

Bleak Promise, Bright Hope:
A Helpful Handbook for New Believers
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Author's Note:

The final word on any subject in life is the Holy Word of God as given to us in the Bible and His indwelling Holy Spirit. If you confess and eliminate the sin that stands between you and God, search for His direction by sincere prayer and by reading His Master Plan for your life you will find true peace and happiness. You will not be a success as the world measures success. You will never be rich as the world counts richness. But in the infinite, eternal reaches of time you will have unbounded wealth. In scientific terms unbounded means that your wealth will have no limits. Infinite wealth - poor earthly kings and international bankers can't even comprehend what I'm talking about. To them such talk is foolishness. Unfortunately for them, to an unbounded God these men are foolishness in the flesh. In the Great Day that is coming, the wealth these men have accumulated over 40 or 50 centuries will burn and melt like a pile of dead leaves raked up in the fall. We have a Glorious Savior, a Neverending Hope and an Unending Paradise to be spent with an all-loving God. Study, read, pray, wait, speak up, serve, love, sacrifice and you will have fought the good fight and run the race for the finish line where you will receive victor's crown and the adoration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray our Heavenly Father will bless you as you begin your walk. It's a painful walk sometimes, but less so when you learn not to fight His gentle, prodding Spirit.

The title 'Bleak Promise, Bright Hope' illustrates the two conditions of man. First, his fallen state with Satan and without God. Second, the new hope we have of being restored to fellowship with God as a result of His Grace and Gift of Eternal Life through His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May the Lord use a few of these thoughts to help you on your journey. May you enrich some other human being's life and bring them to Heaven with you.

OUTLINE: I. The New Believer, Getting Started on the Right Foot
A. Your New Found Faith - What is It Exactly?

To become a Christian means that you have given up your old way of life and have decided to follow Jesus Christ in The Way of Life. You must have come under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, had a change of heart and asked Jesus to come into your heart and forgive and change your sinful life. Many call this conversion experience "salvation" or "being born again." Whatever you call the experience there is a change in your attitude and life that becomes apparent to everyone around you. You give up old habits and old friends in favor of the new habits and new friends God wants you to have.

Living the Christian life means emulating the life of Jesus Christ or trying to be Christ-like. While this goal of perfection is not attainable in this life true believers strive to be as much like Jesus as possible. To follow Jesus you must learn as much as you can about Him and His Way. Then you try to apply His Way to your life and follow in His footsteps. It also means obeying the commands Jesus gave. The sacraments of the church: believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be kept. Evangelizing others as Jesus instructed in the Great Commission is one of our prime objectives, along with caring for others and serving others. True Christians wage war with evil spiritual forces on a daily basis. They are heart-broken for a world going to Hell without a Savior and they try to remedy that by spreading His Good News or Gospel. They realize their salvation is faith plus nothing and faith minus nothing. It is a gift from God by His grace and immeasurable love for mankind. Believers appropriate the promises of God in their lives, that is they grab hold of them and claim them for their own. They protect one another in times of trouble. They hold one another up before God in prayer. In the face of all suffering, trials and persecution the Christian believer is peaceful, enduring, joyous and overcoming. They build up and strengthen the Church or Body of Jesus Christ, which are corporate body of believers. The true Church is comprised of only those believers that have been convicted of sin and repented or turned away from the sinful life. The church as an organization has mostly non-believing, unregenerated souls in it. This is not the Church or Body of Jesus Christ that true believers speak of. Organized churches today throughout the world are in a deep state of apostasy. Apostasy means acceptance of false teachings. Many churches in the United States and around the world are engaged in the same pagan practices as Jesus preached against during His ministry. Churches today devote much of their services to ritualism, icons and idolatry, graven images, pride, boastful, arrogance about what they are doing for God that existed during Old Testament and Roman times. Some churches exhibit the same characteristics as those the antichrist will have. But take comfort in knowing that God is still working on His purpose here on earth. Enjoy your daily walk and conversation with the Savior.

As you study and live the Christian life several things become very clear:

God is Love God is Holy
God knows best God is Just
God is Compassionate God never changes
His Way is The Ultimate Truth

You will grow to see the absolute simplicity and fairness of the Master's Plan for all mankind. It is amazing to watch how the salvation message can reach a child, a mentally handicapped person and a learned man all with the same intensity. The beauty of the message is that the simplest mind can grasp it's truth and a mind bent on proving it's not true can be overwhelming convinced using the same beautifully simple message and logic.

God exists in simplicity and not in the astrophysicist's theories. Keep your faith simple, like that of a child. Don't allow yourself to become burdened with philosophical arguments about what God meant or didn't mean when He said a certain thing. These are vain disputes, intended to show one man's thinking superior to another's or to prove that one is closer to the mind of God - the Ultimate Truth. Much of what confronts us we are to take on faith. The LORD will protect us from or give us the knowledge we need at the moment through His Holy Spirit. Study to know God's Plan for your life instead of the Ultimate Truth. The Ultimate Truth is simply Jesus Christ, His birth, crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, His love to save a dying world and His oneness with God the Father. Learn early that man spouts a lot of things about God and what He wants you to do. This book is included in those spoutings and they are puny when compared to the Word of God, His Holy Bible. It should be your ultimate authority on every aspect of your life. It's your owners manual for the new Temple of God that is under construction by the Holy Spirit inside your very own body. You must consecrate, dedicate and use this Temple as a Holy, Living Sacrifice to our Heavenly Father and the spreading of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. You may have to suffer countless trials, troubles and persecutions for His sake during your life. You are truly blessed if you do. Read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-11 to find out what blessedness or true joy is. There are other beatitudes in the Old and New Testaments also, you can find those on your own. That's part of the beauty of living The Way, as you search to learn more about God He will teach you by His Holy Spirit and His Word about Himself. A learned person without being reborn in Jesus can read the Bible from cover to cover and it will appear to be only a collection of stories about Jewish history. To the developing Christian it is the Master's Plan for Creation and the Universe, the Unfolding Sacred Spiritual Drama. What a difference accepting God at His Word makes in every life that will allow Him to work out His Holy Will and Plan.

One word of caution, when someone sounds too ethereal, too ecclesiastical or too ecumenical be very careful. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, never used complicated language, high sounding phrases or complex logic to tell His story. His message was absolute simplicity, Love, Trust and Obey and you will find true Joy, Peace, Happiness and Sublime Satisfaction. This is The Way and 'the other way' leads to disease, devastation, despair, destruction and death. It's only coincidental that deceit, demons and devil are also anaphoric (begin with the same letter or sound) with 'the road to destruction'.

Another word of caution is that you can have a room full of Bibles and listen to Christian radio 24 hours a day and still lack peace, joy and fulfillment. You must guard your soul and spirit

jealousy. You are bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ and you aren't your own. You are a child of God and as such you need to watch your daily diet of thoughts and your daily schedule of exercise, your acts. Read the Bible some, pray some, work some, play some, witness some, serve some and sing some. Then you will find a life of contentment and the peace that passes all understanding.

B. What Does It Mean to be a Christian?

The word Christian means 'Christlike' or having a life like that of Jesus Christ. It means you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are attempting to emulate His teachings and lifestyle. The word Christian does not mean perfect or that we have arrived at a higher plateau than the other men and women we share this planet with. When the early church was persecuted the Roman emperors looked for members of 'The Way', the name Jesus' followers gave to their gathering. This was after Jesus' own message; 'I am the way and the truth and the life...' (John 14:6b, NIV).

Some people, especially charismatics, present Christianity as a 'feel good' religion. As any serious student of the Bible will tell you the life of God's people has never been a happy one. Jews and Christians have suffered severe persecution throughout history for their belief in God. Millions have been martyred for the sake of Jesus Christ (many even in the name of Jesus Christ, a blasphemy by the Roman Catholic Church. See Jesuits, Society of Jesus for more information on the Pope's murderous army.)

To be a Christian is to admit your failure as a sinner, to give up 'The Old Way' - Satan's Way, and to allow Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to begin a new work in you. By this inworking of God the Holy Spirit you will be transformed into a new creature in Christ. The desire for the old sinful ways will die and new desires to know God's plan for your life will take its place. A real peace and joy will fill your mind, heart and soul as you allow God to take over the reins of your life. At times this is an instantaneous process, sometimes it takes decades. This incubation period is dependent upon how quickly you surrender the reins of control to your life. It can be a fairly simple change or extremely complex change. All conversions are miracles and we don't understand the miracles of God. The conversion of the human heart is a mystery we cannot understand in and of ourselves. While the Holy Spirit enlightens us as believers about certain things in the Kingdom others must remain 'a mystery' until the Son of God makes His triumphant return in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. All of the injustices that have ever been committed will be reduced to nothingness at that very moment. What a day that will be!

Some of the most valuable lives to the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ have been the most heavily persecuted. Men like Luther, Wycliffe, Zwingli, Knox and Calvin were branded heretics by the organized church and harassed, persecuted and excommunicated. Others like Tyndale were tortured and martyred. A real proof of The Truth is that a true Christian believer becomes more content, more placid, more peaceful and a more perfect picture of Jesus Christ with each trial he undergoes. Hard times, severe

persecution and threats to life and limb crystallize the true Christian believers thinking and resolve. The most significant evil the forces of Satan can unload on Christianity is martyrdom. But this only kills the body which is going to die eventually anyhow. The spirit lives on and is glorified for the suffering of the body. The cause of Christ is glorified and magnified many times as word of the martyrdom spreads and the attitude of the martyr becomes known.

The sum total of the Christian life is repentance, submission, inworking, outworking, love, charity, peace, joy and fulfillment. As you allow the Holy Spirit to work in your heart, mind and life you will see a dramatic change. Others will see the change also and you may even receive the greatest compliment a Christian can ever receive, 'Are you a Christian? or, I can see Jesus in you!' The Christian life is the most significant way anyone can use one single life. A man is either God's prisoner, shackled by love and hope or he is Satan's prisoner, trapped forever in time and space with the evil one. It's your choice.

BA. On Being Separated, God's Peculiar People

Separation is not pulling away from the world and becoming a recluse or a hermit, however tempting that might be at times. Separation is the recognition that you really have nothing in common with the people of darkness. They hate The Light (Jesus Christ), you love The Light. They hate The Way of Life (Jesus Christ), you love The Way. They hate The Truth (Jesus Christ), you love The Truth. They hate The Living Word of God (Jesus Christ), you love The Word of God. The walk of the true Christian believer is diametrically (just the opposite) different than the walk of the non-believer. Our path is narrow, their path is very wide. Our path is strewn with rocks and troubles. Theirs is smooth and trouble-free. Separation has positive aspects. Separation is what you do with the resources (time and money) God trusts to your care. A good manager of God's gifts puts them to effective use until the Lord returns or until the manager is called home to Heaven. Separation is also avoiding walking in the pathways of the ungodly. Don't subject yourself to unnecessary temptation and evil. If your walk is separated or called apart from the walk of the world others will recognize it and they won't like it one bit. Satan and his followers want you to go into the pit with them. Be separate and reflect the brilliant light of glory that dwells within you.

BB. The Work of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete of God, the Helper,
the Comforter, God's Advocate to the Spirit and Soul of Man.

The Holy Spirit of God was given to Christians as a Comforter (John 14:16 KJV) and a Counselor (John 14:16 NIV). The Holy Spirit is never spoken of as 'He' and is not to be worshipped directly. You can and should thank our Heavenly Father for sending His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works miracles in the human heart every day. The Holy Spirit convicts men, women and children of a sinful heart and their need for conversion. Instruction, spiritual growth and providing peace and understanding are also primary inworkings of the Holy Spirit. Search for passages in the Bible on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to discern whether someone else is a true

believer and has the Holy Spirit dwelling in his heart. These are extremely important steps in your spiritual growth!

BC. Discerning the Holy Spirit of God.

The true test of whether something is from God or from Satan is the litmus test God gives so His people can see His invisible hand working. With Old Testament prophets God said that if the prophets words (prophecies) did not come true then he was a false prophet. No new Bible prophecies have been given since John wrote the Book of Revelation but false prophets have increased dramatically. There are thousands who claim to speak for God about coming events but these are all false prophets. In the New Testament the test of discernment is whether the act glorifies God or not and whether the actor admits his authority is from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has come in the flesh to earth (1 John 4:1-3.) If they don't admit this fact, it's the spirit of antichrist and not the Holy Spirit of God.

BD. Miracles and Endearing Qualities versus Magic and Enchanting Qualities.

C. Discarding Old Habits and Old Friends?

Whether you are a young Christian or a mature Christian losing a friend is a painful experience. However that's exactly what you might be required to do to begin living the Christian life as you should. As John writes in 1 John 2:15-17, "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world --- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does --- comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

Shake off any old habits and old friends that would keep you from making a clean break with old sinful habits. Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, lust, immorality, greed, arrogance, hate, violence, stealing, occult worship and sexual perversion are some of the deadliest sins to change immediately. Other seemingly petty sins and bad habits may be harder to change as they aren't as apparent. Watching off color television programs, being addicted to sports programs, ignoring your spiritual life and failure to read, worship, pray and witness seem like small sins to quibble over but they can rob you of your effectiveness as a Christian. Satan can't eliminate you, that isn't within his power. But he can neutralize and minimize the impact you have on the world for God's glory. If you are ineffective as a Christian he can use you as an example for why worldly citizens shouldn't follow your God.

D. Developing New Habits and Finding New Friends.

Putting on God's Armor and Getting Ready for the Battles of Your Life.

Cultivating new Christian habits requires you to discard the old ones first. If you don't it's like trying to stuff brand new white shirts

into a chest of drawers filled with rags covered with oil and grease and grime. It won't work. Even if you do somehow manage to get the new clothes into the chest of drawers the brand new shirts will pick up the filth and grime and dirt from the old rags. You have been given a chance to start completely over. You are a brand new bouncing baby boy or baby girl in Jesus Christ after your second birth. Don't put on the greasy, grimey rags from your dirty old lifestyle. Wear the crisp new whites the Holy Spirit will try to give to you. Adopt these new lifestyles:

Find a Bible-based congregation of believers. See our sample Statement of Faith. If the church you choose doesn't subscribe to these basic tenets keep searching.

Read as many fundamental, Bible-believing Christian magazines and books as you can get your hands on. Avoid New Age Movement books as well as any others that preach the secular humanist dogma. These are books that teach man as the one best able to solve man's problems. It's like saying a child who falls into a lake is going to be able to design, build and use a suspension bridge over the lake to extricate himself before he or she drowns.

Listen to as much Christian radio and television as possible. Turn your television off completely for one month. If you can do it for one month you will break the hold it has on you. If you have cable tell the cable company to take it out! Rent Christian videos from your local Christian bookstore if you want to watch a movie. A word of caution about Christian bookstores. Your chances are many times better of finding good, wholesome Christian reading material in your local Christian bookstore than in your local library. But you must remember that just because the sign says 'Christian' it doesn't mean that every one who works there is a 'Christian'. It also does not mean all of their books are suitable reading material for Christians either. Be a discerning and discriminating reader. Don't allow Satan's lies to gain access to your mind. There are hundreds of good Christian music tapes and videos and magazines available. There are some that are not only not good but can be very destructive. Much of what is termed 'Contemporary Christian Music' (CCM) is dangerous. We are to be separated from the world. If you can't tell the difference between CCM and worldly music then there is a very significant problem. Go for authentic Christianity not a look alike or counterfeit religion. Ours is not a religion, it's The Way of Life.

E. Choosing a Church to Attend? Warning Signs or When to Keep Looking!

F. What is Christian Fellowship? Why do I Need It? How do I Find It?

G. Why is Routine Bible Reading Important?

Chuck Swindoll gave a sermon in 1992 on 'God's Word - All Year Long'. His text was Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible. The main thrust of his message was that reading God's Word every day provides the following:

Psalm 119:5 God's Word establishes my way.

Psalm 119:9-11 God's Word purifies my life.

Psalm 119:24 God's Word gives me counsel.

Psalm 119:29 God's Word removes everything false in me.
Psalm 119:38 God's Word produces reverence for God.
Psalm 119:46 God's Word increases my courage.
Psalm 119:50 God's Word comforts me in my sufferings.
Psalm 119:61-62 God's Word releases me from panic.
Psalm 119:65 God's Word gives me discernment and knowledge.
Psalm 119:79 God's Word makes me resourceful.
Psalm 119:87 God's Word cultivates patience.
Psalm 119:93 God's Word keeps me spiritually recharged.
Psalm 119:98-100 God's Word speeds up my understanding.
Psalm 119:111 God's Word creates a joyful heart in me.
Psalm 119:116 God's Word sustains me when I feel helpless.
Psalm 119:127-128 God's Word teaches me to love right and hate wrong.
Psalm 119:133 God's Word causes me to walk in truth.
Psalm 119:143 God's Word surrounds me with delight despite difficulties.
Psalm 119:147 God's Word develops the habit of prayer in me.
Psalm 119:153-154 God's Word rescues me when I am weak.
Psalm 119:164-165 God's Word fills me with praise and peace.
Psalm 119:176 God's Word draws me back when I stray away from Him.

If you read, reread, absorb, pray about, reread and understand these points you will begin reading your Bible on a daily basis without fail!

H. Where Should I Start Reading My Bible?

It's easier to tell you where not to start. Don't start with Genesis 1:1 or Matthew 1:1 and try to read the whole thing through in one sitting. God's Word is like a Goldmine, even if you could mine all the nuggets at one time you couldn't possibly carry them out all at the same time. There is more wealth here than you can mine in a thousand lifetimes. Avoid genealogies, the Old Testament and Revelations for now, they are very important but you can get bogged down trying to figure out why. They are hard reading. Every word in the Bible is important and there for a purpose but some of the passages are like feeding steak to a tiny baby. Leave the grown-up food for later when you become a 'mature' Christian. Some good starting places for a 'babe in Christ' include:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The Love Chapter of the Bible, the entire message of Jesus Christ is Love, so this is a very appropriate starting point.

Ephesians, Paul's letter to the Ephesian church, this is appropriate for a new believer because it describes how we are to conduct our lives. He talks about the true 'Church - the body of Christ' and how our bodies are to be a Living Temple for God's Indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 also.) Paul describes how the miraculous conversion of our hearts and minds takes place.

After reading some introductory books such as Ephesians, Corinthians, Philipians, the Acts of the Apostles and the other 'Pauline' letters (Epistles written by Paul to the early churches) you

can read the Bible several different ways. You can pursue it chronologically, Genesis to Revelation in one-year, three-years or five-years. You can read it for deep, scholarly meaning spending many months on one chapter or book. You can search it thematically, reading all the passages on the Sacrificial Lamb as an example. You can explore the Harmony of the Four Gospels. Another approach is to research all the parables, teachings and miracles of Jesus or to follow the missionary journeys of Paul. The methods of Bible study and reading are unlimited. Choose one method, plan your readings, make a commitment to follow your plan, pray for help in carrying out the plan and then start your readings. The important part is to stick with the plan.

I. What Does 'Pray Without Ceasing' Mean? (Luke 18:1)

Pray without ceasing does not mean to pray 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It does mean to pray very frequently. Don't pray as a ritual, such as 'God Bless This Food to Our Bodies Use' before a Big Mac. God isn't listening to empty, insincere, vain phrasing. Effective prayer has to come from a clean, compassionate, forgiving heart (Psalm 66:18 and Matthew 6:14-15). God knows what you are going to ask for before you even think of it yourself. Try to pray in the Will of God, it's the only way your prayer can be answered (1 John 5:14-15). God longs to hear from His child, put little notes around your house, car and workplace to remind you to pray until you get into the habit of prayer. Vary your prayers. There are as many types of prayer as there are different types of people. Keep a prayer list for others needs and keep a little journal to record how miraculously God answers prayer. You will be astounded at the results if you pray in the right attitude and come to your Father confessing your shortcomings and sin. He will give you back so much care and love and joy you will think your soul is going to burst at the seams (if a soul can be said to have 'seams'). Prepare to have God bless your soul beyond measure. I call it 'Treasure Beyond Measure.' Also pray in private and on your knees if you are able. Knees, heads and hearts will either be bent in this life or the next life so you should get some practice. Bent knees and a bowed head show a reverence for God and a submissive, repentant heart. What Father could refuse His child's request when it's made in such a humble way.

J. How Should I Pray? (Praise, Thanksgiving, Physical and Spiritual Need)

Prayer is the second half of the most important communications channel a Christian believer has in their life. The first part is allowing God to speak to you through His Holy Word, the Bible and the inner working of His Holy Spirit. You can quench the Spirit by not allowing the Spirit to work within you. You can keep God from speaking to you by never reading His Word. And you can keep God from working in your life by not praising Him, worshipping Him, giving Him thanks and fulfilling your needs by ignoring your prayer life. God says our prayers are like incense in His nostrils and are so valuable He stores them up in bottles (Revelation 8:3).

There have been many great prayer warriors in the Christian

faith in centuries past. Some of the greatest are probably unknown to men. Prayer is not to be offered for other men to hear you and say how great you are at praying. Jesus specifically forbids Christians from praying like the Pharisees who offered very lengthy prayers so they could be heard by other men. Your prayer is a private conversation between you and God the Father. Jesus intercedes in our behalf but we do not pray to Jesus. The Lord's Prayer is meant to be a model only, don't repeat it over and over again in a pagan ritual. Sincerity, Simplicity, Salvation and the Savior are the keys to effective prayer. Sin is a cement block wall that will keep your prayers from reaching God the Father. If you have sin in your life that you haven't confessed to God you need to ask for forgiveness before you do anything else. Don't forget to thank God for His blessings, His protection, His working in your life (even when His workings make you uncomfortable or miserable) and for His grace and gift of eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. When you pray, pray in the name of Jesus Christ and claim God's forgiveness because you are under the cleansing and redeeming blood of Jesus Christ. You don't need to pray for hours to reach God, He knows what you want before you ask. Paul says in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we don't know what we should pray for. Don't trust your own judgement, trust God's. The frequency of your prayer is more important than the duration of your prayer, pray without ceasing. Your attitude in prayer is of the highest importance. True humility, a forgiving nature, compassion, love for others, understanding, an unquenchable thirst for the friendship of God, a strong desire to be in His presence and a clean heart are the correct attitudes for prayer. Prayers offered with these attitudes will be answered. If you do nothing else in your Christian life become an effective man or woman of prayer. You will be amazed at God's answers to effective prayer. God can and will alter national and international events due to the prayers of godly men and women.

K. The Greatest Compliment a Christian Can Ever Receive.
(I can see Jesus in your life or because of how you live your life I want to become a Christian).

L. How to Share Your Faith With Other People.

We share this planet with over 5 billion other human beings. According to Wycliffe Bible Translators there are 6,000+ distinct languages in the world. About 5,000 people are at work translating God's Word into the 1,000 languages without a translated Bible. About 2,700 other languages have been identified as having a translation needed. About 25 million Bibles or New Testaments a year are produced and distributed in the other 2,000 translated languages. The work of reaching others with the Gospel or Good News of Jesus Christ was the very last command of Jesus to His disciples before He returned to be with God the Father in Heaven (see The Great Commission, Matthew 28:16-20.) This outreach to others who don't know the Good News is called evangelism. Most "Christians" are not evangelical Christians. They prefer to give money to organized churches to send someone else. Christ's command was to each individual believer, "Go Ye!" not "Give Ye! So that someone else can go in your place." Over 95% of the money "Christians" give is used by their "church" for their own support and

activities. A very tiny percentage goes to reaching countries with unreached people. The "Church" today consists primarily of "Christians" speaking to other "Christians" trying to make each other feel good. Jesus didn't come into the world to save religious people, He came to save sinners and He has told us as His followers to spread that message. I am over 40 years old and I have never had one person personally approach me and ask me if I know Jesus Christ as my Savior. What a sad, pitiful state of unbelief the "Christian church" has dropped to.

If you want to witness effectively for Jesus Christ you need to attempt to reach others for Him with His Word, the Holy Bible. Witnessing comes in different forms. The most effective is personal, one-on-one testimony of the change God has made in your own life. God uses real-life models to communicate the truth in His Word. He says His strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), so don't be afraid of trying and failing. We already know how the story ends and we are already more than conquerors (Romans 8:37-39.) All the forces of evil cannot prevail against the Christian armed with the Sword of the Lord (Hebrews 4:12+13, Revelation 19:15.)

There are other forms of witnessing too. Some people have talents as writers, others are effective with little children. Some visit those in the hospital, nursing homes or jails as their effort to help. The most powerful moments in Jesus' life were when He was quietly ministering to the needs of others out of a heart of love and compassion and His teaching ministry as opposed to His preaching ministry. The Gentle Shepherd led by example and uses a quiet voice to call His sheep and guide them. Allow the quiet, Holy Spirit of God to use you in reaching others by The Way you live your life instead of how loud you can preach. One hundred thousand Sunday sermons spoken with thundering human voices are not nearly as effective as one word spoken in kindness with the Holy Spirit of God as the author. Take as your credo the words, "Live Simply So Others May Simply Live." Your actions will always speak louder than words and will reverbrate and echo through the passage of time even after your life here on earth has drawn to a close.

M. The Christian Art of Forgiving and Loving Even Your Enemy..

Probably the most difficult lesson to learn in the Walk of the Believer is forgiveness and loving one's enemies. Two of the greatest examples of the most powerful principal in the Bible are given by Jesus in His dying moments and in the words of Stephen, the first martyr of the young Christian Church. Jesus spoke of forgiveness in Luke 6:27-38 but then went on to give us a real life example to model our own lives after as He died on a cruel Roman cross (Luke 23:33-34.) Paul recounts in Acts 7:59-60 how Stephen emulated his Savior by asking God to forgive those who were stoning him to death. Jesus' example, the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution suffered by the early church ensured the successful spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ. It was better than any advertising campaign Madison Avenue could have devised to promote Christianity. Paraphrasing Joseph in Genesis 50:20, "Man meant it

for evil, but God meant it for good."

N. Compassion on the Needy, Sick, Aged, Dying.

Jesus' emphasis on compassion is best illustrated by the overwhelming percentage of His miracles that were devoted to meeting people's needs. 29 of the 33 miracles recorded in the Gospels involved feeding hungry people, healing the sick and infirmed and raising the dead. Jesus never did anything to impress others. In fact, He told people not to tell others. By doing so He guaranteed His message would be spread more effectively than AT&T, IBM, NBC, CBS, ABC and UPI could ever dream of communicating with their weak earthly communications technology. Yes, compassion and love was at the very core of everything Jesus did. His coming to earth, His ministry, His suffering and His death, burial and resurrection were all proof of His love and compassion for mankind dying without God. With what He did for us, how can we do any less for Him than show compassion on His people. Jesus served the lowliest people on earth, lepers, demon-possessed and the dying. He loved the unloveable. When you see a person in need run to their aid, give it quietly, don't look for recognition and never count the cost of what you have done. God will do the accounting work for you and will on that Great Day give you a certified balance sheet.

O. Growing and Maturing as a Christian.

Sometimes I get a little discouraged at my lack of Christian growth and my lack of effectiveness. Why can't I win more souls for the Lord? Why do I have to be taught the same lesson half a dozen times before the Lord's teachings sink into my life? Why can't I remember hundreds of Bible passages by heart like some of the great Christian warriors I have read about? Then I stop to think about how I have been so stubborn while God is trying to speak to my heart. I think about the times I have gone ahead of God. I have tried to live my life with the credo, "Not Thy Will, But My Will Be Done, O Lord!" It doesn't work. Submit yourself to God, try to learn as much as you can about Him, live a life separated from the rest of the world and the Holy Spirit will mature you and grow you as a Christian believer and worker. Think of your internal spirit and being as a large construction site. This living Temple of God is under construction by the Holy Spirit of God. Yellow construction warning signs have been posted all over. As long as you don't tear them down God will continue to put them up. Satan will try to move the signs and slow down construction work. But you are the job site supervisor. Construction will go as fast or as slow as you read the Master Builder's Blueprints and implement the engineering changes He has ordered. You can allow the Superintendent of Earthly Building Codes (Satan) slow down progress if you stand around and listen to him tell you why the Temple will never work. Don't follow his blueprints, they lead to many dead end allies and call for a foundation built on sand and slime. Build the Temple of God on Solid Rock, you won't be disappointed.

OA. Passing on Your Christian Values to Children or Friends.

Don't tell others how to live, lead them into The Way they should follow by living your life as an example of the Good News of

Jesus Christ. Parents speak a few phrases to their children every day while their lives speak volumes. Think about how sports celebrities, Hollywood stars and TV personalities are revered by the American public. They have an impact on our lives because that's how we define success; money, good looks, prestige and power. Don't emulate the world's success because your message isn't for worldly people. The message you carry is for those who are seeking the Kingdom of God. If your life is a model of sincerity, humility, compassion, economy and love then those who are seekers will see in you The Hope, The Truth and The Way they have been searching for. By your example and without saying a word to someone watching your life you may have a significant impact on their eternal soul. This isn't to say you shouldn't personally witness to people, it simply means that One Quiet Solitary Life can have more impact on the history yet to be written than all the loudspeakers and newstand scandal sheets in America.

OB. Discipling Other Christian Believers.

OC. Teaching, Evangelizing, Mission Work, Christian Service.

The Great Commission.

OD. Stewardship, Tithing, Supporting Christian Ministries.

P. When the Tough Times Come.

'Do all the good you can to everyone you can everytime you can.'

- John Wesley

Then having done all you can, stand and occupy until the LORD comes.

Q. Testing, Temptation, Trials and Troubles, Overcoming Difficulties.

QA. False Teachings, the Spirit of Antichrist, Recognizing Satan, Heresy.

When I was a very young Christian and a freshman at a Christian Bible College I was accused of heresy. During a discussion with other students I said I believed that if someone in the remotest part of the earth would come to know God if he earnestly desired to find God. Someone would be sent to deliver the message, or the seeker would hear a portion of the Word of God via radio, a Bible or some special provision of God. A ministers son who knew my pastor sent the word back to my home church that I was spreading heresy. I was so heartbroken I dropped out of Bible school and went into the U. S. Army. I felt called into the ministry and I abandoned that calling because of that incident. With this little real life incident I hope to point out the danger of judging others. God's people were used by Satan to change the Will of Almighty God. This happens all the time. Well meaning people, even true Christian believers, go on witch-hunts and interfere with God's Plan. Don't participate in this kind of activity. God says by the same standard you judge others your own heart and life will be judged in that final day! This pronouncement alone should be enough to curb your tongue and wreckless actions. You shouldn't take the advice of an ungodly person or participate in advancing causes or teachings that the Holy Spirit leads you to believe are wrong, but if it isn't a fundamental tenet of faith you

shouldn't impede the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ by slandering a well-intentioned worker.

Today, there is more occultism and Satan worship than ever before. It is far more openly practiced than ever before too. Believers need to arm themselves to recognize the forces of Satan and fight them off. God's spiritual armor is described in Ephesians 6:10-18. You need all of this armor to fend off Satan. There is also a tendency today to study Satanism and occultism in all of its gory details and depravity. We are warned not to be too interested in the workings of Satan. Become more interested in the workings of God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit and God will take care of Satan. Resist temptation and Satan will flee from you. When temptation is placed in your path as a believer you should immediately pray asking God to help you overcome this temptation. Search for Scripture verses that deal with the temptation or trial you are facing. Believe me, it's in there! We are told in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that no temptation has come our way that many other people have faced before us. The rest of the verse is more comforting though, God won't allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to stand. What a blessed thought and comfort for every new believer!

R. Running a Good Race.

S. The Crowns for Living the Victorious Christian Life.

T. Reverence and Sanctity of God. Honoring Him.

Worshipping God in Spirit. Wherever You Are. With Your Life

Best.

U. Recognizing Satan the Archenemy and his lies and deceptions. Avoiding

his traps. How to have Satan flee from you.

V. Victory in Jesus, Leading a Life Pleasing to God.

Separated, Dedicated,

Unquestioned Commitment to the Will of God.

VA. Resting in Jesus. Don't Hurry, Worry, Bury like the rest of the World.

The Sum Total of All Human Effort To-Date Has Been to Get Us Wherever

We Are Going Faster and Noisier, the Only Problem Is We Don't Have Any

Idea Where We Are Going, from Adrian Rodgers and his radio program -

Love Worth Finding, Memphis, Tennessee.

Be Still and Know That God Is God.

W. Never Consider Yourself as Having 'Arrived' or 'Special'.

X. Your Final Reward, Your Precious Homegoing.

Y. Receiving the Gifts of God. Recognizing the Hand of God

Working.

Z. These Things Are Not Given to You to Know. Don't Be Too Curious About

the Workings of Satan. Recognizing the Evil Outworkings of Satan.

Cults, the Occults. Martydom.

ZA. Danger Signs for The New Babe in Christ.

ZB. Danger Signs for The Old Saint in Christ.

ZZ. Christian Resources and Ministries to Help You in Your

Walk With Jesus.

Many so called charities and ministries in American Society are doing all the right things for all the wrong reasons. They feed and clothe the hungry so they won't be embarrassed when these poor people loiter around the fashionable boutiques of their downtown shopping and business districts. Such charity is never given out of a compassionate, loving heart. Without the love of Jesus behind the charitable act they would be better left undone. Humanitarianism without compassion is hypocrisy. Jesus didn't merely give a handout to the thousands who were hungry He gave them a full meal, He healed their broken and diseased bodies and then He spoke to them in love and kindness. He gave His very best for all mankind not merely the scraps and leftovers. Our poor, needy and sick deserve the absolute best from us. They also need our daily prayers and spiritual support by taking time to talk about their needs that eyes cannot see. The following ministries are a few of the more Christ-centered, compassionate type. Seriously evaluate some of the liberalistic, secular humanism charities you might now be giving to. These nationwide gargantuans sponge up most of the aid intended for the poor by high administrative overhead costs. They won't miss your \$20 as much as the work of the Lord will. Pray that God will guide your giving to place it where it will do the most good for His cause.

Names and Addresses of Select Christian Ministries:

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
1300 Harmon Place
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 338-0500

Dr. Graham has preached to more people than anyone else in the world. His evangelistic crusades have reached hundreds of millions directly and by television. His message is pure and simple, Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. Fundamentalist in doctrine, he communicates the gospel with clarity and direct and forceful logic.

The Salvation Army National Headquarters
Commissioner James Osborne, National Commander
P. O. Box 269
615 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22313

Founded by William Booth in London, England in the late 1800's. The Salvation Army is one of the prime forces for good throughout the world. They house, clothe and feed the needy in hundreds of locations all over the globe. In addition, 'Sally' provides spiritual comfort and guidance to hundreds of thousands daily.

Wycliffe Bible Translators
P. O. Box 2727
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714) 969-4600

Founded in 1934 by Cameron Townsend and L. L. Legters, WBT and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) work together to forward the task of providing God's Word for all language groups in the world.

The world has 6,000 spoken languages. Portions of Scripture exist in about 3,000 of these languages. Wycliffe and SIL have identified 1,000 of the remaining 3,000 as critical languages and is working to convert the Bible into those 1,000 tongues.

Moody Broadcasting Network
Moody Bible Institute
Dr. Joseph Stowell, President
820 North LaSalle Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

A fully staffed, professional radio broadcast organization carrying the Christian gospel and music to audiences throughout North America.

Affiliated with Moody Bible Institute and Moody Church in Chicago. Named after D. L. Moody, the great evangelist of late-1800's America.

Joni and Friends
Joni Eareckson Tada
P. O. Box 3333
Agoura, CA 91301
(818) 707-5664

Joni is a best selling author and artist who founded JONI AND FRIENDS to minister to individuals with handicaps. Joni is an inspiration to many of the people she serves. The injuries she received in a teenage diving accident resulted in Joni becoming a quadriplegic. Joni shares her faith in God with everyone she comes in contact with.

Focus on The Family
Dr. James C. Dobson
Colorado Springs, CO 80995

Dr. Dobson has been broadcasting his 'Focus on the Family' radio program for 15 years. The program is aired on 1,550 radio stations worldwide. Additional 'Focus on the Family' outreach ministries include 'Adventures in Odyssey' radio dramatic series for kids and publishing books authored by Dr. Dobson. Dr. Dobson is an experienced physician.

Insight for Living
The Back to God Hour/FAITH 20
Dr. Joel Nederhood
6555 West College Drive
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Dr. Nederhood provides incisive solutions to many of the problems facing the modern Christian. All of his recommendations have a firm foundation in the Bible and at the same time are completely with the times.

Guidelines
Dr. Harold J. Sala
Box G
Laguna Hills, CA 92654
(714) 582-5001

Dr. Sala airs a daily radio program called 'Guidelines'. This

excellent feature provides Biblical direction on daily problems and issues confronting Christians. Evangelical in nature, Dr. Sala has sound doctrine and teachings with a very practical outlook.

Radio Bible Class

Mark DeHaan, President

P. O. Box 1

Grand Rapids, MI 49555-0001

A multi-media source of Christian educational, inspirational and devotional materials. Print materials include 'Our Daily Bread'.

Television programming includes 'Day of Discovery'.

Love Worth Finding

Dr. Adrian Rodgers

P. O. Box 38300

Memphis, TN 38183

Dr. Rodgers is an excellent Bible expositor. Fundamental, caring and uncompromising are adjectives that capture Adrian Rodger's style of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Family Radio Network

P. O. Box 2140

Oakland, CA 94621-9985

A fully staffed, professional radio broadcast organization carrying the Christian gospel and music to audiences throughout North America via FM Radio stations owned by Family Radio. Also broadcasts in 10 major world languages via shortwave. Primarily an evangelistic and teaching ministry.

The Rutherford Institute

John W. Whitehead, Attorney

P. O. Box 7482

Charlottesville, VA 22906-7482

(804) 978-3888

A professional legal institution organized to advocate for Christian ethics in legal disputes. Protects individual and family rights. Provides high quality legal intervention where non-Christian forces are attempting to misuse their power or authority.

Chuck Swindoll

Chuck Swindoll is a dynamic, best selling author and speaker on Christian living. He has a daily radio program heard on many stations worldwide. Mr. Swindoll delivers his Bible-based message with the fiery zeal of a Billy Sunday with pragmatic insights and tips on real life applications of God's Word in a world turned upside down by Satanic forces.

Institute for Creation Research

P. O. Box 2667

El Cajon, CA 92021-0667

ICR develops seminars and Christian educational material supporting the creation-scientist point of view. Also has a daily radio program called 'Creation Moments' heard nationwide. Ken Ham is one of ICR's most requested speakers.

Christian Book Publishers:

Thomas Nelson Publishing Company
Nelson Place at Elm Hill Pike
P. O. Box 141000
Nashville, TN 37214-1000
(615) 889-9000

David C. Cook Publishing Company
850 N. Grove Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
(708) 741-2400
Zondervan Publishing House
5300 Patterson, S. E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49530

Tyndale House Publishing
Wheaton, IL 60189

Harvest House Publishers
1075 Arrowsmith
Eugene, OR 97402
(503) 343-0123

Word Publishing
Dallas, TX 75039

Some of these firms have their origins in England during the 1800's.

II. RECOGNIZING THE ENEMY: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

III. SATAN'S TEMPORAL DOMAIN: A WORLD OF DECEIT AND GREED

- A. Myth America
- B. The Silly Symphony of Science
- C. Sagan's Follies, Satan's Follies
- D. Entropy and Chaos: Magic Touchstones and the New
Alchemy of Science
- E. Brilliant Pebbles: Stumbling on a Path of Paradoxes
- F. Science Buries the Corpse of Science
- G. The Dark Side of the Universe
- H. Washington's Coronation of the god of Greed
- I. Great Men of Science versus the Mysterious Mind of the
Infinite
- J. I Did It My Way versus The Way, The Truth and The Life

IV. RECOGNIZING THE SAINTS: BY THEIR FRUITS YOU WILL KNOW THEM, FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

V. GOD'S ETERNAL DOMINION: THE INFINITE UNIVERSE OF TRUTH AND LOVE

- A. Creator of the Kingdom of Kindness
- B. Neverending Glory
- C. Goodness, Hope, Charity, Love: Hallmarks of a Christian
Life
- D. Missionaries and Martyrs

- E. Treasure Beyond Measure
- F. Return of Martyrdom in the 21st Century
- G. Spiritual Warfare and the Unfolding Sacred Drama

III. SATAN'S TEMPORAL DOMAIN: A WORLD OF DECEIT AND GREED

A. Myth America:

Almost every American has a feeling that something is drastically wrong with American Society. The evidence is all around us with some of the most critical findings produced by the United States Government. The FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Department of Labor unemployment statistics, Department of Commerce trade imbalance, Congressional Budget Office budget reports on the deficit and dozens of other alarming reports combine to produce a disturbing picture of life in America in the 1990's.

As a nation we have begun to reevaluate who we are, where we are going and whether or not we should change directions. As a nation we have abandoned traditionally held values, ethics and morality. We have blindly accepted immoral "patriotic" propaganda, social programs in quagmires of bureaucracy and abdicated our rights as citizens, parents and children of a most high God. In believing unscrupulous political pundits, educators, lawyers, judges, bankers, doctors and corporate officers we have abandoned the high ground of morality, goodness, right living and the quest for righteousness and holiness. Without the salt of Christianity this world will continue on an endless down escalator to the pit of Hell.

To understand what is going on around us and why we should closely examine the facts, trying to determine the true situation and what can be done to correct it. Americans have many misconceptions that have been fostered by the forces of Satan. They come in the form of political propaganda, subtleties, deceit, trickery and euphemisms dressed in glossy packages ranging from seemingly innocent games and movies to biased news media reporting to Government programs to influence public thinking (Vince and Larry, the Crash Dummies, Woodsy Owl, Smokey the Bear, MacGruff the Crime Dog, Just Say No, NASA Educational Programs, Pueblo Colorado Consumer Information Center, Federal Information Centers, Armed Forces Recruiting, et cetera).

Americans hold a number of myths that have been socialized into us by television, public schools and Madison Avenue Marketing and Advertising companies. These myths include:

1) Myth: 'America' is a patriotic, humble, all-loving, wonderful paradise on earth, the home of the free, the brave, the strong. A place where any child can become president if he tries hard enough. A place where there is true equality between all men, all races and between the sexes. Fact: I think we all recognize the 'American Dream' has become a joke because of the uncurbed greed, immorality and godlessness of the majority and the minorities of 'American' citizens. 'America' must turn back to it's first love, God, the Creator of all that is.

2) Myth: 'America' is 'One Nation Under God', a Christian nation, a people whose faith is expressed even on their money by the motto 'In God We Trust'. Fact: 'America' has not been a 'Christian

Nation' for many, many years. The United States has become a militaristic, self-seeking, corrupt Empire much like the Roman Empire was in Jesus' day. Christians who have abdicated the high ground of morality over the past 100 years need to retake that ground from the forces of Satan. We are being lulled into inactivity by

3) Myth: The professions are something to aspire to. Becoming a medical doctor, lawyer, judge, Congressman, Senator, banker, minister or corporate executive are worthy callings. Fact: In recent days many of these 'professions' have shown their true colors. One report showed the vast majority of lawyers didn't like lawyers or their work. Congressmen and Senators have shown their true characters as greedy, self-indulgent and irresponsible bureaucrats. Judges today make their own laws and feel they are above the law themselves. Follow God's calling and not Satan's calling.

4) Myth: Nature. Scientists deny anything exists beyond our immediate senses and at the same time imbue 'Nature' with a spirit that borders on animism. Animism is an ancient mystic ritualistic belief that everything (rocks, water, trees, dirt) has a spirit-being in it and deserves to be worshipped. Fact: If science were really searching for the ultimate truth in the Universe they would start with the realization they can't have it both ways. If no spiritual forces exist they should stop treating 'Nature' as if it were a god. If they acknowledge some force exists beyond our earthly experience then scientists should seek the Creator and not worship the Creation.

'America' as a place has never existed on any world map or globe. 'The Americas' do exist as North America and South America, two continents in the Western Hemisphere. 'The United States of America' exists as a political entity that occupies a certain portion of geography, but 'America' per se is a romanticized concept or vision of freedom and political paradise here on earth. This concept has been dogmatized by 'American' State Papers such as the Monroe Doctrine and political views such as 'Manifest Destiny' and hegemony (the views that God has ordained 'America' as a 'chosen nation' to rule over the world and the concept that 'America' is so strong that no other nation on earth would dare question the free exercise of its powers.) These are pure political propaganda and the outworkings of Satan and his followers. As Christians we must never forget Satan is the temporal ruler of this world and of the current world's governments.

There are numerous Gallup polls and other surveys showing 'America' as a Christian nation. The techniques used in all polls and surveys are self-report, in other words the poller asks an interviewee their opinion about a certain circumstance or event or their beliefs or behavior. Self-report is an extremely subjective technique and may or may not reflect the truth. It would be the equivalent of running a 'scientific' experiment on a mouse and then asking the mouse to write a report on his findings, conclusions and recommendations. It lacks the rigor to produce reliable, objective results. It does produce a summary of what Americans are thinking and their beliefs, whether they have a basis in fact or are founded in the fiction and fantasy of the world as I see it or want it to be.

If 'America' was truly a Christian nation it would be apparent

in the outworkings of the spirit of Jesus Christ. The fruits of the spirit according to Galatians 5:22-23 are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are in extremely short supply in the United States of 'America'. They are mocked by the media and entertainment industry as out-of-style, unnecessary in the 90's and as radical Christian fundamentalism.

We need to be reminded that our view of the world is obscured by Satan, that the ruler of this world has turned it upside down. In this 'Reverse Universe of Perversion' right seems wrong or at least square and wrong. Wrong doing is revered by those in authority over us. Congressmen, federal and state bureaucrats, judges, bankers, educators, lawyers and medicine men have an appearance of right living because of their money and possessions and power but laugh at the evil that pervades our society. The outworkings of Satan and his henchmen are sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. This isn't the recent ramblings of some overzealous preacher, these words were penned by the Apostle Paul almost 2,000 years ago in Galatians 5:19-21. They fit our situation in 'American' Society in the 1990's just as well as they did to the Roman Empire in the first century A.D.

There are dire consequences for sinfulness. Disease, separation from God, depravity, destruction, devastation and ultimate, eternal death are just a few of the penalties for not turning away from sin. One of Satan's greatest lies is that a loving God wouldn't punish his people, not if he really loved them. God can't exist if he is a hateful, spiteful, revenging god. But as we go down the highway of life we have been warned thousands and thousands of times by the Eternal Creator of the Universe and Worlds Unseen. God tells us "I am God, I have created you and everything there is, my creation is self-evident, my witness is the seed of conviction you are born with, the understanding of right and wrong innate to human beings, the evidence that you are the only creation I have endowed with thought, language, self-determination, creativity, and understanding. I am God, I never change, you cannot know my mind, without me you are nothing and cannot exist apart from me." Yet we ignore the evidence of His eternal beauty, order, compassion and the Infinite Light of the World choosing instead to believe the demonic forces of darkness who pursue deceit, violence and disorder.

In the chapters that follow we document evidence to 'prove' the existence of God and the existence of Satan. The Dichotomy of the Universe uses science to show why we should believe in the inerrancy of the Holy Bible and how science supports a faith in our God and not in the god of Carl Sagan. We discuss how science, intellectualism, liberalism and secular humanism have brought our society to the precipice of self-destruction. Other topics under discussion include stagnation and ineffective Christians in political, church and educational leadership positions, the Seven Deadly Sins for 'America', destruction of the 'American' family - a Satanic Master Plan and how networks such as Fox, Turner, HBO, Cinemax and Showtime are collaborating with some of 'America's' most respected corporations (McDonald's, Pepsi, Coke, Disney Studios, Sears,

Pizza Hut and cereal manufacturers naming only a few) and motion picture studios by way of tie-in sales and children's susceptibility to seduce our children to the dark side of the spiritual universe (Nintendo is also a culprit here). What ever happened to the beliefs our founding fathers held? Did they believe in the separation of church and state? Would they approve of prayerless schools? What would they think of the current State of the Union? Would they admit to being a founding father of the current United States of America? Is abortion an option or murder? Is 'America' the 'Evil Empire' Ronald Reagan referred to?

What does God the Father demand from us? The Complete Fear of God as the Beginning of Knowledge The Faith of a Child No Other gods in Our Lives, such as Money, Possessions, Success, Power, Images Acceptance of His Gift of Eternal Life through His Son Jesus Acceptance of His Word, the Holy Bible as Ultimate Truth Absolute Faith that what God has in store for us is in our best interest Faith in God without the need for God to 'prove' He exists Trust that as we walk with Him daily He will provide everything we need
for that day. Complete Obedience All Honor All Praise All Worship Thankfulness A Joyful Outlook and Countenance Our Lives as Living Sacrifices (Our Work & Efforts should seek to please Him) Our Very Life (Martyrdom, the giving of One's Life for their Beliefs, if nec.) Complete Subsistence Our Love and Devotion to Him Commitment Dedication Unquestioning Willingness to Follow His Will Prayerfulness, a vibrant prayer life (You talking to God) Reading His Holy Word, the Guidebook of Life (God talking to you) True Humility (Giving without an audience, praying in solitude) Giving everything back to God for His use, it's all His in any event Simple Goodness Compassion to those less fortunate (Whatever you do to the least of these you do also to me. Willingness to Bear All Difficulties for His Name Sake even death if necessary Caring for the Sick and Dying Enduring and Overcoming Temptation Witness to others to the Good News of Jesus Christ Mercy and Justice for others Bear Fruit (Share the Good News, Bring Others to Heaven With You) Thinking Good Thoughts Not Speaking Evil of Anyone A Broken Heart for Your Sins Confession of Sin Turning away from all sin Caring for His Creations (Earth, Other People, Creatures, Your Own Body) Caring for the Dying, Troubled and Needy A Peaceful Spirit in Your Dealing With Others Respect for Life (All creatures great and small, the Lord God made them all) Respect for Every Other Human Being, Even the Unlovable and the Ugly Study to know His Ways through His Word and other sources Contemplation of God's Ways and Your Ways A Spirit of Awe and Wonder that comes from an Awareness of the Vastness of the Universe and the Infinite Complexities God has created.

What God Offers Us as a Free Gift: The Ability to Live With Him Forever (Eternal Life) The Peace of Mind That Nothing Else in The Universe Can Give The Simple Satisfaction and Fulfillment Found in Living a Good Life Love and Respect for All of God's Creation The

Love and Respect of Other Christian Believers Wisdom,
Understanding, Knowledge Surpassing the World's Most Brilliant
Minds

What God Takes Away From Us: All Earthly Concern for Power and
Wealth and Success Worry, Doubt, Despair Eternal damnation in a
real burning pit called Hell The Penalty of Sin, the Second Death, He
paid the price with Jesus' death

Dichotomy of the Universe: God's Attributes/Proof He Exists: Satan's
Attributes/Proof he exists:

Creator	Destroyer	Creation (Nature)	Destruction (Devastation of Nature)
Health	Disease	Life	Death
Harmony	Dischord	Angels	Demons
Singlemindedness	Depravity	Truth	Deceit and Lies
Unconditional Love	Hatred	Peace	Violence
Openness	Prejudice	Goodness	Evil
Contentment	Greed	Purity	Immorality, Impure
Spirits	Fulfillment, Satisfaction	Emptiness, Wantonness,	Longing
Peacefulness	Wandering,	Searching	Self-Sacrifice
Self-Centered,	Narcissism, Egomaniac	Prince of Peace	Prince of Evil
Light of the World	Prince of Darkness		

Man's Self-Evidence of God's Existence and Creatorship: 1) Man's
innate belief that something exists outside of his physical experience,
some call it his mystic nature, I call it his soul and believe God has
planted the seed of belief in every individual. Whether we nurture it
and allow it to grow or stamp it out like a weed is the turning point of
our lives.

2) The Peace that Passes All Understanding. When a person
accepts Christ as his Savior he undergoes a change in his nature
that is apparent to everyone around him. It is most apparent in the
reaction a Christian has when facing death as opposed to the
attitude displayed by a non-Christian facing death. The Christian is
going home to be with his Heavenly Father and he knows his death
is a precious moment to his Father and his Savior. The non-Christian
knows that his death is the complete termination of all life for now
and forever. It also signals a going down to the Pit or Abyss for
rejection of God's gift of eternal life, a concept the unbeliever cannot
grasp or cope with.

3) Man is an amazing creation. And why not, he is cast in the image
of God. As the Psalmist states, man is wonderfully made. (Psalm
139) The truth of God is self-evident in each cell of every person's
body.

4) God's Word is the official history book of His dealings with His
people. The Bible is also His Wonderful Master Plan for the future of
His Church (the Saints), the remainder of mankind and the demise of
the forces of evil.

5) The awesome wonder of God's creation of man reoccurs with every single birth. His handiwork takes place where neither microscope or telescope can see. The mysteries of God will ALWAYS remain a mystery to man. He says His ways are beyond man's tracing out and that His mind is not man's mind. (Romans 11:33 and Isaiah 40:13)

6) The Universe screams of the Absolute Authority and Magnificence of an all knowing, ever present, all powerful God and Creator. Three of the greatest witnesses against our eternal souls will be how we received or rejected eternal truths evidenced by His creation, rejection or acceptance of His gift of eternal life through His Son and the witness that comes from our own mouths and lives. God and not Carl Sagan created the 'billions and billions of stars' as witness to His magnificent power. The order of the Universe attests to God's existence, the chaos in the world and a dying creation (man and nature) attests to the existence of Satan.

7) The Cycle of Life and the Seasons are powerful testimony to the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Hope that Christians have for eternal life, life after death and a physical resurrection from the grave during the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, their Savior and Redeemer. The same cycle exists in the tiniest seed and in man. Life doesn't begin at conception, it began when God breathed life into Adam and will continue until God separates the living from the dead. Even the dead in Christ aren't dead, Jesus said they were simply asleep (John 11:11, Acts 4:15). They are like a dormant seed waiting to be transplanted by the Great Gardener to His new field.

8) The implications to man's world by his refusal to accept God's precepts, teachings and commands are enormous. The physical sciences and medical science are continually developing technologies and 'solutions' with poorly understood ramifications. Then the same sciences must develop solutions to problems their predecessors created only a few short decades before. We are given a lot of propaganda by the companies that manufacture and sell these technologies with only a profit motive. Acid rain, destruction of ecosystems such as the rainforests, endangered species, toxic wastes, ozone degradation and global warming, nuclear meltdowns and medicinal side-effects are all examples of man's thinking that his science is the search for ultimate truth in the universe. Recycling is an example of science's attempt to fix what science has destroyed, it's like placing a band-aid on an open heart surgery patient. Man's attempt to define himself and truth through science is analogous to Mickey Mouse recreating Walt Disney in Mickey's own image, you simply can't get there from here.

9) Christians believe the Unfolding Sacred Drama or War between Spiritual Forces has already been won. The death of Jesus Christ on a Roman cross and His resurrection provided victory over Satan and Death and Hell.

9A) The question of a 'New World Order' pales in comparison to 'A New Heaven and New Earth'. Man's and Satan's rule over this world are extremely temporary. God's judgement will be final, swift and terrible. While Christian's have temporarily abdicated the high ground of morality God will not be mocked or have His Master Plan foiled.

10) Entropy or decaying orbits of stars and solar systems and the death of stars is heralded by physicists and astronomers as scientific evidence proving the big bang theory (see Stephen Hawking's book). Some physicists call the apparent chaos in the universe a higher form of order, failing to see the absolute beauty and order in the stars that a child of three can recognize.

11) If Charles Darwin's 'Origin of the Species' (Theory of Evolution) is correct why is man devolving to a less fit species. God's Word says a father's sins will be visited on his children, thereby producing weaker offspring (see Exodus 34:7).

The fossil record hoaxes of Piltdown Man, the Tasaday people and Lucy are indications of the lengths that science (and Satan) will go to deceive people into believing that man is descended from apes and reptiles and fishes. By reducing man to an animal Satan eliminates the necessity for a God who is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe.

12) The AIDS Epidemic (Auto-Immune system Deficiency Syndrome or HIV, HIV-2 and HTLV) is evidence that the result of disobedience to God's natural order is disease, destruction and death. Even preachers refuse to associate man's disobedience and defiance of God's law with the dire consequences. The death of AIDS infected children is also dictated by Exodus 34:7. Some people say it's a cruel and vindictive God who would kill innocent children. It isn't God killing these children, it's the reckless lifestyles of the parents. If we follow the absolutes outlined in God's Word we will have absolutely no problems in this life or the next. We must learn to take God at His Word.

God's everyday miracles: The Holy Spirit's inworking in the hearts of men, conviction, conversion and transformation of thinking and lives. The Holy Spirit's outworking in the lives of converted men, women and children include: Hope, Charity, Love, Patience, Longsuffering, Virtue, Purity, Compassion, Tenderness, Truthfulness, Freedom, Wisdom, Understanding and Healing.

Satan's daily outworkings in the acts of men include: Vulgarity, Corruption, Greed, Hate, Murder, Avarice, Pride, Arrogance, Selfishness, Stubbornness, Defiance, Perversion, Sexual Immorality, Defeatism, Despair, Wars, Recrimination, Revenge and Abortion to name a few.

Proof of Satan's Existence by his Outworkings in the Souls of Evil Men: 1) Adolf Hitler and The Holocaust, an attempt by Satan and the German people to eliminate God's chosen people, 6 million Jews by gassing and many other atrocities.

2) Lenin and Josef Stalin, Russian rulers who systematically eliminated 20 million Russian dissidents, citizens of their own country.

3) The Gulag Archipelago, Russian communist Siberian concentration and forced labor camps for dissidents. Read the book by Alexander Solzenistin.

4) The Killing Fields, millions of Cambodians were systematically eliminated by their own army, the Kemer Rouge after the Vietnam war as revenge on democratic sympathizers and to eliminate the threat to communism.

5) The existence of Apartheid in South Africa and support for many years of the South African government by the 'democratic' governments of the world.

6) Marytrdom of Missionaries in current times, God's people murdered while trying to do good. The darkness hates the light with a vengeance enough to murder, while the light has compassion on the dark even while being murdered. See Saint Stephen and Jesus Christ and other Christian martyrs as examples of this total loving kindness. The martyrdom of all of Jesus' Apostles except one is excellent witness to the level that Satan and his followers will stoop to in an attempt to obliterate the truth and The Light of The World. Of course, these attempts are absolutely futile and can never succeed. Paul tells us in his letters that he is convinced nothing can separate him from the love of God. The Light of the World is so brilliant that nothing of this world or any other world can extinguish it's power.

Catholicism and Calamity Come to the Early Christian Church
Warnings About The Roman Catholic Church:

The State Church of the Roman Empire and Descent into Apostasy
Martyrdom of the Saints (see John Foxe's Book of Martyrs)

The greatest catastrophe to ever befall the young Christian Church was the edict by Emperor Theodosius circa 380 A. D. making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire. This Universal Catholic Church of the Roman Empire or Roman Catholic Church was the first Age of Apostasy or decline into disbelief for the early church. Unregenerate Romans, with their pagan gods and images and rituals still in their minds and hearts, were forced to integrate

with true believers. This politization of the church into a State-Church and Church-State allowed the militarism of the Roman government to infiltrate and corrupt the all-loving and subservient message of Jesus Christ. Offices in the church were sold and Roman societal immorality crept in. Pagan idol worship crept into the simple Christian ceremony by way of Roman Catholic images, paintings and icons or symbols and statuary. These objects became their focal point for worship. As God states it, they worship the created and not the Creator. Their ceremonies became increasingly elaborate and 'stately', reminiscent of the pagan ceremonies they supposedly left behind. This was additional evidence of their unregenerated hearts. Icons began to fill the church and believing ministers were replaced with unconverted heathen 'priests' who bought the privilege of becoming priests from corrupt church 'leaders'. These forerunners of the 'Pope' (which means 'Papa' in Italian) usurped the rightful role of Jesus Christ as the high priest interceding with God for man.

All of Jesus' Apostles were martyred except one. Martyrdom in the early Christian church began with Stephen, a disciple of Jesus Christ, by the Jewish religious hierarchy because they felt threatened by the message that the Messiah had come to earth in the personage of Jesus Christ. The Jews assisted in the Martyrdom of many of the early saints and the Protestants who came out of the European Reformation (circa 1520-1570) were responsible for the martyr of several hundred innocents. The Roman Catholic Church and the immoral Papacy were responsible for the outright murder of millions of believers in the years from Pope Gregory (590-604) through Pope Urban VIII (1623-1644) with the aid of the Society of Jesuit priests.

Some would say we need to forgive and forget these atrocities. After all, isn't that what Jesus would have done. This all happened a thousand years ago, shouldn't we forget about it. I don't agree. It's one thing to forgive the German people for what they did during the Jewish Holocaust. They have purged their political system of all of the Nazi influence and repudiated what Hitler did as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Roman Catholic Church has never repudiated any of the millions of tortures and executions of 'heretics'. They don't even admit the incidents ever took place. The organization still has all of the corrupt practices that caused Martin Luther, Zwingli and others to voice their 'Protests' and launch the Protestant Reformation.

Today the 'natural sciences' have become the 'official state religion' in the technology driven society called America. As the 'official state religion' of science, like Roman Catholicism, is intolerant of other beliefs and is actively used by the American State Empire to displace and destroy other 'false' religions such as Christianity. This dogma is carried out by Satan's hand maidens; public school educators, university professors, lawyers, judges, politicians and bureaucrats. The result today in American Empire is the very same decline that Gibbons wrote about in Roman Empire. Corruption, greed, avarice, hatred, political oppression, world class military power and gross immorality where characteristics of Nero's time and are just as real in the Reagan/Bush era. While the Roman Catholic

Church is declining in popularity it is still a very potent force in Satan's armament. Pope's have abused their authority many times in the past when the political winds shifted. As the American Empire is threatened and the New World Order becomes a distinct possibility (and danger to true Christianity) look for the Roman cancer to rear it's ugly head again in a subtle new wave of deceit and trickery. While it's call for One World Church (Ecumenicalism) is not new, the tools and tactics it will use will be much more technologically advanced and insidious. While the AntiChrist may not be apparent to us yet, the spirit of antichrist is alive in the world. Don't be deceived by all of the false teachers and false doctrine that's floating around. Hide the Word of God in your heart. Pray for the ability to distinguish between the truth and false spirits. This comes from the discerning spirit and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We aren't saying individual Roman Catholics are or are not true believers. There are without doubt a number of true believers in their midst just as there are a number of true believers in the assemblies of Baptists, Methodists, Nazarenes, Presbyterians and the litany of orthodox Christian denominations. The danger is not with the individual, it's with the church organization without a biblical foundation. The Roman Catholic Church does not represent the early Christian church or 'The Church' as the true body of believers. This is a claim made by an 'infallible' line of Popes which admit to 'false' Popes and numerous degenerates as head of 'the Church'. The current Ecumenical movement and New World Order is an old idea dressed up in new clothes. The first 'Catholic' Ecumenical council took place at Nicaea, AD 325. The attempt to formulate a global world government and global world religion has been ongoing for over two millenium. The Bible predicts and warns us about such developments and the danger in Satan's plan.

Satan is a very subtle deceiver. If his lies were obvious no one would believe them. Instead Satan uses partial truths, grey areas, appeals to logic (false logic - a logic that starts with false premises) and misinformation about the character of God. Satan doesn't attempt to convince you directly that there is no God. He himself believes IN God. The difference is that Satan does not believe ON God. Satan's trust is in himself and not in God. The deceit with the Roman Catholic church is that they receive their power and authority directly from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, through Saint Peter (Jesus speaking to Peter, 'On this rock I will build my Church...', Matthew 16:18b (NIV). Believers protesting this lie (Protestants) such as Martin Luther, Zwingli, John Calvin, John Knox and others knew church history well enough to recognize the fallacy of this claim. They knew the Roman Catholic Church, per se, did not exist until 380 A.D. when Emperor Theodosius made his edict that Christianity would become the official state church and religion.

When something is built on a false foundation the building or organization is bound to rot, decay and crumble. That is exactly what has happened with the Roman Catholic Church, it is built on a faulty foundation, a false claim to be linked directly to Saint Peter and inheriting the keys to the kingdom from him. It's like building a beautiful home on sand only to see it topple when ocean waves undercut the sand footings and foundations. Allow God to build your

Christian faith and character on solid rock, The Solid Rock - Jesus Christ, and His Holy Word - The Bible. You can ignore some of the peculiarities of a church organization as long as it has certain basic tenets of faith that it holds inviolable and unchangeable. This statement of faith should include:

God is three persons yet one, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, a triune being.

There is only One God and that God is the God of the Old Testament Hebrews and Gentiles (non-Jews) who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah and as their Savior. This represents 'The Universal Church' spoken of in the Apostle's Creed.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully God and fully Man. He is the only way sinful men can be reunited with a Holy God. He was born a virgin birth, was crucified, died, was buried, descended into hell to conquer death and sin and was raised from the dead. His death was a complete sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus offers us salvation from our sins. It is a gift from an all-loving God available to all men by the confession of a man's sinfulness, a broken heart, faith that God will do as He says He will do and a turning away from sin in the future. Man can do nothing in and of himself to become worthy of God's gift of salvation. It is strictly the grace of God that will save an individual, not by works. Jesus Christ is alive and sitting at the right hand of God. Jesus will return to earth again (His Second Coming) when He will rule for 1,000 years with His Church (true believers). Jesus and Jesus alone is our only priest. The only person to be called Father is our Heavenly Father. The Italian word for Papa (father) is 'Pope' and is in direct contradiction to God's Holy Word. Also we are fully capable of reading God's Word and interpreting it for ourselves as God the Holy Spirit gives us insight and wisdom.

The Bible is the entire message of God to mankind. It contains no errors and is eternal. Jesus Christ is the same Word of God as His Holy Bible. This is the history of God's dealing with His people as well as the Guidebook for His Church (true believers) on how they should conduct their lives every day. That the Holy Bible was written by men who were divinely inspired by God the Father. The literal being and personality and depravity of Satan. This depravity is shared by man by his fall from his original privileged with God.

That the true believers in Jesus Christ will be redeemed from the eternal damnation that awaits unbelievers and unregenerated souls. That Heaven (the presence of God) is a real place reserved for believers while Hell (separation from God) is also a real place reserved for the non-believer.

Orthodox Protestant denominations, leadership, pastors and congregations shouldn't be to glib or proud about the Catholic-bashing I've just done. In their apostasy they still reach out and serve more people than the Protestants do. Most Protestant churches have become hollow empty tombs with millions of dead souls walking around inside of them. It isn't a matter of revival, they haven't accepted the truth as it was presented to them. They aren't much of a threat to Satan or the New World Order or the New Age or One World Government or One World Church. They are impotent as ministers of the gospel because they are playing church instead of

living as 'The Church', the loving, all-compassionate, all-giving body of Jesus Christ. The orthodox Christian Church has diminished in importance because it is failing to stand up for what is right, even if it means persecution and death. Jesus never said 'Don't rock the boat, His message was 'Go ahead and upset the boat - you can walk on the water, I'll even show you how to fish without nets!' Oh what a wonderful glorious message He has for you as a young baby in His Word or as a mature Christian soul on The Way home.

The orthodox Protestant denominations and their leaders have also become State Churches in the American Empire. Orthodox denominations worldwide have fallen into a deep state of apostasy and are leading hundreds of millions of people into 'The Abyss' with them. They preach a social gospel that approximates secular humanism then pat the needy on the back while they show them the door. These ministries store up vast wealth in land, buildings and bank accounts and use the concept of stewardship to justify their self-adornment. This is in direct contradiction to Jesus' invective to sell all you have, give it to the poor and follow Him (Matthew 19:21). When you see a rich 'Christian' red lights and sirens should go off in your head.

The Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order of the Roman Catholic Church):

The Society of Jesus was organized by 'Saint' Ignatius Loyola and approved in 1540 A.D. by Pope Paul III in his bull, 'Regimini Militantis' (Military Regiment). This edict allowed the formation of a military order within the Roman Catholic Church, supposedly the 'church' of Jesus Christ. Military, Pope, Roman Catholic and Jesus are words that form the ultimate oxymoron. Roman soldiers are the very people who crucified Jesus Christ. This is blasphemy of our Lord and Savior in it's most grotesque form. An even greater blasphemy would occur as these Jesuit soldier-priests would torture and martyr of 'heretics'. A 'heretic' was anyone who disagreed with official church dogma and doctrine. Church dogma and doctrine changed constantly as spiritual pagan's tried to interpret and reinterpret the Word of God. The priests, bishops and cardinals also tried to reconcile prior incorrect interpretations with the best current thinking. Jesuit 'theologians' also agreed with the torture and execution of 'heretics' (See 'Uber Die Kirliche Und Politische Inquisition', 1875, pp65 seq., Fr. Wenig, Society of Jesus, 1866). They called it the 'Ecclesiastical Inquisition' and tortured and martyred millions of people in the name of Jesus Christ. The Jesuits may not have originated the term 'the ends justify the means' but they practiced it and honed it to a very sharp edge, the edge of an executioner's ax that is. Jesuit colleges and universities are still very prominent in U. S. education. A prime source of reading material about the Jesuits is E. Boyd Barrett's book, 'The Jesuit Enigma', (c) 1927, Boni & Liverwright: New York. The atrocities of the Pope's army are well documented by many ex-Jesuit priests. Of course, the Roman Catholic Church immediately villifies the offender, excommunicates him and at times has dispatched the whistle-blower

the same as any other 'heretic'.

Martyred Disciples and Apostles of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Stephen, disciple of Jesus Christ, Martyred by Saul and other Jewish leaders.

The first martyr of the young Christian church. James, son of Zebedee, brother of John, beheaded 44 A.D. Philip, crucified in 52 A.D. Matthew, killed by sword in 60 A.D. at Parthia, Greece. Mark, dragged through the streets of Alexandria and burned the next day, his bones are supposedly buried at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice. James the Less, not the brother of John, stoned to death in Jerusalem. Matthias, replaced Judas, stoned then beheaded at Jerusalem. Andrew at Patrae in Greece was crucified for three days, was held to an 'X' shaped cross by ropes instead of nails. During his crucifixion he preached the gospel of Jesus Christ and many were converted. Peter, crucified upside down in Rome in 64 A.D. by decree of Nero. He asked to be crucified upside down because he didn't feel worthy to be crucified in the same way Jesus was. This was an extremely painful and cruel way to die. He was imprisoned with Paul in Rome for 9 months prior to his crucifixion. Paul, martyred by beheading at the decree of Nero, 64 A.D. in Rome. In prison for 9 months preceding his death with Peter. Jude, brother of James, also called Thaddeus, went to Persia, won many converts, crucified in 72 A.D. Bartholomew, translated Matthew's gospel into languages of heathen nations.

Various reports held he was clubbed to death, others say he was martyred by the sword. Thomas (Didymus), martyred by being run through with a spear. Luke, may have died of natural causes, might have been martyred, unknown. Simon Zelotes, preached in Mauritania, Africa, Britain, crucified 74 A.D. John, brother of James, founded many churches in Greece, Asia Minor, died of natural causes at Ephesus at age 100. Barnabas, manner of death unknown, A.D. 73. Outstanding Christian men and women and Other notables of the early Christian church: Origen, (185-254), lived in Alexandria, Egypt. Origen was the son of Leonidas, an early church martyr. He was very learned, a prolific writer and well travelled. He died in prison in Palestine as a result of torture under Decius. St. Augustine, (354-430 A.D.), Saint Aurelius Augustinus - Bishop of Hippo, Northern Africa, wrote 'City of God' as defense against those saying that Christianity was the reason that Roman Empire fell. Albigenses or Cathari, Southern France, Northern Spain, Northern Italy, (circa 1150-1250) this group of zealots preached against the immoralities found in the Roman Catholic Church. In 1208 Pope Innocent III ordered a Crusade against the Albigenses resulting in the massacre of French town after town. The Inquisition came in 1229 to exterminate many thousands in France and Italy. Waldo of France (1176 ?), Southern France, Northern Italy, wealthy merchant who followed Christ's command to sell all he had, give the money to the poor and follow Jesus. Preached against most of the historical heresies of the Roman Catholic church including praying the dead out of purgatory, priests only ones qualified to interpret the Bible, et

cetera. Precursor to the Protestant Reformation. Waldenses still are a leading Protestant sect in Italy. Saint Francis of Assisi, (1182-1226), See the books 'The Little Flowers of Saint Francis of Assisi' and Tomie de Paola's 'Francis, the Poor Man of Assisi' about this man's life. St. Francis was impoverished by choice in physical possessions but was extremely rich in spirit. He was very attuned to God's creations, animals, the human spirit and the wonders of God's gift to mankind - earth. Thomas Aquinas, (1225-1274) wrote Summa Theologiae (1267-1273), first systematic exposition of dogma of the orthodox Christian church, adopted by the Roman Catholic Church as official church dogma. John Wyclif, (1324-1384), A professor at Oxford, England. Preached against the many excesses of the Roman Catholic Church. Translated the Holy Bible into the English language long before King James authorized the translation of the Bible into the vernacular for the common people. John Huss, (1369-1415), A student of Wyclif, Huss was the rector of the University of Prague in Czechoslovakia (then Bohemia). He railed against the immorality of the Roman Catholic Church and was burned at the stake as a heretic for his beliefs. Many thousands of Bohemian believers were also martyred after his death by another Papal Crusade. Joan of Arc, (1412-1431), Saint and Martyr for her beliefs, see videorecording 1948 RKO Pictures with Ingrid Bergman, also book by Anatole France (1844-1924) at 944.026 J343re. Savonarola, (1452-1498), Florence Italy. Pope Alexander VI tried everything he possibly could to discourage this early reformer. Savonarola reached against the immorality of the Roman Catholic Church and sacraments the Romans had instituted without a biblical foundation. He was finally hanged and burned as a heretic in the Great Square of his home town in 1498. Erasmus, (1466-1536), probably the greatest scholar who lived during the Reformation period. His attacks against the Roman Catholic Church were vituperative but not unfounded. He especially enjoyed attacking 'unholy men in holy orders.' Martin Luther, (1483-1546) German religious reformer, the Protestant Reformation began with Luther's 95 Theses nailed to the Roman Catholic Church door at Wittenberg Germany on October 31, 1517. Zwingli, (1484-1531) One of first Protestant Reformers, his rejection of the teachings and extra-biblical rites and image worship predated Martin Luther's 95 Theses by over a year (1516 vs. 10/31/1517). John Calvin, (1509-1564) French minister, wrote 'Institutes of the Christian Religion', driven out of France into Geneva Switzerland 1534-36. Was not founder but a key figure in the Protestant Reformation. His followers and Zwingli's formed the Swiss Reformed Church in 1549. John Knox, (1515-1572) Protestant reformer, Scottish priest, began teaching Reformation ideology about 1540. In 1553 he went to Geneva Switzerland to attend John Calvin's Academy. He adopted Calvinistic teachings thoroughly and was recalled to Scotland by the Parliament of Lords to become the leader of the Scottish National Reform movement. Jonathan Edwards, New England's leading Puritan preacher and philosopher, partly responsible for the 1740 Great Awakening in New England. Roger Williams, Anabaptist, established his followers in Rhode Island. William Blake, (1757-1827), poet, author, illustrator, wrote early book of poetry for children called 'Songs of Innocence'. Soren Aabye Kierkegaard, (1813-1855), Danish philosopher and Christian apologist. Robert Bridges, English Poet. Dwight L. Moody, American preacher. Francis Jane Crosby, Fanny Crosby (1818-1915), blind

Christian songwriter, hymns such as 'Safe in the Arms of Jesus' written at age 47. Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy, Graf (1828-1910), Leo Tolstoy, author 'War and Peace' John Wesley, English minister, responsible for Methodism on which the Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist and United Methodist churches are based. Charles Wesley, English hymn writer, brother of John Wesley. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, (1834- ?), English minister, pastor of New Park Street Baptist Chapel 1854- ?, London, England. Charles G. Finney, minister. H. A. Ironsides, preacher. R. A. Torrey, preacher. A. W. Tozer, preacher. C. I. Scofield, preacher, lawyer, Bible interpreter and commentator. David Brainerd, missionary to the Indians. Mother Theresa, The House of the Dying, Calcutta, India. Albert Einstein, check what he had to say about the existence of God. Robert Browning, (1812-1889) poet, wrote 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'. Isaac Watts, (1674-1748) English songwriter. Christina Georgina Rossetti, (1830-1894), poetess, wrote 'Sing-Song'. George MacDonald, (1824 1905), Scottish author and poet. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (1906-1945). Clive Staples Lewis, (1898-1963), author, minister, wrote 'Narnia Chronicles'. Billy Graham, 20th century American evangelist. Lady Saint Clare Saint Bernadette Soubirous, (1844-1879), Roman Catholic nun, the miracle of Lourdes, France occurred to her.

The strong testimony of Christian Martyrs: (books about martyrs) A New Martyrology or The Bloody Assizes John Tutchin (1661-1707) The Martyrdom of Baron George Jeffreys in Britain (1648-1689) Microfilm 820.8 En36w St. Joan of Arc Anatole France Martyrs at Leopoldville, African Congo 200 Martyrs a year in current times (not a book, just a comment) Priscillian of Avila St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Christians, Paris, 1572 A.D. Ordered by notorious Roman Catholic Pope Gregory. The Age of Martyrs; Christianity from Diocletian to Constantine Giuseppe Ricciotti (1890-?) Anthony Bull, trans. Milwaukee, Bruce Publishing Company; 1959. Description: Christian Martyrs in the Early Church, ca. 30-600 A.D. 272.1 R359a The Shrouds of Glory; Six Studies in Martyrdom James Turner (1909-1975) London, Cassell Publishers; 1958. 272 T854 Foxe's Book of Martyrs John Foxe (1516-1587) Philadelphia, C. Foster Company; 1907. 272 F836f 1st American edition. Grand Rapids, Zondervan Publ.; 1954. 272 F838 2nd American edition. Boston, Little Brown Publ.; 1965. 272 F836w 3rd American edition.

edited by G. A. Williamson. Martyrs: From St. Stephen to John Tung Attwater, Donald (1892-1977) London, Sheed and Ward; 1958. 272 AT88 The Roman Catacombs and Their Martyrs Freiherr Ludwig von Hertling (1892- ?) Milwaukee, Bruce Publishing Company; 1956. 913.376 H442r Halley's Bible Handbook Henry H. Halley Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing; 1965. Section on Church History, Papacy and Martyrs

Lives of Outstanding Christian's as testimony to the Power of God:

Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), mathematician, physicist. A Third Testament (Pascal and others) Malcolm Muggeridge Boston, Little Brown; 1976. 209.2 M891t Blaise Pascal Harold Bloom, ed.

Chelsea House 1989 194.9 P26BL Neither Angel Nor Beast (Blaise Pascal) Francis X. J. Coleman Rutledge and Kegan Paul 1986

Peter Marshall (1902-1949), Chaplain to the United States Senate, minister. A Man Called Peter; The Story of Peter Marshall Catherine Marshall, 1914- New York, McGraw-Hill; 1951.

Notes for book: The Kingdom of Kindness Bleak Promise, Bright Hope

The Formula for Success Christ + Nothing = Everything in Perpetuity
The Formula for Destruction and Ultimate Defeat Man + Everything = Nothingness Forever
Jesus First Others Second Yourself Last No
Jesus No Peace Know Jesus Know Peace 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' Mt 4:19 When you fish for fish they are alive then they die. When you fish for men they are dead and then they become alive. (spiritually speaking and by the Grace of God). You're either a missionary or you're a mission field. You shouldn't be upset by the prospect of Hell, you can choose not to go.

Christian terminology borrowed from the Greek, Aramaic or Hebrew languages: Amen - is Hebrew for That is True! Used to show agreement with the speaker. Hosanna! - Hebrew for Save Us! Now used as a term for rejoicing. Immanuel - God With Us! (For He Shall Save His People). Name given to Jesus by the angel who told Mary of His conception (The Annunciation). Maranatha - The LORD Comes!

Christian terms, concepts and doctrine that may be confusing to a new believer: Parable - an earthly story with a heavenly message. These somewhat cryptic messages had to be interpreted to be completely understood. Jesus taught in parables so the ungodly religious leaders of his day would not become followers without faith (Matthew 13:13.) Miracle - a display of God's power and intervention in human events. By definition miracles happen on earth but they have no earthly explanation as how they could occur. The Latin word means 'wonderful thing.' Justification - Santification - Immersion - Believer's Baptism - Pentecost - Passover - Sacrificial Lamb - Eucharist - Ascension - Transfiguration - Annunciation - Holy Communion - The Lord's Supper - The Last Supper - The Upper Room - Dedication, Conversion, Commitment - Walk of the Believer - Assurance or Eternal Security - Atonement - Vicarious - Immaculate Conception (Virgin Birth) - Missions - Tithing - Plenary Death - Tribulation - Second Coming of Jesus Christ - End Times - Revelation - Prophecy - Perdition - Fallen Angels - Grace versus Works - Legalism - The Early Church - "The Church" as the Body of

Christ - Beatitude - Hell, the Pit, Lake of Fire - Fire and Brimstone - Second Death - Covenant and Testament - Disciple versus Apostle - Jesus had many disciples or followers but only 12 disciples were selected to be apostles. Apostle means 'someone who is sent.' The Pentateuch - The Talmud - Major Prophets - Minor Prophets - Forbidden Practices - Divination - Licentiousness - Fornication - Avarice - The Exodus - Plagues - Spiritual versus carnal - Image of God - I am that I am - Blasphemy - Sacrilege - Visions - Myth - Eternal Blessedness - Eternal Damnation - Separation from God - Carnal Knowledge - Old Nature or the Old Man - New Nature or the New Man - Sin Nature - Original Sin - Falling from Grace - Salvation - Gifts of the Spirit - Fruits of the Spirit - Indwelling of the Holy Spirit - Baptism of the Holy Ghost - Speaking in Tongues - The Occult - Charismatic Movement - New Age Movement - Human Secularism - Symbolism - Allegory - The Synoptic Gospels - Harmony of the Gospels - Paradox - Mystery - Mind of God - Earthly Wisdom -

Reflections: 52 Weekly Thoughts

1) Astronomers say there are at least 2 billion galaxies as large or larger than our own Milky Way Galaxy in the Universe. That's two million million galaxies each having 1 or 2 billion stars larger than our Sun. The power of God is Immense, His presence is Vast and His ways are completely untraceable by man. Science is Satan's Supreme Silliness. All of Creation screams out in witness to the existence of God our Heavenly Father.

2) Huge particle accelerators at Fermi Lab at the University of Chicago, the National Laboratories of Sandia in New Mexico, Los Alamos, Jet Propulsion Labs, Lawrence Livermore Atomic Radiation Lab at UC Berkeley and others have allowed nuclear physicists to split the atom into subatomic particles. Some of the names are as mystic as the paths the particles leave on X-ray plates; quarks, up, strange, top, bottom, charmed and unk-unks for unknown-unknowns. Other scientists have identified naturally occurring subatomic particles passing through earth's atmosphere including; kaons, muons, gluons and those from light - photons. God's Ways are beyond man's tracing out (Romans 11:33). There is no proof to support the following view. But it is very possible for a Sovereign Creator of the Universe to change the nature of the matter underlying Creation at His Will to confound and confuse the ungodly and sinful efforts of man to discover the 'mind of God.' He tells us that He will allow a strong delusion to come on men and they will believe the lie (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

3) What if we some day find intelligent life on another planet? Doesn't that prove God isn't the Creator of the Universe and Supreme Being? In the first place it's pretty egocentric to think we are the only intelligent things God ever created. He created angels who are certainly intelligent. He created the animals in the field and I've met some dogs who are more intelligent than some university

professors, lawyers and politicians I've known. Secondly, who are we to tell God whether or not he could create another intelligent race somewhere else in this Universe or even another Universe larger than our 15 billion light year wide Universe. Thirdly, as Albert Einstein told another fairly bright gentleman John von Neumann, 'Stop telling God what to do with His universe.' We seem to be earthbound. We are trapped by time and space. NASA scientists are dismayed by the fact that extended space travel causes human bone marrow to deteriorate and cause the bones to weaken. This occurs even in only a few short days of space travel. God has us just where He wants us, we were created to live on a paradise called earth 6,000 years ago and now that we have made a living hell out of it we want to be anyplace else but here. Scientists will see this as an oversimplification or illogical argumentation. They will say in other words if God would have wanted us to fly He would have put wings on man. It's called 'reductio ad absurdum', an old Aristotelian device to show the conclusion is unbelievable if you can arrive at the same conclusion using false supporting logic. The difference here is we don't have logic to support our conclusion, we have scientific proof. Logic is man made reasoning and can be faulty. Scientific experimentation roots out all chance of error (supposedly). But man continues to resist God's laws and logic. NASA scientists at this very moment are trying to find ways to overcome the bone mass loss problem in order to fulfill their 'Star Trek-like' mission to go where no man is supposed to go.

3) Overcoming is the ultimate mission in a Christian's life. Overcoming the obstacles Satan and his demon-possessed world place in the believers path. Learning to overcome temptation, trials, adversity, anxiety, worry, feelings of inadequacy, guilt, despondency, despair, helplessness and hopelessness are difficult tasks. Without Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit it's an impossible task. Learning to lean on the strong yet tender arms of Jesus is easy when everything else you have tried doesn't work. He will turn all of your failures into successes. The weakness of God is stronger than men, (1 Corinthians 1:25 KJV).

4) In this life you may not see the impact you have for the Lord. That doesn't matter. We are working for eternal results. Only Satan and his followers are working for temporal gain, money, possessions, land and position. In the Grand Scheme of things these possessions, position and power are absolutely meaningless. Don't live your life like you are working for an earthly banker. God's treasure vault is so large and wide it will take an eternity of eternities to travel from the door to your safety deposit boxes. Then it will take several eternities to count out your wealth. To be highest in the Kingdom you must be least here on earth. If you can't be trusted with very little how can you expect to be trusted with much in Heaven. Learn to serve others in true humility and never count the cost. Give your money to the poor and those in need. United States dollars are a blasphemy to God anyhow. The USA is not a Christian nation and has not exercised 'In God We Trust' for many decades. The country that has on several times attempted to eliminate 'One Nation Under God' from its childrens pledge of allegiance doesn't have anything God wants,

especially it's filthy money. Live simply so others may simply live.

5) The Universe consists of at least one quadrillion stars (one billion galaxies times one billion stars apiece) and yet it is 99.9% empty space. AMAZING!

6) If no other thought we present humbles your thinking this should. As believers of His Gospel we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Our Inheritance includes the boundless Universe and all of Creation along with the uncounted numbers of things we have not seen yet (Romans 8:17 and 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV).

7) Have you reached the point in your Christian walk that you are willing to follow God's Way wherever it may lead? Is that an empty head nodding in agreement or has your will and heart been broken. Is it broken to the point where you are willing to sing the words of the missionary song 'I'll go where you want me to go, Oh, Lord. I'll be what you want me to be.' If not, I'm afraid God will have to break your heart even more. Do it the easy way, surrender your will to Him up front and avoid the mistakes, embarrassment, guilt, fear, anxiousness and sleepless nights of trying to work out your own will. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) doesn't say 'My will be done', it says 'Thy will be done'. His 'Will' will be done with or without you. Why not help the cause of Jesus Christ as much as possible. Pray that God will make you a useful vehicle to carry out His Will here on earth.

8) Sometimes when I think I'm working too hard for the Lord I stop and think of what some other men and women have done for the Lord. John Wesley wrote and delivered 40,000 sermons working 15 hours every day until he died of natural causes and advanced age at ninety. When he was seventy he lamented that he was only able to write and deliver two sermons a day. His brother, Charles Wesley, wrote 65,000 religious poems and songs. He even wrote several on his wedding day! My efforts are almost nonexistent by those standards. Are we going to be ashamed when we stand in front of Jesus because the harvest was plentiful but the workers are few? (Matthew 9:37 and Luke 10:2 NIV).

9) Mysticism, the New Age Movement, spirit channellers, Vision Quests and releasing your 'inner self' are some new names for a very old practice by a very old force in the Universe. Satan is at the bottom of all of these practices. Satan worship, cults, occult practices, witchcraft, magic, sorcery are ancient equivalents of these 'new' practices. They are all forbidden by God early on in the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:9-13). God calls them detestable practices. While they are not unforgiveable the practitioners usually are so warped and depraved that God gives them a seared conscience (closed with heat so as not to be openable ever again). Even demon possession seems to be easier to remove than Satanic practices. You don't need to worry about the increase in occult practices. They have been there

all the time. But in the last days Satan will become bolder and bolder. The practice of Satanic and pagan rituals will be done in the open and the dream state that God will allow to come over mankind will result in complete apathy towards the practices. This is the final Apostate phase of the Church Age. Most 'church-goers' (not true believers) will be unaffected, even intrigued by mass murders, serial killers, cannibalism and open blasphemy of the Holy God. But you should not be worried. God is still in control and on His throne. Satan has no power over the Child of God.

Prophetic Passages in the Old Testament on Jesus Christ:

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he will crush your head and you will bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:15 (KJV paraphrased)

And by your offspring will all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice.

Genesis 22:18 (KJV paraphrased)

The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor a ruler from between his feet, until the one comes to whom it belongs; and all nations shall be gathered to him.

Genesis 49:10 (KJV paraphrased)

I will see him, but not yet; I will behold him, but not close by. A Star will come from Jacob; a Sceptre will rise out of Israel. He will crush the heads of Moab, and destroy the children of the noisy one. Edom will be overrun; Seir will be conquered for his enemies, and Israel will do well. From Jacob will come the one who has dominion and destroy the city's survivors.

Numbers 24:17-19 (KJV paraphrased)

The Lord your God will raise a Prophet like me from among their brothers; You will listen to him.

Deuteronomy 18:15 (KJV paraphrased)

Why do the unbelievers rage, and the people imagine unbelievable things? The kings of the earth have made up their minds, and the rulers listen to opinions, against the LORD, and against his Anointed, saying,

"Let's break their shackles off, and throw their chains away from us."

He that is seated in heaven will laugh; The Lord will hold them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his anger, and trouble them in his wrath. Still I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will make this decree: the LORD has said to me, You are my Son; today I have borne you. Ask me, and I will give you the unbelievers as your inheritance and you will possess the farthest reaches of the earth. You will rule them with an iron rod; you will break them into pieces like clay pots.

Therefore, o you kings, be wise now; listen to my instruction, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and be glad with trembling. Embrace the Son, so he doesn't become angry and banish you from the way, when his anger is stirred up even a little. Blessed are all those who place their trust in him.

Psalms 2 (KJV paraphrased)

You are fairer than the children of men; grace is poured into your lips: therefore God has blessed you forever.

Psalms 45:2 (KJV paraphrased)

You have ascended to heaven, you led your captives in

chains; you have received gifts meant for men, even for rebellious men, that the LORD God may live with them.

Psalm 68:18 (KJV paraphrased)

They gave me gall to eat; and when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Psalm 69:21 (KJV paraphrased)

The LORD says to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, while I make your enemies a stool to rest your feet.

Psalm 110:1 (KJV paraphrased)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Psalm 118:22 (KJV paraphrased)

The LORD made a promise to David; he will not dishonor it; I will place one of your children on your throne.

Psalm 132:11 (KJV paraphrased)

And he will judge the nations, and will chasten many people: and they will beat their swords into plows, and their weapons into implements: one nation will not raise its weapons in anger against another nation and they will not study war anymore.

Isaiah 2:4 (KJV paraphrased)

Therefore the Lord will give you a sign; a virgin will conceive, and give birth to a son, and his will be called Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV paraphrased)

For to us a child is born, a son is given to us: and government will be his: and his name will be Wonderful, Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father and The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV paraphrased)

Out of the trunk of Jesse a stiff branch will arise, and a tender shoot will grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1 (KJV paraphrased)

This is what Almighty God has to say: I have laid in Zion a precious and proven stone for a solid foundation; those who trust it will never be disappointed.

Isaiah 28:16 (KJV paraphrased)

Here is my servant, who I support; the one I have selected, in whom I delight; I have placed my spirit on him: he will judge all nations.

Isaiah 42:1 (KJV paraphrased)

Who has believed what we said? and who sees the arm of the Lord? For he will grow a tender plant in his sight, like a root out of parched ground: he doesn't have a handsome frame or any beauty; and when we see him there won't be anything beautiful about him that would make us want his company.

Isaiah 53 (KJV paraphrased)

And he saw that there was no one standing there to intercede for men: therefore his right arm brought salvation to men; and his holiness, it sustained men.

Isaiah 59:16 (KJV paraphrased)

The Spirit of Almighty God is on me, because the LORD has appointed me to preach good news to the humble; he has sent me to wrap the brokenhearted, to announce freedom to those in captivity, and the opening of prison doors to prisoners;

Isaiah 61:1 (KJV paraphrased)

Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah with red stained clothing? He who is glorious in his robes, travelling with almighty strength?

"It is I, speaking in holiness, the mighty to save."

Isaiah 63:1 (KJV paraphrased)

"Listen to me, the day is coming," says the LORD, "that I will raise from David a holy Branch, a King who will reign in prosperity and will administer justice and judgement throughout the world."

Jeremiah 23:5 (KJV paraphrased)

Understand this and believe it, from the time the decree is issued to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah and Prince comes will be 69 weeks: Jerusalems streets and walls will be rebuilt in turbulent times.

Daniel 9:25 (KJV paraphrased)

But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, even though you are tiny among Judah's many, from you will come will come one to me the King of Israel; whose ways are ancient, from eternity past.

Micah 5:2 (KJV paraphrased)

For this is what the LORD of heaven says; 'Shortly I will shake heaven and earth and oceans and continents; and I will shake all peoples, and the worlds desire will come: and I will bless this house with glory,' says the LORD of heaven.

Haggai 2:6-7 (KJV paraphrased)

"Hear this, Joshua the high priest, you and the men that sit with you: men who others wonder about: for I am bringing my servant, The Branch."

Zechariah 3:8 (KJV paraphrased)

"And say this to him, 'This is what the LORD of heaven says to you,' "Look at the man called The Branch; he will grow out of his place, and he will build the temple of the LORD;""

Zechariah 6:12 (KJV paraphrased)

Make a joyful noise daughter of Zion; shout daughter of Jerusalem: Look, your King comes to you: he is holy and has salvation; he is humble and riding on a donkey even a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 (KJV paraphrased)

And the LORD told me, "Throw it to them: the handsome price that my life was appraised at by them." And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw it to those in the house of the LORD.

Zechariah 11:12 (KJV paraphrased)

And I will anoint the descendants of David and those living in Jerusalem with the spirit of grace and prayer: and those who have pierced me will look at me and cry as one cries for his only son, and will weep bitterly for me, as if they were weeping for their first child.

Zechariah 12:10 (KJV paraphrased)

"Arise sword, against my shepherd, and against the man who is by my side," says the LORD of heaven, "strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter and my hand will be upon the smallest ones."

Zechariah 13:7 (KJV paraphrased)

"Listen to me, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way in front of me: and the One you are looking for, will come suddenly to his temple, the bearer of good news, who you delight in: I tell you, he will come," says the LORD of heaven.

Malachi 3:1 (KJV paraphrased)

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

JESUS CHANGES THE WATER INTO WINE Location: Cana in Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Power Over the Natural World John 2:7-9

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON IS SAVED FROM DEATH Location: Cana in Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus was Teaching People to Have Faith John 4:46-51

Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living.

A HUGE CATCH OF FISH Location: Lake of Gennesaret or the Sea of Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus Showed Simon Peter His Power and Then Told

Peter He Would Make Him a Fisher of Men. Luke 5:4-6 and Luke 5:10b

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break... Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

JESUS HEALS A DEMONIAK Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Power is Greater Than Satan's Power Mark 1:26 and Luke 4:35

The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

JESUS HEALS PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Jesus as a Friend Who Cares Matthew 8:14 with Mark 1:31 (See Mark 4:38-39 also)

When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

JESUS CLEANSSES A MAN WITH LEPROSY Location: A Town Near the Sea of Galilee Teaching illustrated: Compassion and Healing for

the Faithful Matthew 8:3

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. Mark 1:41

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Luke 5:13

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

THE PARALYZED MAN IS CURED Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Jesus Power Extends to Forgiving Sins Matthew 9:2,9:6b-8

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."... Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

THE CRIPPLED HAND IS RESTORED Location: Galilee Teaching illustrated: Mankind is More Important to God Than Tradition or Law Mark 3:1-5

Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Luke 6:6 10

On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." So he got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored.

THE CENTURION'S SERVANT HEALED (CENTURIONS WERE ROMAN SOLDIERS) Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Great Faithfulness Will Be Rewarded Matthew 8:5 13

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell

you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour. Luke 7:2-10

There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

JESUS RAISES THE WIDOW'S SON Location: Nain in Southern Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Power Extends to Death Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out --- the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN IS CURED OF BLINDNESS AND INABILITY TO TALK Location: One of the Towns in Galilee Teaching illustrated: Physical Diseases are Related to Satan Matthew 12:22

Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. Luke 11:14

Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.

JESUS CALMS THE STORM AND THE SEA Location: The Sea of Galilee Teaching illustrated: Trust in Jesus in Times of Calamity

Matthew 8:26

He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. Mark 4:39

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Luke 8:24

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

DEMONIACS OF GADARA CURED Location: Region of Gadarenes or Gergesenes or Gerasenes Teaching illustrated: Satan and His Followers Must Obey Jesus Christ,

They Recognize Jesus as the Son of God and They Know There is an Appointed Time When They Will Be Dealt With. Matthew 8:28-32

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.

JESUS RAISES JAIRUS' DAUGHTER FROM THE DEAD Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Jesus Has Complete Power Over Death, His and Ours Matthew 9:18-19

While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. Mark 5:42

Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. Luke 8:41-42

Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

AN INFIRMED IS WOMAN CURED Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Reach Out to God in Faith and He Will Meet Your Needs Matthew 9:20-22

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment on. Mark 5:25-34

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better

she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Luke 8:43-48

And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

TWO BLIND MEN REGAIN THEIR SIGHT Location: A Building Near Jairus' House Teaching illustrated: Healing and Meeting of Needs is Related to Faith Matthew 9:27-30a

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; and their sight was restored.

A DEMON POSSESSED MAN IS EXORCISED AND CURED OF INABILITY TO SPEAK Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Jesus has Complete Power Over the Forces of Satan Matthew 9:32-33

While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

JESUS WALKS ON THE SEA Location: The Sea of Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Power is Available to His Disciples if Their Faith is Sufficiently Strong. Matthew 14:25-31

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save

me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Mark 6:49-52

But when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened. John 6:19-21

When they had rowed three or three and a half miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS CHRIST Location: Mount Tabor, Mount Moreh or Mount Hermon Teaching illustrated: Jesus as the True Son of God is Coming Again Matthew 17:1-8

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. Mark 9:2-8

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. Luke 9:28-36

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters-- one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and

enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.

THE DAUGHTER OF A CANAANITE HAS A DEMON REMOVED

Location: Near Tyre and Sidon Teaching illustrated: God's Love Extends to All People Including Non-Jews Matthew 15:22-28

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon- possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. Mark 7:25-30

In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

JESUS FEEDS 5,000 MEN (PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN) WITH 5 LOAVES OF BREAD & 2 FISH Location: Seashore of the Sea of Galilee in Vicinity of Bethesda (Bethsaida) Teaching illustrated: God's Resources Are Limitless Matthew 14:15-21

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. Mark 6:41-44

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. Luke 9:12-17

Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and

countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here." He replied, "You give them something to eat." They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish-- unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. John 6:5-14

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

JESUS FEEDS ANOTHER 4,000 MEN (AND OTHERS) WITH 7 LOAVES OF BREAD AND A FEW FISH Location: Seashore of the Sea of Galilee Teaching illustrated: Jesus Has Compassion for His Followers Needs Matthew 15:32-39

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way." His disciples answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was four thousand, besides women and children. After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat and went to the vicinity of Magadan. Mark 8:8-10

The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. About four thousand men were present. And having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Dalmanutha.

A MAN WHO WAS UNABLE TO HEAR OR SPEAK IS HEALED Location: Somewhere in the Region Called Decapolis Teaching

illustrated: Bring Your Friends to Jesus for His Healing Touch Mark 7:32-37

There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

AN AFFLICTED CHILD IS CURED Location: Near Mount Tabor, Mount Hermon or Mount Moreh Teaching illustrated: Jesus Has Given Disciples Power Over Satan to Be Used Matthew 17:14-18

When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. Mark 9:26-27 The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. Luke 9:37-42

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.

TAX OR TRIBUTE MONEY FROM A FISHES' MOUTH Location: Capernaum Teaching illustrated: Don't Offend Others When It Isn't Necessary Matthew 17:24-27

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes-- from their own sons or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four- drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

JESUS HEALS TEN MEN WITH LEPROSY Location: A Galilean

Village Teaching illustrated: Give God Praise and Thanks When He Meets Your Needs Luke 17:12-19

As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

A BLIND MAN IS HEALED Location: Jerusalem Teaching illustrated: Disease Cannot Be Attributed to the Sick Person's Sin John 9:1-6

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

BLIND MAN HEALED AT BETHSAIDA Location: Bethsaida or Bethesda Teaching illustrated: Bringing others to Jesus for healing. Mark 8:22-25

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

LAZARUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD Location: Bethany Teaching illustrated: Jesus Has Complete Power Over Life and Death John 11:1-44

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." After

he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

A WOMAN WITH INFIRMITY HEALED Location: Jerusalem
Teaching illustrated: Jesus Healed on Sabbath Due to His Love for People Luke 13:11-13

And a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her,

"Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

A MAN WITH DROPSY HEALED Location: Jerusalem Teaching illustrated: Compassion is More Important Than Religious Law Luke 14:2-4

There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.

TWO BLIND MEN CURED OF BLINDNESS Location: Road Near Jericho Teaching illustrated: Jesus is Merciful and Compassionate Matthew 20:30-34

Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

CURSING THE FIG TREE Location: Jerusalem Teaching illustrated: Faith Can Move Mountains, the Faithless Will Wither Matthew 21:19-22

Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered. When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Also see Mark 11:12-25

JESUS HEALS MALCHUS, THE HIGH PRIEST'S SERVANT Location: The Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives Teaching illustrated: Forgiving and Loving One's Enemies Luke 22:51

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him. John 18:10

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

THE SECOND CATCH OF FISH Location: The Sea of Tiberias Teaching illustrated: Jesus Performed His Miracles After His Resurrection Also John 21:6

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA IS HEALED Location: The Sheep Gate at Bethesda Teaching illustrated: Jesus is the Guardian of the Helpless John 5:5-9a

One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him "Do you want to get well?"

"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST Location: Joseph of Arimathea's Tomb Teaching illustrated: The Power of God is Unlimited Luke 24:1-8

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. John 10:18

"No one takes it (his life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

APPEARANCES TO THE DISCIPLES AFTER HIS DEATH Location: Many Locations, the Tomb, Road to Emmaus, the Upper Room Teaching illustrated: Jesus Died But is Alive Today! Luke 24:36

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." John 20:26

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 1 Corinthians 15:6

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. John 21:1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. Luke 24:50

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

JOHN RECORDS HOW MANY OTHER MIRACLES JESUS PERFORMED John 21:25

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

PARADOXES IN THE BIBLE Matthew 10:39

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:25

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever

loses his life for me will find it. 2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 6:8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 2 Corinthians 12:10

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. Ephesians 3:19

And to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Jesus Explains to His Disciples Why He Uses Parables to Teach:
Matthew 13

10 The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" 11 He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. 14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (THE FARMER) Teaching illustrated: The Word of God falls on both good soil and bad soil.
Matthew 13:3-8 and 13:18-23

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop-- a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown

in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS (TARES) Teaching illustrated:
Satan Will Infiltrate the Church, God Will Separate Matthew 13:24-30
and 13:36-43

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

36 Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. 38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. 40 "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED Teaching illustrated:
God Can Turn the Smallest Beginning Into Something Great
Matthew 13:31-32

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

THE PARABLE OF YEAST Teaching illustrated: A Little Faith Will
Grow and Increase the Kingdom Matthew 13:33

33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

THE PARABLE OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE Teaching illustrated:

Select Your "Treasure" in Life Carefully Matthew 13:44

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

THE PARABLE OF THE PEARL Teaching illustrated: Give Up Everything Else You Value in Life for God Matthew 13:45-46

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

THE PARABLE OF THE NET Teaching illustrated: Separation of the Just and the Unjust Matthew 13:47-50

47 "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. 49 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

THE PARABLE OF THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD Teaching illustrated: Rewards for the Faithful and the Unfaithful Matthew 20:1-16

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. 6 About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

7 "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

9 "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

THE PARABLE OF TWO SONS Teaching illustrated: No One is

Beneath God's Redeeming Love Matthew 21:28-32

28 "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 29 "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. 31 "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

THE PARABLE OF THE EVIL RENTERS Teaching illustrated: Those Guilty of Martyring the Saints Will Be Destroyed Matthew 21:33-41

33 "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

35 "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

38 "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

41 "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING DINNER Teaching illustrated: Failure to Accept God's Invitation Will Result in Death

Also That Israel Will Be Punished For Rejecting Messiah Matthew 22:1-14

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5 "But they paid no attention and went off-- one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS Teaching illustrated: Be Ready For the Return of The Bridegroom (Jesus) Matthew 25:1-13

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

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

7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

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

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

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

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

13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS Teaching illustrated: God Wants Us to Use Our Talents Fully Matthew 25:14-30

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'

You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP Teaching illustrated: Every Person is Valuable to God Matthew 18:12-14

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? 13 And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14 In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

THE PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT Teaching illustrated: Forgive Others Just As God Has Forgiven Your Sins Matthew 18:23-35

23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

THE PARABLE OF THE OLD AND NEW WINEBAGS Teaching illustrated: Matthew 9:16-17

16 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. 17 Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS Teaching illustrated: While We Wait for Jesus to Return We Are to Work Matthew 24:45-51

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN Teaching illustrated: Help Others in Need Luke 10:30-37

30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

THE PARABLE OF THE FRIEND IN NEED AT MIDNIGHT Teaching illustrated: Be Persistent in Prayer, God Will Answer Luke 11:5-13

5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door

is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL Teaching illustrated: Luke 12:16-34

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

27 "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

THE FIG TREE WITHOUT FRUIT Teaching illustrated: You Will Be Cut Off If You Don't Bear Fruit For Jesus Luke 13:6-9

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7

So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING DINNER Teaching illustrated: God Will Exalt His Humble Servants Luke 14:7-11

7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: 8 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN Teaching illustrated: God is Pleased When One Sinner Repents of His Sin Luke 15:8-10

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON Teaching illustrated: Everyone Who Returns Home to God Will Be Saved Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and

celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

THE PARABLE OF THE SHREWD MANAGER Teaching illustrated:
Be a Good Steward of God's Money, Use it for His Will Luke 16:1-10

1 Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.'

3 "The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg-- 4 I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'

5 "So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

6 "'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.

"The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'

7 "Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?'

"'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.

"He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'

8 "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?"

THE STORY OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Teaching illustrated:
The Wealth of This World is Very Temporary Luke 16:19-31

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat

what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

THE PARABLE OF THE UNCARING JUDGE Teaching illustrated:
God Will Protect His People Luke 18:1-8

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR
Teaching illustrated: God Came to Save Sinners Not Religious People Luke 18:9-14

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-- robbers, evildoers, adulterers-- or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home

justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE FAITH OF A LITTLE CHILD Teaching illustrated: Little Children are Very Important to God Luke 18:15-17

15 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. 16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

THE PARABLE OF THE WAGES (TEN MINAS) Teaching illustrated: The Principal of Good Stewardship is Taught Luke 19:11-27

11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. 12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

20 "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. 21 I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'

22 "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

24 "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

25 "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away. 27 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them-- bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

THE GREAT COMMISSION According to the Gospel of Mark

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

CHRIST ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ According to the Gospels of Mark and Luke

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

THE BEATITUDES OR BLESSINGS OF JESUS CHRIST Matthew 5:1-11

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely

say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be

glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they

persecuted the prophets who were before you.

There are only two sacraments in the true Christian Church, the body of believers. One is the Lord's Supper which is also called the Communion of Believers or the Eucharist. The other sacrament is called Believers Baptism. Believers Baptism:

Believers Baptism was instituted to follow Jesus' example set forth in Matthew 3:13-17. Today Christian churches practice baptism several different ways primarily aspersion (sprinkling of water) and immersion (dipping the believers body completely under water). Since John the Baptist's time immersion baptism has been

practiced by those trying to adhere most rigorously to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is more symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. True believers do not allow infant baptism since an infant cannot select Jesus ways as his own. A parent cannot repent on behalf of the child. Also true believers do not allow unregenerated people to be baptized in the Lord's name. A confession of faith precedes the actual baptism. Water baptism is not to be confused with baptism by fire (the second baptism or baptism of the Holy Spirit) which is doctrine in the Holiness movement such as the Pentecostal Holiness organization.

The Last Supper of Jesus with the Twelve Apostles and the Establishment of Communion of Believers or The Lord's Supper: (Also called 'The Eucharist') Location: The Upper Room of a house in Jerusalem Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Foreknowledge of His Death and Suffering

(See John 6:64, 13:1,11, 18:4, and 19:28)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them.

So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

- Luke 22:7-21 (NIV)

also Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:12-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 (NIV)

After the Last Supper Jesus lead the apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane where he agonized in prayer over his coming

betrayal and death on a Roman cross. Also see Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46.

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives:

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

- Luke 22:39-46 (NIV)

While he was in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot as he had predicted earlier in the evening while at the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, one of the high priests' guards. Jesus told Peter that those who lived by the sword would die by the sword and healed the guards ear. He was then taken before Annas and then Caiaphas, the high priest and the Jewish religious leaders (called the Sanhedrin /SAN-HEED-RIN/ or the Council). Peter denied knowing Jesus three times as Jesus had predicted. Even the detail of the rooster crowing came true.

Jesus was then taken before the Roman prelate or governor Pontius Pilate. Pilate attempted to release Jesus but the Jewish people would not hear of it. Pilate tried sending Jesus to the Jewish ruler Herod Antipas but Herod sent Jesus back to Pontius Pilate. They demanded Jesus' crucifixion and asked Pilate to release Barabbas, a common criminal charged with murder. Jesus was scourged (beaten with leather straps with imbedded pieces of wire or metal), mocked, crowned with a wreath of thorns and marched out to Golgotha, Aramaic for the Place of Skulls, or Calvary in Latin. There he was crucified and all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled to the very minutest details of soldiers casting lots for his clothing, not a bone being broken and piercing his side with a spear.

After his death, burial and resurrection Jesus appeared to the women at the tomb and his apostles many times during the next forty days. Jesus told them they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days (on Pentecost.) Then Jesus was taken up to heaven in a cloud. This is known as the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Two angels told the apostles that Jesus would return as he had left. The apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas the traitor. See Acts 1:1-26.

Favorite Bible Verses

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV) Romans 8:38-39 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God,

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (KJV) Romans 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God. (KJV) Ephesians 6:9 And, you masters, do the same things to them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. (KJV) Colossians 3:25 But he that does wrong will receive for the wrong which he has done: and there is no respect of persons. (KJV) Romans 12:1 I plead with you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (KJV) 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (KJV) James 4:8 Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. (KJV) Proverbs 11:29 He that troubles his own house will inherit the wind: and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart. (KJV) Ecclesiastes 5:16 And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so will he go: and what profit has he that has labored for the wind? (KJV) Psalm 126:6 He that goes forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, will doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (KJV) 1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believes on him will not be confounded. (KJV) 1 Peter 2:7 To you therefore which believe he is precious: but to them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, (KJV) 1 Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereto also they were appointed. (KJV) Zephaniah 3:15-20 15 The LORD has taken away your judgments, he has cast out your enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the middle of you: you will not see evil any more. 16 In that day it will be said to Jerusalem, Fear you not: and to Zion, Let not your hands be slack. 17 The LORD your God in the middle of you is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over you with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over you with singing. 18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of you, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. 19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict you: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. 20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, says the LORD. (KJV) Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just will live by his faith. (KJV) Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit will not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days will be an hundred and twenty years. (KJV) 2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (KJV) Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (KJV) Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. (KJV) Matthew 7:12 Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (KJV) Matthew 5:3-11 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4

Blessed are they that mourn: for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they will obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they will be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you, when men will revile you, and persecute you, and will say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. (KJV) Ephesians 4:17-32 17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: 19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ; 21 If so be that you have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 That you put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that you put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. 25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. 26 Be you angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil. 28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. 29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers. 30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed to the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you. (KJV) Ephesians 5:1-33 1 Be you therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things comes the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not you therefore partakers with them. 8 For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. 14 Wherefore he says, Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light. 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time,

because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be you not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things to God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause will a man leave his father and mother, and will be joined to his wife, and they two will be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband. (KJV)

Ephesians 6:1-24 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with you, and you mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, you fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. 5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: 8 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man does, the same will he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. 9 And, you masters, do the same things to them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. 10 Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take to you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins wrapped about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that words may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of

the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. 21 But that you also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make known to you all things: 22 Whom I have sent to you for the same purpose, that you might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. 23 Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. (KJV) 1 Corinthians 4:14-21 14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. 15 For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have you not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 16 Therefore I plead with you, be followers of me. 17 For this cause have I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who will bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. 18 Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you. 19 But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power. 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. 21 What will you? will I come to you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness? (KJV) 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I truly, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that has so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know you not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, as you are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I wrote to you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must you needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not you judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person. (KJV) 1 Corinthians 6:1-20 1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? and if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Know you not that we will judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? 4 If then you have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church. 5 I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that will be able to judge between his brothers? 6 But brother goes to

law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because you go to law one with another. Why do you not rather take wrong? why do you not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? 8 No, you do wrong, and defraud, and that your brothers. 9 Know you not that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but you are washed, but you are sanctified, but you are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. 12 All things are lawful to me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. 14 And God has both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. 15 Know you not that your bodies are the members of Christ? will I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know you not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, says he, will be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. 19 What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? 20 For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (KJV) 1 Corinthians 7:1-40 1 Now concerning the things whereof you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife to the husband. 4 The wife has not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband has not power of his own body, but the wife. 5 Defraud you not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. 6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man has his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn. 10 And to the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: 11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. 12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother has a wife that believes not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which has an husband that believes not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. 14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. 15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God has called us to peace. 16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether you will save your husband? or how

knowest thou, O man, whether you will save your wife? 17 But as God has distributed to every man, as the Lord has called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. 18 Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. 20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. 21 are you called being a servant? care not for it: but if you may be made free, use it rather. 22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. 23 you are bought with a price; be not you the servants of men. 24 Brothers, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 25 Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that has obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. 26 I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. 27 are you bound to a wife? seek not to be loosed. are you loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. 28 But and if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. 29 But this I say, brothers, the time is short: it remains, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; 30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; 31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passs away. 32 But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried cares for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: 33 But he that is married cares for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. 34 There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married cares for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that you may attend upon the Lord without distraction. 36 But if any man think that he behaves himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sins not: let them marry. 37 Nevertheless he that stands stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, does well. 38 So then he that gives her in marriage does well; but he that gives her not in marriage does better. 39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. 40 But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God. (KJV) 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 1 Now as touching things offered to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies. 2 And if any man think that he knows any thing, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. 3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him. 4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. 5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord

Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. 7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol to this hour eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. 8 But meat commends us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. 9 But be careful unless by any means this liberty of yours becomes a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 10 For if any man see you which has knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, will not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11 And through your knowledge will the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when you sin so against the brothers, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world stands and make my brother to offend. (KJV) 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brothers, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, so you would abound more and more. 2 For you know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. 7 For God has not called us to uncleanness, but to holiness. 8 He therefore that despises, despises not man, but God, who has also given to us his holy Spirit. 9 But as touching brotherly love you need not that I write to you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another. 10 And indeed you do it toward all the brothers which are in all Macedonia: but we beg you, brothers, that you increase more and more; 11 And that you study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; 12 That you may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that you may have lack of nothing. 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning them which are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain to the coming of the Lord will not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ will rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so will we ever be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words. (KJV) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-99 1 But of the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need that I write to you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so coms as a thief in the night. 3 For when they will say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction coms upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 you are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that

be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you do. 12 And we beseech you, brothers, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; 13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. 14 Now we exhort you, brothers, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. 15 See that none render evil for evil to any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. 16 Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 Quench not the Spirit. 20 Despise not prophesyings. 21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil. 23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is he that calls you, who also will do it. 25 Brothers, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brothers with an holy kiss. 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brothers. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

(KJV) 1 Corinthians 13:1-99 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profits me nothing. 4 Charity suffers long, and is kind; charity envies not; charity vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; 6 Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they will fail; whether there be tongues, they will cease; whether there be knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then will I know even as also I am known. 13 And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (KJV) Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. (KJV) Exodus 17:6 Behold, I will stand before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you will smite the rock, and there will come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (KJV) 1 Peter 2:6-8 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believes on him will not be confounded. 7 To you therefore which believe he is precious: but to them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock

of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereto also they were appointed. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 26 For you see your calling, brothers, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen, and things which are not, to bring to nothing things that are: (KJV)

Matthew 7:15-20 15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 you will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17 Even so every good tree bears good fruit; but a corrupt tree bears evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (KJV)

James 2 My brothers, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. (KJV)

Matthew 6:9-13 9 Pray after this manner: Our Father which is in heaven, Hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. (KJV)

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. (KJV)

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. (KJV)

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (KJV)

Malachi 3:6a For I am the LORD, I change not. (KJV)

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. (KJV)

Luke 22:17-20 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God will come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and broke it, and gave to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. (KJV)

Mark 16:16 He that believes and is baptized will be saved; but he that believes not will be damned. (KJV)

2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (KJV)

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (KJV)

Hebrews 12:2 Looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (KJV)

2 Timothy 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (KJV)

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the middle of them. (KJV)

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap. (KJV)

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (KJV)

Isaiah 64:4 For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither has the eye seen, O God, beside you, what he has prepared for him that waits for him. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him. (KJV)

Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you thought evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. (KJV)

Revelation 2:7 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of the paradise of God. (KJV)

Revelation 2:11 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; He that overcomes will not be hurt of the second death. (KJV)

Revelation 2:17 He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives it. (KJV)

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcomes, and keeps my works to the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (KJV)

Revelation 3:5 He that overcomes, the same will be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I

will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. (KJV)

Revelation 3:12 Him that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (KJV)

Revelation 3:21 To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (KJV)

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, says the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (KJV)

Acts 7:54-60 The Martyrdom of Stephen: 54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (KJV)

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

James 4:14 Whereas you know not what will be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes. (KJV)

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (KJV)

Luke 12:10 And whoever will speak a word against the Son of man, it will be forgiven him: but to him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it will not be forgiven. (KJV)

Luke 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: you are of more value than many sparrows. (KJV)

James 4:3 You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts. (KJV)

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever you will ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. (KJV)

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you: (KJV)

Luke 11:9 And I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (KJV)

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he gains the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? (KJV)

Mark 8:36 For what will it profit a man, if he will gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (KJV)

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (KJV)

Philippians 4:19 But my God will supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (KJV)

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (KJV)

Romans 8:16-17 16 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (KJV)

2 Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (KJV)

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (KJV)

Proverbs 3:5-6 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. (KJV)

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. (KJV)

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

Matthew 19:24 And again I say to you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. (KJV)

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Allow the little children to come to me and don't forbid them: for this is what the kingdom of heaven is made of. (KJV)

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld them, and said to them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (KJV)

Matthew 22:21 They say to him, Caesar's. Then said he to them, Give to Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's. (KJV)

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen. (KJV)

Matthew 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen. (KJV)

Matthew 18:19 Again I say to you, That if two of you will agree on earth as touching any thing that they will ask, it will be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (KJV)

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the middle of them. (KJV)

Matthew 18:1-6 1 At the same time came the disciples to Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child to him, and set him in the middle of them, 3 And said, Truly I say to you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever therefore will humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 And whoso will receive one such little child in my name receives me. 6 But whoso will offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (KJV)

Matthew 6:19-21 19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust corrupts, and where thieves break in and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupts, and where thieves do not break in and steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (KJV)

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (KJV)

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. (KJV)

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we will reap, if we faint not. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest

upon me. (KJV)

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. (KJV)

1 Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. (KJV)

Psalms 126:5 They that sow in tears will reap in joy. (KJV)

Matthew 5:13-16 13 You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its flavor, how will it be salted? it is thereafter good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be walked on by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light to all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (KJV)

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. (KJV)

Philippians 4:19 But my God will supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (KJV)

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. (KJV)

Proverbs 11:29 He that troubles his own house will inherit the wind: and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart. (KJV)

Romans 10:9 That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and will believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (KJV)

Romans 8:31 What will we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (KJV)

SACRAMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

There are only two sacraments in the true Christian Church, the body of believers. One is the Lord's Supper which is also called the Communion of Believers or the Eucharist. The other sacrament is called Believers Baptism.

Believers Baptism:

Believers Baptism was instituted to follow Jesus' example set forth in Matthew 3:13-17. Today Christian churches practice baptism several different ways primarily aspersion (sprinkling of water) and immersion (dipping the believers body completely under water). Since John the Baptist's time immersion baptism has been practiced by those trying to adhere most rigorously to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is more symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. True believers do not allow infant baptism

since an infant cannot select Jesus ways as his own. A parent cannot repent on behalf of the child. Also true believers do not allow unregenerated people to be baptized in the Lord's name. A confession of faith precedes the actual baptism. Water baptism is not to be confused with baptism by fire (the second baptism or baptism of the Holy Spirit) which is doctrine in the Holiness movement such as the Pentecostal Holiness organization.

The Last Supper of Jesus with the Twelve Apostles and the Establishment of Communion of Believers or The Lord's Supper: (Also called 'The Eucharist')

Location: The Upper Room of a house in Jerusalem Teaching illustrated: Jesus' Foreknowledge of His Death and Suffering (See John 6:64, 13:1,11, 18:4, and 19:28)

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them.

So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

- Luke 22:7-21 (NIV)
also Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:12-26

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new

covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 (NIV)

After the Last Supper Jesus led the apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane where he agonized in prayer over his coming betrayal and death on a Roman cross. Also see Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46.

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives:

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

- Luke 22:39-46

While he was in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot as he had predicted earlier in the evening while at the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, one of the high priests' guards. Jesus told Peter that those who lived by the sword would die by the sword and healed the guard's ear. He was then taken before Annas and then Caiaphas, the high priest and the Jewish religious leaders (called the Sanhedrin /SAN-HEED-RIN/ or the Council). Peter denied knowing Jesus three times as Jesus had predicted. Even the detail of the rooster crowing came true.

Jesus was then taken before the Roman prelate or governor Pontius Pilate. Pilate attempted to release Jesus but the Jewish people would not hear of it. Pilate tried sending Jesus to the Jewish ruler Herod Antipas but Herod sent Jesus back to Pontius Pilate. They demanded Jesus' crucifixion and asked Pilate to release Barabbas, a common criminal charged with murder. Jesus was scourged (beaten with leather straps with imbedded pieces of wire or metal), mocked, crowned with a wreath of thorns and marched out to Golgotha, Aramaic for the Place of Skulls, or Calvary in Latin. There he was crucified and all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled to the very minutest details of soldiers casting lots for his clothing, not a bone being broken and piercing his side with a spear.

After his death, burial and resurrection Jesus appeared to the women at the tomb and his apostles many times during the next forty days. Jesus told them they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days (on Pentecost.) Then Jesus was taken up to

heaven in a cloud. This is known as the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Two angels told the apostles that Jesus would return as he had left. The apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas the traitor. See Acts 1:1-26.