dividing, the supposed "contradictions" in the Bible seem to just go away. When we read the Bible this way (the correct way), we see a perfect love letter written to us from outside of/beyond time and space, at least as we are currently able to know and perceive it (just think of all of the fulfilled prophecies for starters!). This love letter shows us how to live life abundantly (John 10:10), and gives us ASSURANCE of the most wonderful promise imaginable; that being of eternal life in a state that is free of any sort of pain, physical or otherwise, in the presence of, as well as in perfect communion with God (Revelation 21: 1-7). A side note: When you find something that seems

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to be “contradiction” in the Bible, do some proverbial digging (studying) and you will uncover a gem.

You're Not Too Far Gone; Jesus Loves You

Please know that there is NOTHING that you have done or failed to do, or could ever do or fail to do in this life that is too bad for God to forgive you of, or make it so He does not love you, or make it so He cannot or will not use you, if you will simply believe on Him. Let us look at a couple major men who are often thought of as two of the “heroes,” of the Bible. First, let us take King David, whom the Bible refers to as a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22), who wrote over half of the Psalms of the Bible. He was both an adulterer and a murderer (2 Samuel chapter 11), and he committed plenty of other sins besides those. But God forgave him and never stopped loving him, and He still used him to accomplish great things with results that continue to extend far beyond the time of his earthly lifespan. There were however of course consequences for his sins (2 Samuel 12:10-18). As a matter of fact, the beautiful and powerful Psalm 51 was written by King David as he lamented these sins of murder and adultery, after being confronted about them (wouldn’t it be great if all leaders responded to confrontation about their sins this way?!).

The Apostle Paul, who I have quoted many times in this writing, who like David, wrote, under God’s inspiration, a huge chunk of our Bible (Romans through Philemon, perhaps even Hebrews), relentlessly persecuted Christians, and likely was responsible for many of their deaths, before his conversion (Acts 7, 8, and 9). He made plenty of mistakes after his conversion as well (Romans 7:14-25). God obviously still used him greatly! Remember, the grace of Jesus is sufficient for us, and His strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Another important thing to note: As you read the Bible, you will see that God is ALWAYS the hero, not the people.

Just Give Him What You’ve Got

Perhaps you are wanting to believe on/trust in Jesus, but for whatever the reason may be, you are having trouble doing so. Consider the situation in the Gospel of Mark chapter 9. There is a man with a demon possessed son, who comes to Jesus, and asks Jesus to remove the demon from him. Jesus tells him that all things are possible if he will believe. We see the man’s response in verse 24: *“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”* The man brought Jesus the faith that He had, and Jesus granted his request and removed the demon. Look at Matthew 17:20: *“... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”* Mustard seeds are really small.

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Bring Jesus whatever faith that you have, and in your weakness, let His strength be made perfect (2 Corinthians 12:9)! Paul gives us another angle on this beautiful truth in Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

Even the believer's love for Jesus comes from God. I can only truly love Him in my spiritual/born again nature (Matthew 22:37, Galatians 5:17, Ephesians 2:1-6), which I do not have until I have believed on Him. I did not get saved because of my love for Jesus, I got saved because Jesus' love for me (Romans 5:8). He gets ALL of the glory.

Please understand that Jesus is THE way THE truth and THE life and that no one comes unto the Father but by Him (John 14:6). There are no alternative solutions. Period!

Some Common Objections

I have heard people say such things to the effect of: "Well, my loved one didn't believe this, so even if this message is true (which it is), I don't want to go to some sort of heaven where they won't be allowed in, because it wouldn't really be heaven without them there." I have a couple of things to humbly suggest in response to this. First, please know that no mere mortal living here on this side of eternity has the comprehensive list of those residing in or destined for heaven or hell. None of us know who may have in their last moments, or even seconds, put their trust in Christ, which again of course is the one and only requirement for salvation. Secondly, if your loved one is in Heaven, he/she wants you to join him/her there. If he/she is not in Heaven, he/she most certainly DOES NOT want you to join him/her where he/she is (Luke 16:27-28).

Another objection that I have heard from people when they are pondering suffering, either their own or that of others, is something to the effect of them asking: "If there is a God, then why does He allow such terrible things to happen?" Or perhaps they do believe there is a God, but they are angry at Him for allowing something to happen to them, or to someone else, that they do not see as being "right." One of the early church "fathers" said something to the effect of, "If God could be fully understood by humans, then he wouldn't be God" (Isiah 55:8-9). Also read Job chapters 38-42 for more perspective on this. A God who's entire scope that one could fit inside the confines of a 3 and-a-half pound human brain wouldn't be much worth worshiping, as he would certainly have limits; something the real God does not have. The only ability that God does not possess is the ability to make a mistake. I give this topic additional treatment in the section below entitled "Live Your Life In Order To Please God." Please also know that Jesus (God) is well acquainted with suffering and has done plenty of it Himself, on our behalf (Isiah 53, also read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and

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John). In the scope of all things, some suffering seems to be necessary (please refer to most of what is written above in this book).

Please understand that man brought death into the world by his sin that he chose to commit (1 Corinthians 15:21, Genesis 3:19). Having already discussed here at great length the just deserts/wages of sin, the current predicament that our world is in makes perfect sense. As I have also already discussed here at length, God has provided us with a way out, at His own expense. There will be some suffering in the meantime, until we (those of us who have believed on Jesus) see Jesus face to face and are then like Him, and see Him as He is (1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 13:12). He does indeed love us, and He will not allow the suffering that we (believers) experience to be in vain (Romans 5:3-4), as His suffering was NOT in vain. Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for good for those of us who love God and who are called according to His purpose. The people who love God and who are called according to His purpose are those of us who have believed on Him, who are born again; born of God, with the sinless second birth (1 John 3:9), that keeps His commandments perfectly, and therefore loves Him as one should (Matthew 22:37-40); those of us who have been promised (possess) eternal life according to His will (John 6:40, 47). Remember that our new nature is perfect, but our flesh is sinful.

I most certainly believe that God did not create evil (Psalm 92:15), however I do believe that He did see it necessary to create the possibility of evil, so that those of His creation would have to love and choose Him by their own free will. Do you want to be loved because someone has been forced to love you? Do you want to be chosen because there is no other choice but you, or because whoever chose you was somehow forced into choosing you? You are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). I would respectfully argue that He sees such things as this in much the same way you do. He wants His relationship with you to be real and genuine, just as you desire your relationships to be.

We all know that there are times when we to have to go through difficult circumstances. We will have go through those difficult circumstances, whether we choose to or not, however we can choose to go through them with Jesus (God), and therefore have them result in growth and blessing from Him (Romans 5:3-4, 8:17). We can also choose to go through those difficult circumstances without Him, and not only miss out on that growth and blessing, but become more calloused; bitter; unhappy.

Please also know that God can handle your anger. Bring it to Him. He wants you to (Psalms 55:22, 1 Peter 5:7). He will use it for your ultimate benefit, as opposed to Satan using it to your detriment, if you stubbornly hold on to it. Read the Psalms. There is plenty of anger expressed and dealt with there, as well as other places in Scripture.

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Another objection that sometimes comes up is that many non-Christians are nicer, more generous, helpful, etc. people than many Christians are (I agree). Please remember that each and every one of us have our flesh (which has sin), with each person's flesh being unique to him or herself. The nature of some people's flesh is simply more unpleasant and uncooperative than that of others. If a person is unsaved, yet generally comes across as being relatively pleasant, helpful, cooperative, etc. in their flesh (the old nature/man and the flesh being all that they have; being unsaved), they will likely be more desirable to be around than someone who does not come across as pleasantly and cooperatively in their flesh, who has indeed been born again, yet isn't walking in the Spirit. If a Christian is not walking in the Spirit, he/she is living in the flesh, and thus really is not living any differently than he/she did before receiving salvation/the new birth.

Something That Should NOT Be Put Off

There you have it. If you have not done so already, PLEASE believe on/put your trust in Jesus before you put this book down! You very well may not have tomorrow to think about it. Once again, going to your death without ever putting your trust in/believing on Jesus, will secure your place in the judgment of Revelation 20, where "the dead;" meaning those without the eternal life that Jesus gives, are judged. Those judged here of course receive the second death, which again is the Lake of Fire referred to in Revelation 20 (the ultimate wage of sin, which we all rightfully deserve without the second/new birth). I DO NOT WANT YOU TO BE JUDGED THERE, AND NEITHER DOES GOD (2 Peter 3:9)! None of us are guaranteed another minute on this side of eternity! You do not want to stand before the Father without the imputed (again, meaning to be given to, or to have put upon you) righteousness of Jesus (Romans 4:22-25), and have God pass the sentence upon you that you would deserve; the sentence that He MUST pass upon you if you are without the righteousness of His Son, which only comes through faith in Him; believing the Gospel. Please believe the Gospel! If you have done so, you are going to Heaven whether you like it or not (John 6:47, 10: 28, 29, etc.)! ☺ As believers of the Gospel, all of our sins of the past, present, and future (remember that they were ALL future when He died for you; when He died in your place), have been paid for in full, and removed. Once you have believed on Jesus, you are washed perfectly CLEAN with His blood (Romans 3:25, 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, 2:13, Colossians 1:14, 20, Hebrews 9:7, 14, 20, 10:19, 13:12, 1 Peter 1:2, 19, 1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5). If you have just now put your trust in Jesus and believed the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), accepting His free gift to you of salvation/eternal life, I invite you to say your first prayer to Him, AS a man or woman who IS going to Heaven. Say something like this:

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Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I fall short of your standard of perfection. I believe that you are the perfect, sinless Son of God. I know that because of my sins I deserved death, but I believe that you died in my place for my sins, according to the Scriptures, and that you were buried and rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures. I believe that you did that for me, and I am fully trusting in you for the salvation that you alone have now given to me, that I know you will never take away. Thank you Jesus, thank you for giving me your righteousness. Help me now to walk in the Spirit, whom I now have been sealed with; who now dwells within me, in order to serve you, to learn more about you, to grow closer to you, and receive more of your blessing; to receive more of you. Thank you so much for loving me so much and being willing to do what you did for me, so I could spend eternity with you. Amen.

Work OUT Not FOR

Paul tells each of us in Philippians 2:12 to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. This is NOT a passage that tells us that we are saved by works (upon examination, we see that no passages in the New Testament say such a thing). In the book of Philippians, Paul is addressing believers (Philippians 1:1); once again, saved people, and he is telling them to work OUT, not for, THEIR OWN salvation; something that they ALREADY HAVE. Remember the repentant thief who was crucified next to Jesus, who Jesus promised would be in Paradise with Him that very day (Luke 23:39-43)? What work was that man capable of ever doing for Jesus or truly promising to do, during the short remainder of his earthly life? NONE! He was saved because of what Jesus did for him and the promise that Jesus made to him, not because of anything he could ever do for Jesus or any promise that he would have made to Jesus! Once again, Jesus gets ALL of the glory. That being said, there will be some things that we discover as we walk with the Lord in the Spirit; in our salvation, as we are doing God's work, seeking Him, and learning about Him, which will put us into a state of awe, and may indeed shake us up a little bit (fear and trembling). This is bound to happen as you progressively grasp to greater and greater degrees just how much God has done and continues to do for YOU, and what He alone has saved YOU from; that ultimately being the damnation that YOU deserved! Such things will make you want to dig deeper and learn even more about God and what He has done for you, and what He continues to do for you. As you continue to do this, it will compel you more and more to love, prefer, and focus your energy on things that are pure and everlasting; which have real value, as opposed to tainted and temporal things that are ultimately worthless; of no value at all, and/or are blatantly destructive. You will also find yourself hating and being disgusted with the sins of the flesh more and more. These things happen because your will continuously lines up more and more with God's will; as you become more and more like Jesus; as your walk in the Spirit

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progressively deepens. There is a chorus of a beautiful classic hymn that sums this idea up pretty well, it reads:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

"Former Christians"

You may have talked to and even know, or know of people, perhaps even some famous preachers who have written Christian books, who have supposedly "left Christianity." I respectfully submit that I do not think I have ever met or know of anyone who fits that description, who has fully trusted in/believed on the finished work of Jesus and been saved by Him. It is highly possible that if someone is depending upon their works/performance for their "salvation," to even a small degree; thus living in fear (more of a frightened fear, not awe and reverence, which is the "fear" that we are supposed to have for God), that they will become disillusioned and give up on their religion, of what probably ultimately amounts to nothing more than an elaborate, meaningless, and enslaving list and/or system of "do's and don'ts," not ever having received and been sealed with, and thus empowered with the Holy Spirit, who of course only indwells and seals someone when, and only when they truly believe on/trust in Jesus; when they believe the Gospel. Trying to truly live "righteously" only in the power of the old man and the flesh is always going to end poorly, one way or the other.

Study The Bible

I urge you to diligently study the Scriptures that I have quoted and cited in this writing, as well as the rest of God's Word. Regarding "the rest of God's Word," if you are new to the Bible, I humbly suggest starting with reading the Gospel of John, then Acts, then Romans, through Philemon, then Hebrews 1, Genesis, Psalms, then Proverbs.

Test what I, or anyone else tells you about the Scriptures against the Scriptures themselves. They are the ultimate standard for truth. The Bible itself speaks very highly of doing this (Acts 17:10-11). Be a "Good Berean." ☺

Set Apart

The moment that you put your trust in Jesus, you are sanctified, which means to be set apart. When this happens, you have experienced what is often referred to as "positional sanctification." This means that you now stand sinless before God, because you have been born of the Spirit and your sins have been removed and paid for by Jesus, and you bear His imputed (again, meaning given to, or placed upon you) righteousness (Romans 4:22-25). Thus He has perfected you and set

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you apart for eternal life with him (1 Corinthians 1:2, Hebrews 10:14 and more). At this point you are forever free from the ultimate penalty of sin. As you walk in the Spirit; as in grow and mature in your faith and your walk with Jesus, the life you live progressively becomes more set apart for Him. This process is often referred to as experiential sanctification. As this happens you are experiencing more and more freedom from the power of sin. One day when you, the believer meet Jesus face to face and see Him as He is (1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 13:12), you will be free once and for all from the presence of sin!

Find A Church

God does not want us to go at this business of Christian discipleship alone; He did not create us to be islands, so to speak. He created us to be in fellowship with one another (Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Proverbs 27:17, Matthew 18:20, 1 Peter 3:8, Galatians 6:2). I would therefore implore you to find and get involved in a Church that preaches the TRUE GOSPEL (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

I would suggest that when you find a church that you are potentially interested in, that you call or meet privately with the pastor. Ask the pastor exactly what he would tell someone who wanted to know how to receive the free gift of salvation/eternal life. Ask him also what he believes is necessary to stay saved, or to "prove" that someone is saved. If he answers anything other than that of the finished work of Jesus alone for getting and staying saved (which is of course what the Bible teaches), or for "proof" of salvation, then look for another church. You and your family should regularly be getting solid Bible teaching and shepherding from your church leadership that is based on the true Gospel as its foundation (Matthew 7:24-27, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Galatians 1:6-9). Teaching and preaching from the basis of anything other than the solid foundation of the true Gospel is going to ultimately result in confusing, fruitless, and potentially damaging results (Matthew 7:26-27). One possible exception to the idea of leaving a church that is not properly preaching the Gospel is as follows: If you are a seasoned believer with a solid understanding of the Gospel, God may be calling you to be vocal and/or instrumental to getting that church on track with the true Gospel. If this is your situation, diligently seek the Lord on how He may want you to minister to, or perhaps leave that church.

If the pastor of a "church" that you inquire information from tells you that you must only listen to their leaders and refer to their literature, in terms of religious teaching (such as publications from the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society), and interpret the Bible through the teachings of these people and publications, run and don't look back. If they tell you that in addition to the 66 inspired Books of the Bible, that there are other inspired scriptures (such as the Book of Mormon, The Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrines and Covenants), run and don't look back.

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However, not from the people, only from their false teaching/beliefs. Please pray for these deceived and lost people and study what they have been/are deceived into believing. This will enable you to witness to them assertively and LOVINGLY, without belittling, insulting, or attacking them; keeping the focus ON JESUS, when the Lord gives you the opportunity to tell them about the real Jesus and the real Gospel. Upon inquiry it will quickly be blatantly apparent that such "churches" do not preach the true Gospel, however I thought it fitting to point them out distinctly. These are cults; meaning that they do not let the Bible stand on its own authority. In fact the "church" that promotes the teachings of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society even asserts their own corrupted "Bible translation;" the New World "translation." The points of corruption in this "translation" are too numerous to cover in the scope of this writing. I will however point out one of them, which is found in John 1:1, which blatantly denies the deity/supremacy of Christ, which is outright blasphemy. Neither of these groups, nor any other group teaching outside of the real Gospel, recognize and worship the true Jesus for who He really is (Revelation 1:8, 22:15, Hebrews 1:8, Colossians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 12:9, etc.).

Remember that churches are made up of people; sinners saved by grace, who still dwell in their sinful flesh, JUST LIKE YOU (if you have believed on Jesus). And just like you, they will stumble and fall from time to time. Lovingly help them up when this happens; do not kick them while they are down, you wouldn't like that to be done to you (Luke 6:31, 1 Corinthians 13). Therefore, do not expect your church to be perfect, it will not be. Do not expect everyone to act the way that they should act (or the way that YOU think they should act) all of the time; no one does, including you, even after they are saved. There also may be some unsaved members/attendees as well who need to hear and believe the Gospel just as much as any other unbeliever. Your loving/Godly behavior, testimony, and attitude just may be a very important part of what God uses to get through to them and bring them to salvation.

Also, be mindful that your pastor is also a human sinner saved by grace, and he has his very own struggles with sin, just like you do. Be willing to cut him some slack, and be quick to forgive him accordingly. Pray for him OFTEN; I suggest every day, multiple times. Also pray for him while he is preaching. Satan does not like sound doctrine to be dispensed clearly and effectively from the pulpit. Be good to him. He is likely working very hard for you. I believe that pastors are very high on the list of people that Satan does not want to be successful.

Do not expect the people of your church to be in full agreement on details of church operations, such as music, budget, building expansion projects, etc., with you, or with each other all of the time (or even most of the time). Be willing to listen objectively, and think (and pray,

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something we are given the charge and the privilege to do without ceasing [1 Thessalonians 5:17]) before you speak (James 1:19). Make a daily commitment to have a mindset of giving the people of your church the benefit of the doubt. Be kind to people, and be ready and willing to forgive them as God, for Christ's sake has already forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 2:13). God can teach us much through conflict. Remember that conflict (disagreement) in and of itself is not sin; mismanagement of conflict however is sin.

Be willing and eager to help out. Take care of and look out for your brothers and sisters in Christ, even give them preferential treatment (Romans 12:10); they are family! Remember that not all of them (and you) have the same abilities (or the same amount of, or degree of abilities), or the same specific callings and passions. I will also gently remind you that any abilities, and the amount of any one of them that each of us have, were given to us by God (1 Corinthians 4:7) in His perfect and infinite wisdom and discernment. Therefore, do not be arrogant. God does not prefer one of us over another (Romans 2:11).

Also remember that love is a choice; it is not necessarily some sort of overwhelming feeling that just overtakes us automatically. If it were simply the latter, then why did Jesus see the necessity and make the effort to command us to love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, love our neighbors (others) as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), or to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44)? In summary, be good to your church family, even when you do not feel like it. Love them even when you do not like them☺. Value them and treat them well. Be loyal to them. Go out of your way to help them and to be kind to them. Do not talk negatively about them behind their backs. You have a tremendous opportunity to serve God and to grow in Him (and help others to do so as well) by following these principles. The people of your church may very well also become some of your most dear and loyal lifetime (real) friends, in spite of their (and your) short-comings. Have an unhurried read of Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 for further discussion on this extremely important topic. A side note: I would argue that in reality, the dislike of a neighbor is the temptation to not love that neighbor. Being tempted is not a sin. Giving into temptation, which is failing to love that perhaps "not so likable" neighbor, is indeed a sin.

Live Your Life In Order To Please God

God is infinite (Psalm 147:5, Luke 1:37, Proverbs 15:3). The sum of the knowledge, capabilities, and accomplishments of every man and woman who has ever lived, is finite. It has also been quite well established scientifically that the universe itself, as vast as it is, is also finite. God, of course created the universe (Genesis 1:1, John 1:3). Infinity is infinitely larger and more significant than even the largest of what is finite (Ponder that and try to wrap your mind around it for a

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while). Therefore, which is most worthy of our efforts to please; God or man? I think that the answer to that question is infinitely obvious.☺ The [somewhat] ironic thing is that when we put God first, thus being more in step with Him, and of course then becoming more like Him, we become more loving (like Him), and thus better (more genuine) servants to other people; we ultimately treat them far better because of our far greater (God given and God inspired) capacity to love them than we would ever have otherwise.

Remember that your salvation is free; it cost you nothing whatsoever, nor will it ever. Your discipleship (following Jesus) may however be different. As you walk with God, you may find Him calling you to step outside of your comfort zone, so to speak. This “stepping out” may indeed (probably will) cost you something; perhaps even a great deal. The extreme examples of costly discipleship would be the lives of the apostles, such as Peter and Paul. They were not forced to give up the things that they gave up, or to do the things that they did, or suffer in the manner that they did in service to God, in order to get saved, or to stay saved. But they put God first, followed His direction, and made these sacrifices for Him anyway, and thus through Him, they accomplished feats of tremendous value that extended and continue to extend beyond their lifetimes. They are currently reaping the rewards of these sacrifices and will do so throughout eternity. Paul himself tells us in Romans 8:18 *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* Notice that he does not even make a comparison; he says that it isn’t even worth doing. Such a comparison likely cannot even be measured or perceived by us in our current state of being. I will try to illustrate though: Think of someone asking (not forcing) you to give up the only \$50 that you may have in your wallet, that you had other immediate plans for, for a legitimate and immediate need that they may have, with the genuine promise of a multi-billion dollar estate in exchange for it within a week’s time. I doubt that even this outlandish example comes close to doing justice to the comparison between our service to the Lord and His eternal rewards to us.

A beautiful and exceedingly satisfying way to serve God, amongst many others, is to directly tell others about Him and His Gospel. He is very pleased when people come to Faith in Jesus (Luke 15:10 and others). He uses (privileges) us to bring the message of salvation; the Gospel, to others and it pleases Him when we do so. THEREFORE:

Please share this message with someone else!

One way that I humbly suggest to do that is to walk through this book with a person who may need to hear the Gospel. Share this eternally important message with as many people as you can, then

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encourage them to share it with as many people as they can, and so on. The more the better. The more that you study the Scriptures and share the Gospel, the better at sharing the Gospel you become. Therefore, I urge you to practice sharing it as often as possible.

Be sure however to always share the Gospel in love (1 Corinthians 13:1-4)! No matter how wonderful something may be, when people are harshly force-fed anything, they tend to reject it. We DO NOT want this message being rejected! The urgency of the Gospel message to the eternal well-being of a person cannot be overstated. **Please do not hesitate to duplicate and distribute this book electronically, or as a hard copy!** You have my full permission to do so, as long as the textual content is not altered. I encourage you to do so on as large of a scale as you are able. This is another way that you have now been equipped with to spread the Gospel message. If you are reading this book from a hard copy, email me and I will send you a PDF of it, which you can easily print and/or distribute electronically. Please feel free to email me with other questions, prayer requests, etc. Let us bring in as many as we can to the free gift of eternal life that only comes by grace, and grace alone, through faith in the finished work of Jesus. May God bless you, and may we meet some day and spend forever together in the presence of God, on the perfect other side of eternity!

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Please also visit savedbygracealone.org or savedthruGracealone.com for more resources, including this book.

Addendum: Lots Of People Have Disappeared; Things are Bad

If you are reading this in a time after a lot of people have suddenly and “mysteriously” disappeared, the Rapture has occurred. I alluded to it above at the end of the “...That Cannot Die” section. Those of us who have disappeared are those who have put our trust in Christ; the body of Christ; the true Church (Colossians 1:24). We have not been taken by aliens or removed by some mystic new age force, because we were a menace to the next step of human evolution, or any other sort of nonsensical garbage “explanation” that the mainstream media, world government (whatever it may be called), or world religion (whatever it

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may be called) is feeding you. There may very well indeed be “aliens” around, but if so, they are not benevolent or “friendly” extraterrestrials from other worlds, they are evil, malevolent minions of Satan (fallen angels and/or demons), who are not limited to your present dimensionality, who are perhaps temporarily masquerading as “peaceful” extraterrestrials, who will readily tell you any lie that suits their agenda, without hesitation. What has happened to those of us who have disappeared, is that the [true] God of the Bible has taken us from the earth, and we have met Jesus in the air, and we are currently dwelling with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52). Needless to say, we are doing extremely well (unlike you, if you are unfortunate enough to be reading this after the Rapture and before the Glorious Appearing of Jesus). You still cannot earn salvation, but **it is still available to you by grace**, just as I have already explained above, at length. You are however in for a very rough road, regardless of whether you are a believer or not. You are probably already very well aware of this.

There are 144,000 missionaries (Revelation 7:1-8, 14:1-5) who are probably hated and likely vilified by the world government and the world religion. **Listen to them, and do NOT listen to the world government, or to the world religion, or to the “visitors from other worlds”** that may possibly be present (again, these “visitors” are extradimensional minions of Satan; enemies of God and the Gospel, and they desire your eternal damnation and will stop at nothing to secure it).

By now there are (if not yet, there will be), or already have been two witnesses in Jerusalem, with supernatural powers (Revelation 11:1-12), who are disturbing (or have disturbed) the world government and the world religion. These may be 2 individuals or possibly 2 groups of people. I tend to lean toward thinking that they are most likely 2 individuals, as I write this. Listen to them as well. These two witness may be still alive and around. If so, they will be killed, probably by the world leader (Revelation 11:7). Their deaths will be celebrated and they will be denied burial (Revelation 11:9-10), however they will resurrect three-and-a-half days later, and then they will publicly ascend, as God calls them up (Revelation 11:11-12). Perhaps you have already seen this happen.

Whatever you do, **DO NOT take the mark** of the world leader, which likely is an implanted chip of some sort, perhaps along with something else, that is supposed to go in your forehead or in your right hand. At the point in time when the policy requiring this mark is issued, the mark will be required in order to “legally” buy or sell anything. My best estimate would be that this policy will likely be implemented shortly after the resurrection of the two witnesses (Revelation 13:16-18). This mark will somehow bear the name and/or number (666, expressed in some way, shape, or form [Revelation 13:18]) of the world leader, and thus having it would identify you with the world leader, who at least

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would appear to have risen from the dead, shortly after he would have at least appeared to have been assassinated (Revelation 13:3). He is the most wicked human being who has ever lived, who would at that point be directly empowered, or perhaps even indwelt by Satan himself (Revelation 13:4). This mark would therefore align you with Satan himself. Taking this mark is an irrevocable ticket to eternal damnation (Revelation 14:9-12). During this time period you will likely die for your faith if you do not take this mark. However, all who do take this mark will then only have three-and-a-half years (at the most, quite likely less) to live in the hell on earth that they would be experiencing, and then enter the ultimate destruction; the second death in the Lake of Fire, which is unimaginably worse yet. **This mark is most certainly not worth taking!** If you are someone who has trusted in Christ and not taken the mark of the world leader, you will be forever at peace, in the presence of God after your physical death occurs (Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-17). There is a relatively small chance that you will survive until Jesus returns to Earth, at His glorious appearing (Revelation 19 & 20). This will occur seven years after the world leader; the Anti-Christ/Beast/Man of Sin or Lawlessness/Son of Perdition, etc., as he is referred to in Scripture, signs the peace treaty with Israel, which I am guessing would have occurred very shortly after the Rapture. If that signing has not happened yet, watch for it. He will break (or already has broken) that treaty, three-and-a half years into it, probably around the same time as the assassination and ascension of the 2 witnesses (Revelation 11:7-12).

When Jesus returns at His glorious appearing, He will be setting up His beautiful millennial Kingdom on earth, which you will be part of, if you put your trust in Him and avoid taking that mark. I do not believe that one would even be able to receive that mark, once they had trusted in Jesus and believed the Gospel, and been sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). Satan, the world leader, and the evil "extra-terrestrials," etc., will all be removed. **A saved person's suffering will be temporary**, followed by an incomprehensively wonderful and **eternal** reward. To say that **it will be worth it** would be the understatement of all time. What is coming after the millennial kingdom is even better yet (Revelation 21 & 22)! I would strongly suggest reading (in the Bible) Revelation, Daniel, Matthew 24, Zechariah, Isaiah chapters 60-66, and Joel. More Scriptures speak of this time period, but these are a great start for studying it.

If you are reading this before the Rapture and still have not put your trust in Jesus yet, **do it NOW**. **The Rapture could take place at any moment** and you do not want to be left behind to endure this seven year Tribulation/Time of Jacob's trouble, which I have briefly described above. It will be the worst time on earth that has ever been or ever will be. God bless.

Scriptures Cited, Referred To, and Recommended

All Scripture passages are cited in this work are from the King James Version of the Bible. All references are done so in the context of the wording of the King James Version, with some references to the original languages in which these passages of the Word of God were inspired.

Genesis 1:1, 27, 3:19

Numbers 23:19

1 Samuel 12:14

2 Samuel 11, 12:10-18

Job Chapters 38 through 42

Psalms 55:22

Proverbs Chapter 3, 15:3

Isiah Chapter 53, 55:8-9, 64:6

Jeremiah 32:17

Ezekiel 33:11

Nahum 1:7

Matthew Chapter 5 (emphasis verses 24 and 44), 7:21-27, 9:12, 17:20, 18:20, 19:26, 22:37-40, 24

Mark Chapter 9 (emphasis verses 23-26)

Luke 1:37, 2:11, 6:31, 15:10, 16:27-28

John 1:1-18, 3:1-6, 16, 5:8, 10, 14, 17, 6:37-40, 47, 10:10, 28, 30, 14:6, 9

Acts 1:25, 5:1-10, chapters 7, chapter 8 (emphasis verse 37), and 9, 13:22, 16:31, 17:10-11

Romans 2:11, 3:10, 20, 23, 25, 28, 4:11, 22-25, 5:3-4, 6-8, 15, 6:1-2, 23, 7:14-25, 8:18-28, 10:9, 11:6, 29, Chapter 12 (emphasis verses 1 and 10)

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1 Corinthians 1:2, 3:8, 11-15, 4:7, 11:30, Chapter 12 (emphasis verse 3), Chapter 13 (emphasis verses 1-4, 12), 14:33, 15:1-4, 21, 42-49, 51-52

2 Corinthians 5:8, 17, 21, 11:3, 14-15, 12:9

Galatians 1:1, 6-12, 2:16, 19-21, 5:16-17, 19-23, 6:2, 7-8

Ephesians 1:7, 13, 2:1-6, 8-10, 4:32

Philippians 1:1, 2:5-12, 4:13

Colossians 1:14, 17, 20, 24, 2:9, 13, 3:9

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:11, 17

2 Timothy 2:15

Titus 1:2

Hebrews 1:2-3, 4:3, 6:18, 9:7, 10:14, 24-25, 12:2, 5-11

James 1:19, 2:10, 4:17

1 Peter 1:2, 19-20, 3:8, 5:7

2 Peter 3:9

1 John 1:7, 3:2, 4, 9, 4:4, 15-16, 5:7

2 John 1:8

Revelation 1:8, Chapters 2 and 3 (emphasis verse 20), 6:9-11, 7:1-8, 11:1-12, 13:3-4, 16-18, 14:9-12, Chapters 19 and 20 (emphasis verses 10, 14-15), Chapter 21 (emphasis verses 1-7), Chapter 22 (emphasis verses 12-13)

Those who are new to the Scriptures are recommended to begin with the reading of the Gospel of John, then Acts, then Romans, through Philemon, then Hebrews 1, Genesis, Psalms, then Proverbs. I do humbly recommend that order.

Those who are new to studying prophecy are recommended to begin that study with the reading of the books of Revelation, Daniel, Matthew 24, Zechariah and Joel, as well as the Isaiah chapters 60-66.

Eventually be sure to read the 66 books of the Bible; Genesis 1 through Revelation 22, in their entirety! I humbly, but highly recommend using the King James Version. I understand that it may be more difficult to

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read at first, but you will quickly get used to it (and grow to love it), and you are going to get a much more consistent representation of the true meanings of the Scriptures with this translation than you are with any other English translation. I speak from experience, as someone who formerly used modern translations almost exclusively. Please let me emphasize though, I am in no way shape or form saying that the use of any particular translation of the Scriptures is a requirement for salvation, at all! I think this will be very obvious to the person who has read this book in its entirety.

I strongly recommend obtaining and using "MySword" (mobile app) and "e-Sword" (PC app). These are excellent Bible study tools, and they are free, at least at the time of this writing. I find them to be extremely useful for a more in-depth study of God's Word. May God bless you. If I never get to meet you here on Earth, I'll see you on the other side! ☺

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

(Lyrics by Helen Lemmel 1922)

O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conqu'rors we are!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace

His Word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

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