

To the Glory of God in Christ Jesus

By God's Grace, inspiring that rising generation of God's children, who like Abraham, want not to settle in the world, but to get to the Promised Land of resting in trusting love and obedience to our Heavenly Father, that many others before, have not completed the journey to. Pursuing real relationships with God and His other children, holy and full of His mercy, love and truth.

Genesis 11:31-32 ISV

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (Haran's son), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they journeyed together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan. But when they had gone as far as Haran, they settled there,
32 where Terah died at the age of 205 years.

Many people read the writings of Christ's apostles in the New Testament, while also attending services in churches and fellowships that do not preach or practice what God says.

The result is confusion, and sin, as people are left wrongly to doubt God and what He says.

These articles set out to underline what God does have to say, making the Church more effective by clearing up false ideas, ancient and modern—so that there not be a difference between the New Testament—and what is done by God's people—the Church—as she lovingly conforms to her LORD and Bridegroom—Jesus Christ.

CHRIST WILL CONQUER!
GET READY
TRAIN—SERVE!

Sunday 13th, May, 2012
ver 0.9500

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Introduction

With the LORD JESUS CHRIST GOD has given us the perfect Man and example, the Second Person of the God-head/Trinity, the Son of God Who came, born of a blessed virgin, Mary, descended from Israel's King David, Jesus—conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.

He died for our sins, rose again from the dead on the third day, was then seen by 500 people (some of whom ate, touched, walked and talked with Him), before He bodily ascended in front of the remaining eleven apostles into a cloud, and from there to the right hand of God in heaven. He now waits there for His Father's command to bodily return in the clouds for every eye to see, to raise from death—and physically catch away from the surface of the earth—glorifying those who trust, faithfully serve and love Him in this life now.

Throughout history the Devil has attacked this wonderful Truth and tried to pervert God's children's way of life and worship.

He continues to rebel against God by trying to muck around with His children, attempting to destroy our hope of Eternal Life in Christ. As Satan can not directly touch us as we walk faithfully in Christ, he uses other tricks as Balaam and Balak did to Israel in the desert. As it was when Christ bodily walked here, so throughout history Satan has worked through religious groups and entities, masquerading as the authority of God, seeking to confuse the gospel message and teachings.

Attempting to destroy the very knowledge of the True God, false religious groups and organisations have been used of the Devil to try and physically wipe out God's children at various points of history — even in some centuries endeavouring to out-law and destroy all copies of the New Testament writings.

Your faith in Jesus Christ has come down to you by the sacrifice of countless martyrs and victims of an on going spiritual war, first fought in the heavenlies—and after Satan was thrown down, now here on Earth.

Starting with Jesus, Stephen, Peter and Paul, countless millions have died in loving our Heavenly Father above what this world has to offer. Many dying only that you and others may yet come to know the Love and Truth of God found only through His Son—the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the treasure of the True knowledge of God, is to be prized above all others – cherished – studied, deeply understood, lived lovingly, and passed on in its purity, that others may know Him Who loves us so much, be forgiven their sins, given resurrection of their bodies, and live in eternal paradise Life with Christ.

We need as disciples of Jesus to always be diligent, and sometimes a bit studious for a while, to make sure that we are living by the Holy Spirit and have this heritage, and its rich traditions, fully in our grasp — taking nothing for granted in knowing and making the LORD better known.

Acts 17:11 NET These Jews were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they eagerly received the message, examining the scriptures carefully every day to see if these things were so.

We must be ever careful to both preserve this high knowledge intact, and by fully living in Him, pass it on, that others may share in it and be saved from the Judgement coming. And along the way not be led astray by the Devil's, nor men's, cunning and craftiness in their deceitful selfish scheming. . .

Ephesians 4:11-16 NET It was he who gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, that is, to build up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God – a mature person, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature.

14 So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.

15 But practising the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Christ, who is the head. **16** From him the whole body grows, fitted and held together through every supporting ligament. As each one does its part, the body grows in love.

In the modern world, efforts have been made to try and redefine or alter Scripture. Refusing the manifest existence of God and His works even in the creation around them, the liberal 'progressives' and globalists argue that the Bible was merely an invention of man.

Many men over time, they assert, and it has supposedly been re-edited at whim by unknown people over the millennia.

By making these false claims, reducing the Scripture to mere human effort (ignoring its actual Divine Inspiration), so the liberal academics feel free to alter the Scripture and re-translate it filtering it through the darkness of their fallen sinful thoughts.

The Boundaries Set by the 'Ancient of Days'

Proverbs 22:28 NIV Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers.

This next block of quotes explains the modern plan and its origins, and you might be surprised who owns up to the assessment that it makes. It all fully represents what their modern descendants are attempting to achieve.

First, quoting and owning their opponents' accurate description of what they are about. . .

"There are, besides, eternal truths, such as Freedom, Justice, etc., that are common to all states of society.

But Communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience. . .'

Marx and Engels, continue. . .

. . . "The Communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional property relations; no wonder that its development involved the most radical rupture with traditional ideas. But let us have done with the bourgeois objections to Communism" Marx and Engels, *1848 Manifesto of the Communist Party*²

Wondering why so many ancient boundary markers and things have been being changed in Western society and throughout the world? Well now you know the devilish philosophy behind it, for such nothing is sacred—from God right down to unborn babies. . .

Uncertain and theoretical so-called scientific dating techniques, biological and archaeological guesswork, out of context fossils and archaeological objects, academic theories and twisted systems of thought propose evolution instead of Creation by God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the bible—Historical or Higher Criticism, are all used together to try and show that Biblically recorded events never took place, were written up by different or many people, or events happened other than as Scripture describes, and ultimately as

the Devil wishes, that God is not speaking to us at all through the pages of Scripture.

In assisting the discrediting of Scripture, by rewriting it to suit neo-Marxist "politically correct" agendas, many modern translators and publishers, whatever their own taintings and reasons, are helping the slide from reliable bible taught standards, through confusing bible readers with unnecessary *gender correctness* (putting he and she where just he does fine in English—or where he is truer to the Holy Spirit's inspiration!) and so encouraging needless apprehension about the bible's accuracy on God's other statements and requirements—resulting in the replacement of righteous behaviour, with false tolerance, unrighteous acceptance, and outright sin.

. . . "Our initial analysis shows that the new NIV (2011) retains many of the problems that were present in the TNIV, on which it is based, especially with regard to the over **3, 600** gender-related problems we previously identified. . ."³

If by forcing both undue or false "gender correctness", the bible in English, is made in one important area, unnecessarily and inaccurately to look like it has been wrong for centuries, then the door is being opened through the doubt unnecessarily created, to the other evil liberalisations being pushed by Satan's friends on modern society and the church, as well. . .

'Try before you buy', 'shopping around', dating and other forms of sin and fornication replace genuine Godly courtship and marriage. Marriage in their darkened minds becomes disposable, like a shop bought product. Divorce and remarriage are dressed up wrongly to appear to be always acceptable. Immorality of all kinds is fostered and promoted as being real lifestyle choices. Perversion of any kind, homosexual–lesbian and otherwise, becomes mainstream, both through toleration, and practise.

Abortion – the murder of pre-born babies – is not only fostered and encouraged for all woman, in many countries like New Zealand it is forced on families with out the knowledge of a young girl's parents. Parents are told that falsely inspired and misled politicians and bureaucrats of the State have replaced them in their God given roles over their own families. Men and women are perversely told their roles in family and church are equal.

All powerful workings of Satan, which Christians, as God's children, must take their stand against in what calls itself the church, in pursuing a holy life separate from these worldly errors,

in lovingly adoring, and through the Holy Spirit, worshipping the Lord Jesus—and through Him loving our Father in Heaven above all others.

Other Agendas in Bible Translation and Publishing

Whole academic disciplines have been both invented, and others used, to try and justify re-writing the Bible to modern thought, and to make it match what evolving modern science thinks about things at the moment—and that so called science is itself unstable and ever changing!

Consequent to all of this, as already identified, genderlessness, or misplaced and unnecessary 'gender inclusiveness', now pollutes the text of many recently published bibles. She appears where 'he' should, or 'they' when he is actually meant. Sometimes the changes are helpful, all too often they sadly follow a Devil inspired liberal academic agenda.

The ethics are extremely questionable. Commercial forces are invading important Christian areas, inappropriately, and with dangerous results. A 2005 report in *The Economist* details the reasons. . .

The reason for corporate America's new-found interest in religion is simple: the market is booming. Packaged Facts, a market-research company, estimates that the "religious products" market was worth \$6.8 billion in 2003 and will grow to \$8.6 billion in 2008. . .

The first big company to spot the potential of the religion market was Rupert Murdoch's HarperCollins, which bought Zondervan, a religious publisher, back in 1988. Now almost all the big publishing houses have religious lines, most of them acquired in the past few years: Random House has WaterBrook and Time Warner has Warner Faith. EMI and Sony have both acquired Christian music labels. Hallmark Cards bought the Arkansas-based DaySpring, America's largest producer of Christian greetings cards, in 1999. . .

But Disney's support for C.S. Lewis's children's classic reflects a realisation that the industry needs to learn how to tap into what insiders call "Passion" dollars. Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" has grossed \$370m so far despite being in Aramaic, Hebrew and Latin and despite the lack of a major Hollywood distributor. Its success sent shock waves through Hollywood⁴ . . .

All this change in ethics base, is perhaps no better shown than by a recent re-publication of one such questionable bible called the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), which the publisher has sought public support and sales for, by re-branding it as a

C.S. Lewis 'bible'.

No mind that C.S. Lewis died nearly some fifty years before, never authorised it, and as we shall see, in the view of Professor Louis Markos, never would have.

However with the recent popularity of Lewis' work through motion pictures like *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* series as just described, the publishers HarperCollins (owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.), must have thought they were on to a winner. And how better to handle a Bible translation that serious Christians have major problems with, than inventing a high profile publicity angle to promote it with?

Writes Nomi Morris on April 16, 2011, in the *Los Angeles Times*⁵ –

"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," the third film created from Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia" series, has earned more than \$400 million since its December release.

Rupert Murdoch's companies recently republished 'bible' intertwines parts of C.S. Lewis's serious Christian writing (over 500 quotes) with a re-written, so-called gender corrected, bible text.

—Even though C.S. Lewis (1898 – 1963) did not believe that the bible should be rewritten by mere men in such ways, and believed not in political gender correctness, but according to Professor Louis Markos,

"C.S. Lewis' position throughout his works is the traditional Christian position that men and women are different but of full and equal value."

Louis Markos, a prominent C. S. Lewis scholar and Houston Baptist University English professor, started circulating a petition in early 2011, calling for HarperCollins to withdraw that 'bible', and is quoted by *Christianity Today*⁶ as saying,

"... The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translation used in The C. S. Lewis Bible has a gender-neutral agenda, which is at odds with Lewis's convictions . . .

It is unjust to tie the apologist's writings to an implicit push for the gender egalitarianism that Lewis would have opposed.

The NRSV has been around so long, a lot of people don't realize there was an agenda behind it. How can we do this to Lewis? He and his legacy have been hijacked."

That one recent example underlines the ethical proportions of what is being done in changing the bible, and the lengths that the academics and publishers involved might go to in trying to secure

public support for their new distorted bible versions.

... So they have named their bible after him—how does that honour God?—Where are the Christian ethics in that? Well, that 'bible' is not being published by a Christian organisation—be discerning!—even if a publication or organisation calls itself Christian—it might have been once, but who is running it and working in it now, even—who owns it now?

Now (March 2012) Zondervan have launched a President Jimmy Carter Bible “NIV Lessons from Life Bible: Personal Reflections with Jimmy Carter”.⁷ Coming on the heels of Carter's March 19th statements endorsing homosexual and lesbian marriage and Church membership, while incredibly refuting the infallible Divine inspiration of Scripture, the move leaves many actual followers of Christ deeply concerned. President Jimmy Carter Authors New Bible Book, Answers Hard Biblical Questions⁸

PC Human Ideas About God

Jeremiah 8:8-9 NET How can you say, “We are wise! We have the law of the Lord”? The truth is, those who teach it have used their writings to make it say what it does not really mean.

9 Your wise men will be put to shame. They will be dumbfounded and be brought to judgement. Since they have rejected the word of the Lord, what wisdom do they really have?

Modern liberal social science, now attempts to position itself to be the final dictator on what is the 'real' meaning and intention of Scripture. 'Political Correctness', now seizing the moment to reinterpret, sideline and re-write anything and everything to suit its neo-Marxist-demonic purposes.

The attempt is to make people feel that there is a lot of mystery in knowing God's Word and only the modern Priests (academics) can do it for you. However in the latter parts of the gospel of John the Lord Jesus teaches that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide us into **all** truth, and remind us of **everything** He has said. (John chapters 14 and 16.)

Demon/man made theologies, of what God is like and wants, are now often combining with profit de\$ire for mass re-marketing, to re-translate what God has actually said, and meant in the Bible.

This process of thinking things back into God's

mouth, from the fallen human level, designed to keep fleshly people happy, and the coffers full of money, is paralleled in how people are being falsely counselled in backslidden church groupings, often for the same reasons.

Where the focus has also moved from Christ, to humanism and political correctness, and shows in simplicity what the whole process of falsely reworking God's words is like, at its most base level, be it in some modern bible translation circles, or the local fellowship of ex –or only partial– believers.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 RSV For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings,

4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths.

In the Protestant Reformation some 500 years ago, God used the restoration and translation of the Bible to free His children from the Roman State Churches demonic control, now the entities behind modern government globalism and megadenominations are attempting as we will see, to change the Bible to try and inappropriately control Christians and society in spiritual matters again.

God Hates Divorce

noindent God utterly hates divorce and only permits it in the extreme case of unresolvable marital unfaithfulness—that is—explicit sexual immorality.

However sinful people are prepared to cut and dice the Scripture, especially using bibles translated to suit such purposes, and throw in a good measure of mere worldly psychology, to teach and counsel against God, and His ways.

For example the following was recently spoken to this writer on the phone by a highly academically trained so called Christian, living out what they had been counselled by some of New Zealand's so-called Christian expert and highly expensive counsellors (more like travel consultants conning people with expensive one way express tickets to hell).

The context of the phone call is that the caller's new 'sin-marriage' partner had suddenly been smitten with an incurable cancer—and no one had yet been doing any repenting. . .

“my god is loving, and my previous partner was so mean, *therefore* my god will let me leave my partner and start a new marriage/just live together he just wants me to be happy and have a life for myself”.

And along with the false ‘theology’ that love justifies anything and everything, mix in and replace real love with, lust and covetousness, throw in a few misused and broken up scriptures like, ‘God is love’, and ‘love covers a multitude of sins’, and you next degrade down to . . .

“Pleasing my flesh and feelings is all that matters or I might damage myself psychologically, and the whole world and even university studies agree with me about that.”

In the day to day ordinary level of life, that in essence is what is commonly going on with so-called Christians now. However, when unchecked by genuine spirituality, the same kind, but a more subtle process, is working in many just fleshly academic Bible translators nowadays, but it is all much more sophisticated, and cleverly contrived by the Devil.

For Bible translators are equally prone to the sin nature and temptation just as everyone else is, and often crave financial backing, standing, and the acceptance of other academics.

And the various so-called sciences of “*criticism*” (the man made rules for the re-writing of ancient manuscripts) which they play around with, have no magic bullets in them, with the actual outcomes being affected by their personal biases, and the force of the personalities involved.

As early as 1910, Francis Cornish writing from well within academic ranks (he was Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge University, United Kingdom), recognised some of the dangers. . .

“But though the science of textual criticism is firmly settled[?], the application of it is affected by the bias of scholars in favour of antiquity, or novelty, or a theory.” Cornish [1910, P. 170]

Novelty here meaning literally any new idea, and *theory* — anything they have imagined or dreamed up, supported by reality or not.

So Bible translators are humans just like the rest of us, and thus need the spiritual supervision that God provides for us all in Godly eldership, and submissively working together under the Holy Spirit — not simply relying on mere fallen human reasoning—academic processes in translating the

Bible, but upon God's Holy Spirit.

In many Bible translators' minds, unimportant scholarly ways and methods (purely academic and artificial), worldly qualification, and man made rules, are more important, than a living relationship and real submission to the Lord Jesus Christ — and often those scholarly qualifications, and training, are contaminated at the merciless hands of academic faculties which no longer even hide their God hating alternative agendas, as happened through Lloyd Geering⁹

Academics Ignoring Jesus' Selection of Scripture

Such academic processes have lead many translators, some for false historical, and some for bad intellectual and spiritual reasons, to discard the Old Testament sources of words that the Lord Jesus and His apostles often quote from.

Then replace them with Old Testament texts that do not actually agree with those quotes of Jesus and the writers of the New Testament. Instead of acknowledging the Divine authorship and infallibility of Jesus' choice of Old Testament to quote from, they water it down and call it only a mere *inclination* (italics added).

“The New Testament writers evidence their *inclination* to the Septuagint [LXX] by using it when quoting the Old Testament.” Comfort [1992, P. 165]

And then follow their own *inclinations* on what they will base translation of portions of the Old Testament on with some very bad results—that is how far out of line this whole academic approach, and false academic ‘textual criticism’ of the Bible, has often gone, more on this danger later on, but first here is just one example of this kind of thing. . .

Some academics are happy to entirely lean to their own *inclinations* of how to translate the bible into what they consider an accurate rendering “*into language of Today that we gossip and tell stories. . .*”

Eugene H. Peterson, a denominational minister of thirty years, and an eminent academic, tells us,

“I lived in two language worlds, the world of the Bible and the world of Today.

“So out of necessity I became a ‘translator’ (although I wouldn’t have called it that then), daily standing on the border between two worlds, getting the language of the Bible that God uses to create and save us, heal and bless us, judge and rule over us, into a language of Today that we use to gossip and tell stories, give directions and do business, sing songs and talk to our children.”¹⁰

His publisher says—“Peterson, B.A. *Philosophy, S.T.B. New York Theological Seminary, M.A. Semitic Languages John Hopkins University, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College Vancouver*,¹¹ translator of *The Message* ‘bible’ (“—has sold over 16 million copies and influenced the lives of people around the world.”)¹² Peterson himself tells us,

“When Paul of Tarsus wrote a letter, the people who received it understood it instantly.

“When the prophet Isaiah preached a sermon, I can’t imagine that people went to the library to figure it out.

“That was the basic premise under which I worked. I began with the New Testament in the Greek — a rough and jagged language, not so grammatically clean.

“I just typed out a page the way I thought it would have sounded to the Galatians”

“When the prophet Isaiah preached a sermon”—well he didn’t, he was moved by the Spirit of God and prophesied—an importantly distinctive process. And if you look, you will see that Isaiah did prophetically speak mysteries from the Spirit of God at times.

Peterson says “When Paul of Tarsus wrote a letter, the people who received it understood it instantly”, contrast that with what Peter writes in the New Testament, 2 Peter 3:16 (quoting from Peterson’s own ‘bible translation’) “... *Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand . . . MSG*”¹³

2 Peter 3:15-17 NIV Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him.

16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.

“I just typed out a page the way I thought it would have sounded to the Galatians”

So remembering that “*The Message has sold over 16 million copies and influenced the lives of people around the world*”, lets look at some important things in Galatians and see what happens to them in the hands of a modern academic translator—translating according to his *inclinations* just “*the way I thought it would have sounded*” . . .

Galatians 3:5 NIV Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you *observe the law*, or because you believe what you heard?

MSG “Answer this question: Does the God who lavishly provides you with his own presence, his Holy Spirit, working things in your lives you could never do for yourselves, does he do these things because of your *strenuous moral striving* or because you trust him to do them in you?”

What happened to the real objective miracles of the Holy Spirit? Real miracles that God works, are a lot more than just “*things in your lives you could never do for yourselves*”.

The Law of Moses, with all of its ritual requirements to **earn** Salvation was a foremost issue of Paul’s letter to the Galatians, where he contrasts it and *earning*, to simple grace and faith in the Person and redeeming work of Christ by His cross and resurrection.

By what “*trinket gods; magic-show religion*” has that observance of the whole law of Moses and what it represents, suddenly just been turned into being only “*strenuous moral striving*”? The whole point of what God has Paul writing about is hijacked.

Galatians 5:19-21 NIV The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The items just listed, Paul says, will cost you Eternal Life—you will not inherit the Kingdom of

God and WILL go to hell and the burning lake—if you practice them!

Now look at how these absolutely important things are taken from being very clear sins and made to become somewhat indistinct, and difficult to know what to avoid—unclear—even though Pe-

terson himself translates the very next verse this way...

This isn’t the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God’s kingdom. MSG

Comparison of Galatians 5:19-21 Sin Lists

New International Version 1984 (NIV)	Peterson "The Message (MSG)"
"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious:	"It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time
sexual-immorality impurity debauchery idolatry witchcraft hatred discord jealousy fits of rage selfish ambition dissensions factions envy drunkenness orgies"	repetitive, loveless, cheap sex a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness trinket gods magic-show religion paranoid loneliness cutthroat competition all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants a brutal temper an impotence to love or be loved divided homes and divided lives small minded and lopsided pursuits the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions ugly parodies of community"

Be warned that Peterson’s strange version of sexual immorality is not God’s view. Join yourself sexually to someone you are not righteously married to and you have sinned against the temple of the Holy Spirit—not committed mere “repetitive, loveless, cheap sex” or any other similar emotive or pseudo-psychoanalysis babble.

The differences between the two lists claiming to represent a list of things for which you will not inherit the Kingdom of God, an extremely important list of things, the differences—are profound and disastrously misleading—start by just using a good English dictionary.

Since when could the sin of hatred (which John equates to murder in 1 John 3) be considered to equate to paranoid loneliness, and why should a person be consigned to hell because they have paranoid loneliness—should not Christ’s love motivate us to try and help them with the gospel?

To suggest that drunkenness be viewed as an uncontrollable addiction defames God on two fronts at least.

First, it implies that He has not the power to help someone, and secondly, that He would consign someone to hell for something that was actually uncontrollable—it denies God’s power to change someone—that is why a practice of drunkenness

will send some one to hell—they have claimed His Name, but not allowed His power to change them from their sins.

When God’s power of His Holy Spirit does come into your life—your addiction sins—do become controllable if you want to live for Christ. That is part of the good news of what the Lord Jesus has achieved by dying on the cross for you!

Some of the things in Peterson’s list are bad things that people should avoid in their lives, but they are not fully, or sometimes actually even, what the Holy Spirit intended to convey in this portion of Paul’s letter to the Galatians.

Remember that Peterson says “I just typed out a page the way I thought it would have sounded to the Galatians”, poor Galatians if Peterson had been writing to them! And in this writer’s opinion—poor 16 million people—what God’s Holy Spirit is saying on these crucial things has been diminished and polluted!

Idolatry is far deeper than just “trinket gods”—what ever that may mean. And witchcraft is far more powerful and evil than “magic-show religion” even starts to suggest—sounds more like the circus that these false sin descriptions are.

And impurity is in no way described accurately enough, or fully warned against by a description

as loose as “a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage”. Check out some of the others yourself, use a bible with Greek references even.

Mr. Peterson attempts to excuse himself variously claiming that his is not a study bible—but in many important things relating to the gospel his ‘Bible Translation’ (as he also confusingly calls it) displays a complete lack of belief in the Lord Jesus Christ’s actual miracle working power today, and downplays or ignores the Devil, and evil or spiritual things—how convenient for Satan!

In fact Peterson tends to not to even call Jesus LORD but almost always Master—justified as some sort of literalistic translation from the original language which does not convey what the original culture and language meant by LORD in the context it is used in the Bible to name —especially the glorified—Lord Jesus.

Used as a title, Lord when referring to the risen Lord Jesus Christ, implies divinity in a way that perhaps Master does not today—more on this later. Sir Robert Anderson [1910, *passim*]

As precious or technically correct as it might be to Peterson, the word Master, for some, reminds them only of their ancestors’ sad experiences (especially in North America), for others it implies Dungeons and Dragons type stuff – or a bad school teacher in some private schools – martial arts, eastern spirituality—and for some Darth Vader’s way of addressing his evil Emperor in the Star Wars films—and all that implies. In the English language, a

Master of a ship, is way below a lord of the British Admiralty.

No matter how humbly the Lord Jesus came amongst us at the first, as Christians should always do, it is better to explain things, and teach people up to a better level of understanding—than to risk devilishly simplifying things down—and ending up demeaning the exalted Person, Name and Title of the Lord Jesus Himself!

Sir Robert Anderson writing a 100 years ago,

“Men of this world think of Him only as the great Buddha who once lived and died on earth. They know nothing of the living LORD who now reigns in Heaven. It seems natural to them, therefore, to speak of Him as ‘a man of the name of Jesus Christ,’ or, with still more distressing freedom, as simply ‘Jesus’.

But how is it that real Christians, who profess to honour Him ‘even as they honour the Father’, habitually offend in the same way? It is to be hoped that with very many the fault is due to mere thoughtlessness or ignorance; . . .

‘Sanctify Christ in your hearts *as Lord*’ is an exhortation we need to remember. And if He be enshrined in the heart as LORD the confession of the lip will be a matter of course.

This confession, indeed, is at once a characteristic and a proof of discipleship; “for no one can say ‘Lord Jesus’ but by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3). . . In New Testament times the disciple thus declared himself by the way in which he named his Lord” Sir Robert Anderson [1910, P. 98–99]

Before we leave off from academic translator and modern minister Peterson’s stuff, have a look at this. . .

Psalms 17:4-9 NIV As for the deeds of men—by the word of your lips I have kept myself from the ways of the violent.

5 My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

6 I call on you, O God, for you will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.

7 Show the wonder of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.

8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings

9 from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

The Message MSG ⁴⁻⁵ I’m not trying to get my way in the world’s way. I’m trying to get your way, your Word’s way. I’m staying on your trail; I’m putting one foot In front of the other. I’m not giving up.

⁶⁻⁷ I call to you, God, because I’m sure of an answer. So—answer! bend your ear! listen sharp!

Paint grace-graffiti on the fences; take in your frightened children who Are running from the neighborhood bullies straight to you. ⁸⁻⁹ Keep your eye on me; hide me under your cool wing feathers From the wicked who are out to get me, from mortal enemies closing in.

David was facing serious assassins. Peterson reduces it to a neighbourhood teenage brawl, and encourages graffiti to be painted on people's fences—not clear who is to do that—but its unlawful in many places.

Who, vitally knowing the LORD, could dare to translate telling God to “*listen sharp*” as if He were only a student under their authority? The Revised Standard puts it with a wonderful fervent but humble sense of supplication and request. . .

Psalms 17:4-9 RSV With regard to the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

5 My steps have held fast to thy paths, my feet have not slipped.

6 I call upon thee, for thou wilt answer me, O God; incline thy ear to me, hear my words.

7 Wondrously show thy steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at thy right hand.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of thy wings,

9 from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.

“**by the word of thy lips** I have avoided the ways of the violent”, wonderfully speaks of a real living personal relationship with the LORD — real interaction with the Holy Spirit, and direct revelation, far more intimate and loving than “I’m trying to get your way, your Word’s way.”

So that is what you get from . . . *B.A. Philosophy, S.T.B. New York Theological Seminary, M.A. Semitic Languages John Hopkins University, Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College Vancouver*, and like academics not being chosen by Christ for the task—nor led nor empowered by the Holy Spirit. If Christian Art Publishers (and NavPress) had not backed it, this writer believes that it should never have happened.

As many people inspired by the spirit of this age have tried to make trouble and confusion with the Bible, where there is no real problem, bible translation notes and other materials, written by others, real experts in their fields, are provided in this writing, which seek to answer those false claims, and help us see how direct and clear the Holy Spirit is actually being on the various things looked at.

When you strike these extra materials here, it may be tough, or unfamiliar reading at first, or be in an old style like Sir Robert Anderson’s writing just looked at, but prayerfully take the time and

look through, it is important. Its important not just for ourselves, but for the others we directly or indirectly influence — as Paul wrote to Timothy,

1 Timothy 4:10-16 NET In fact this is why we work hard and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of believers.

11 Command and teach these things.

12 Let no one look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in your speech, conduct, love, faithfulness, and purity.

13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift you have, given to you and confirmed by prophetic words when the elders laid hands on you.

15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that everyone will see your progress.

16 Be conscientious about how you live and what you teach. Persevere in this, because by doing so you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

This serious stuff, mentioned above, has been put in here, so that you can see what the ‘authorities’ are for what is being written here, as in this age there are a lot of people who want to change things from God’s ancient ways, who without the Holy Spirit are writing, speaking, making video and running so-called churches, all without God’s personal calling, authority, Godly fear of Him or respect of His ways.

It would once not have been necessary to trouble people with all this extra detailed material, but after you have read it for yourself, you may have a greater confidence in standing against the nonsense that others cleverly try to make sound correct. There is more nonsense out there every day now than ever before, so the few examples given here will hopefully equip you to recognise and deal with any other such things as they arise.

Brief review is made of some portions of Christian and related history, focussed on the Mediterranean churches, a bit of the Pacific, but regrettably not yet looking at the early centuries stories of the first Christians in India, China and afield.

We will look in here in depth, at some important parts, of our history as Christians—as a previous world president of the Elim Pentecostal movement,

George Canty, once said—

“This is the history of the church and this is how it has moulded us, and this is where we went wrong, and this is what you should now do to change things, and to move on.”¹⁴

When quoting from published books in this writing, an effort is also made to provide internet links with the same or similar reference material, check out the end note numbers.

Often a theme is first introduced, and then explored again later in this writing, from other angles, and further information is then given.

When you see note numbers like ^{this} look in the back of the document starting at page 202

Occasional use is made of the Amplified Bible (AMP), which may be viewed as having a built in explanatory study aid, helping with the original meanings of the bible languages, attempting to give the best possible English understanding.

The Amplified Bible normally has a large number of brackets and braces in its text, for the sake of reader clarity here, these have generally been removed. The purpose of the Amplified Bible is explained in this note number 40, Pg 52.

In the bible references, you will see three letters like NET or AMP. These indicate which bible version is being quoted. There is a list on page 215 and an index of bible verses quoted starting on page 207. For each reading used here, the goal has been to choose a version which best presents in English the essence of what the Scripture says, and there is no one Bible version which always does that.

The aim here is to affirm and uphold what God has given to us as rich treasures of grace and truth in Jesus Christ, first handed down to us by the Lord Jesus through His apostles and prophets.

And that record of His dealings from the very beginning that the Holy Spirit has inspired men to record for our benefit in the Holy Scriptures.

John, writing in the gospel that the Holy Spirit gave him to leave for us, says that he was moved to write because ...

John 20:31 AMP But these are written (recorded) in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Anointed One, the Son of God, and that through believing and cleaving to and trusting and relying upon Him, you may have life in His name through Who He is.

And as The New English Translation NET puts it,

John 20:30-31 NET Now Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31 But these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Religious powers only ever give lip service to this wonderful truth and even in the Lord Jesus' own walk on Earth went as far as to deny Him in this way ...

John 19:7 AMP The Jews answered him, We have a law, and according to that law He should die, because He has claimed and made Himself out to be the Son of God.

So too today religious powers, seen and unseen, constantly work to oppose the Son of God, His truth, His apostles and prophets. Trying to impose their own practices often in direct opposition to what the Lord Jesus says, the Holy Spirit confirms, God's men declare, and which the Scripture record.

Matthew 15:7-9 NIV You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

8 “These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”

Our Adversary, the Devil, wants to neutralise or wipe out the living testimony of God's Son, disfigure the Church of the Living God beyond usefulness to God, and above all to try and trick God's people from our safe place in abiding in Christ. The attack is through both things of the heart, and of the mind, in natural realms, and spiritual, in attitudes, and in thoughts.

Colossians 2:8 NET “Be careful not to allow anyone to captivate you through an empty, deceitful philosophy that is according to human traditions and the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”

History has seen many examples of this on both greater and lesser scales. In this writing we look at some of those, and some things in modern times

that you will need to sort out, and be on guard against while pursuing God and His will for your life.

We look at those things that need to be built up, and in a truly surrendered life outlived for God. To see what is essential for healthy Christian community to flourish, helping you serve God and each other, while meeting the needs of the world around you, until you see the resurrected Lord Jesus physically returning in the clouds, for every eye to see, to catch you up to meet Him – being changed to be as He is now – to live eternally in a resurrection body, never to know sickness or die!

Sonship

Today if you believe in His message, God has given you a right. It is a right you must cherish and use for it to have any value to you. It is the only right you have of any lasting value.

Unlike mere 'human rights', it surpasses all other supposed man made rights, it reflects the nature of the One Who has given it to you, and it is the only right that will ever mean anything to you in Reality.

John 1:12-13 NET “ But to all who have received him – those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God's children

13 — children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God. ”

God has given you the right to become a child

To please God we are to be noble minded and of pure heart in this life now. Because we have faith, our deeds are to be worthily those of Christ, both lovingly in the natural realm, and by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:21 NET ... So if someone cleanses himself of such behaviour, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

The treasure that the Lord Jesus gave to His apostles both during His initial walk here on Earth, at His resurrection and afterwards directly from Heaven, are what His followers are to keep to.

Matthew 28:18-20 NET Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.** And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

of God. Cherish it, protect it, grow in it. If you use it wisely, it will grant you access to Eternal Life through the forgiveness of your sins through your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death and sacrifice for you on the cross. Sir Robert Anderson [1910, passim, P 7–13]

Making sure along with Paul in the New Testament,

1 Corinthians 15:10 NET “ But by God's grace I am what I am, and **his grace shown to me was not wasted.** Instead, I worked harder than all the others—not I, of course, but God's grace that was with me.”

And discover what these things are, so that you may have a rich Eternal Reward ...

1 Timothy 3:14-4:2 NIV ¶ Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, **15** if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

1 ¶ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. **2** Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Paul was called and taught by the Lord Jesus after His bodily resurrection and ascension into Heaven.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 NET **For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you,** that the Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, **24** and after he had given thanks he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

25 In the same way, he also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, every time you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Acts 1:1-5 NET I wrote the former account, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach

2 **until the day he was taken up to heaven, after he had given orders by the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.**

3 To the same apostles also, after his suffering, he presented himself alive with many convincing proofs. He was seen by them over a forty-day period and **spoke about matters concerning the kingdom of God.**

4 While he was with them, he declared, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait there for what my Father promised, which you heard about from me.

5 For John baptised with water, but **you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”

“ He is the Head of the Body, the Church. . .

So that in Everything He Might have the Supremacy . . . ”

All human activity assumes some form or other, some structure to facilitate what is aiming to be achieved. A country will have institutions of government, a business—structure and job designations, a sports club will have an executive or committee and office bearers like President, Secretary, Treasurer, and club Captain.

The living Church of the Lord Jesus Christ however is not like any other human institution ever conceived of in the mind of man. It can not elect its own officials apart from God, make its own

plans, nor determine its own policies or format—structures for itself.

And accordingly God has made provision for the Churches functioning, activities, governing and leadership, in a manner that no mere human could ever have planned.

For the God given plan of action for the Church, must at all times have the real Headship and Governance of the living Lord Jesus Christ, and the working of the Holy Spirit, supreme in all situations.

This is due to our faith that Jesus Christ is the risen LORD of Glory — not at all a dead religious man lying somewhere in the sands or tombs of Israel, but bodily resurrected and seated at the right Hand of the Father in Heaven, waiting to come back and physically resurrect His faithful followers. Not a dead man, but the glorified living Lord Jesus, Who by God the Holy Spirit, will direct and govern His Church right now!

We are called to live out the reality that when two or three have been drawn together by His Spirit that the Lord Jesus *is* in our midst. **We have the King present with us and dear not appoint a lesser replacement king who we can see!**

The temptation is to fall back from such faith and organise sinfully in and by the flesh, through the mere mind of man—and even demons—in disobedience to the LORD. And make structures, and leadership positions and appointments not ordained by God. Moves not exemplified for us in the writings and the sacred history of the ministries of the first apostles that Jesus Christ appointed, recorded for us in the New Testament.

Each culture has its own forms and institutions. The Americans' hatred of kings caused them to set up their republic to be presidential in style. The USA church suffers for this abhorrence of monarchy (but remember that Jesus is THE King of kings!) and follows the same cultural models as its worldly institutions of government. An elected ruling President and his White House—an often elected 'p'astor and his church building.

Fijians in the South Pacific will model their churches upon the chiefly model of a Ratu – chieftain—and *his* people. There the Pastor is considered to own everything and everyone, as a chieftain literally does in that culture. And we will look at a modern European (Welsh) example later on, to show that no ethnic group anywhere, is free of this fleshly tribalism approach.

Some groups practice strong leadership rules, such that men called prophets or 'p'astors exercise a

control that God has never intended nor approved of. So bad is it in some so-called Christian structures that a previous world president of the Elim Pentecostal movement, George Canty, quoted earlier, was moved to write,

“We should submit to nobody who professes by the word of the Spirit to know better than we ourselves what God's will is about our personal affairs and business.

“It is in fact out of accord with, even a contradiction of, the glorious promises of God and the provisions of covenanted and blood bought freedom...” Canty [1987, P. 135]¹⁵

We will look very fully at the false basis of such bad ways and church structures, origins and history, and explore the truth of Godly leadership, authority, and true obedience and love for the Lord Jesus.

Often the spirits involved with a culture will endeavour to move Christians towards models of church which those evil powers can more easily influence, and even completely control.

This makes it imperative that Christians fully realise that we are now the people of God, no longer Greek, Romans, Scythian, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Maori, European-Pakeha, or any thing else, but the redeemed of the LORD called to live and walk in the Holy Spirit in what might be called His ‘**culture of Righteousness**’ — following our Heavenly King and God in everything!

This is all very important, and we will also explore it very fully in this writing—as it touches directly upon the appointment by our Heavenly Father, of Jesus, to Whom He has given Lordship—that He might be genuinely first in all things.

Colossians 1:13-20 NIV For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

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

God's wisdom brought through the pages of the New Testament, by His Holy Spirit, and through the ministries of apostles and prophets lived out in our own days, are the foundation of the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:19-22 NET So then you are no longer foreigners and non-citizens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, **20** because you have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

We can not and must not build on anything else. Anything built another way must be dismantled, and God sought for Jesus' building of His Church His Way!

Matthew 16:15-19 NET He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 And Jesus answered him, “You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven!

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven.”

We are the people of God — gathered from amongst every other people of this Earth. And God wants us to let His Spirit separate us from this world, and have a loving unity amongst us to His Glory.

1 Peter 2:9-10 NET But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

10 You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 17:14–23 NET I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but that you keep them safe from the evil one.

16 They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world.

17 Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth.

18 Just as you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.

19 And I set myself apart on their behalf, so that they too may be truly set apart.

20 **NET** “I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony,

21 that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.

22 The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one –

23 I in them and you in me – that they may be completely one, so that the world will know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me.

As an eight and a half year old, this writer having been sovereignly filled with the power of the Holy Spirit that year, stood in the central entrance way of a ‘high’ Anglican church building, feeling it was really wrong—refused to bow either to the crucifix, or the high altar at the front, and incurred the displeasure of the resident ‘P’riest/‘F’ather. And asked God, You being One—how come there are so many different churches? And received back a strong reassurance from the Lord Jesus that there are not!

Such unity is a matter so dear to the Lord Jesus Christ. And it comes to pass as we truly lay down our lives for each other, working towards speeding the return of the Lord Jesus, as we re-establish and hold to those teachings that He first gave to the disciples, also serving God faithfully through the revelation and empowering of the Holy Spirit. — Nothing has changed, or will change until we see the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ physically returning in the clouds in the sky, for every eye to see, to

physically catch the faithful away to be with Him forever more!

Revelations 22:20 NIV He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

There are many things that are not of major concern to God, minor matters that are not worth hair-splitting over, unless He says so. Often God just wants us to accept the status quo as it is, leave things alone, and get on with the job—remaining focussed on the leading of His Holy Spirit—avoiding starting our own denomination!

Then there are foundational things that touch upon Who God Is, His Lordship, and Sovereignty, His nature, and gospel — how God wants things done, things God expects us to keep in mind and heart, and in His Spirit’s leading base our actions on and around, “*so you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household.*” **1 Timothy 3:15 NIV**

I know what it is to struggle with sin, false doctrine, mistakes and muck ups, God knows I’ve made enough myself, and have experienced the true depths of Christ’s loving forgiveness.

Profoundly knowing that as God’s people we must ever aim at the heart of God, His word to us in Christ, and hold to the central crucial things that really matter to Him, and remain in His faithfulness, and get the job done by His grace in the leading and empowering of His Spirit.

Those crucial matters we must recognise as God identifies them, and in God’s leadings and timings depart from historical errors and sins, personal and corporate, to courageously and self sacrificially make right ways for ourselves and others following on later.

Depart from false ideals, doctrines, other gospels, false church structures, and instead, believably and lovingly follow Christ’s words and the teachings of His apostles recorded for us in the Holy Scripture—the New Testament, and God will always grace and empower His people to do even greater things than Christ Himself did while here on earth!

Revelations 22:21 NIV The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Paul A. Norman
Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand,
Sunday 13th, May, 2012

“Love, Obedience, and the Christian, starts in the Trinity”

Love, Accountability, Responsibility, Endurance, Steadfastness, Obedience

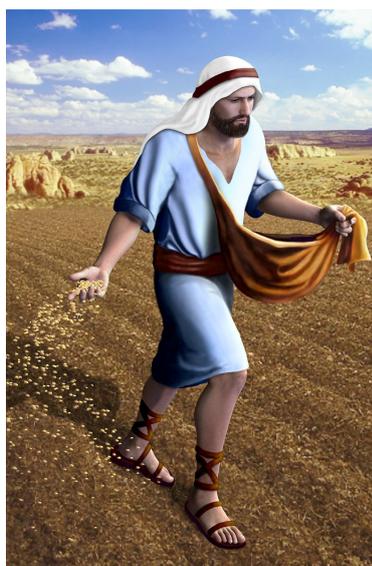
There are certain things that human nature in its fallen state, tries to run away from. The very words in the heading of this section are enough to get a reaction from the rebellious nature that we all have inherited from Adam and Eve. Yet the Christian life is more about Love and faithful Obedience than almost anything else.

It's about the obedience of Christ to the tune of His agonising death on the Cross, in contrast to Adam and our disobedience, Jesus' love of His Father in Heaven, in contrast to how we made ourselves enemies of God through sin.

And now through the Lord Jesus Christ, our reconciliation with our Heavenly Father, and reforming of our character, through the new life given by God's Spirit through Whom God's love is out-poured into our hearts.

A Good and Noble and Honest Heart

And it is our hearts that need careful cultivation, for in the parable about the sower of seed, the Lord Jesus explains, that the seed that flourished and prospered to a great crop, was sown in good soil, and that, He says, represents the nature of a good and noble heart into which God's word first comes and finds a right environment to prosper to the Glory of God in a surrendered person's life.



A sower went out to sow his seed¹⁶

Which kind of person are you going to be in this life? —

Luke 8:5-15 RSV
¶ “A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it.



Seed on the Path¹⁷

6 And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.
7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it.



Some Fell on the Rocks¹⁸



Among the Thorns¹⁹



... Into Good Soil and Grew, and Yielded a Hundredfold²⁰

8 And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold."

As he said this, he called out,

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

9 And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said,

10 "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved.

13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

15 And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience."

The Holy Trinity

We first see obedience perfectly displayed for us in the relationships between God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—the Godhead—Trinity. Some cults (false groups) try to dismiss this claiming that it was only the Roman Church which introduced the Trinity

However the earliest writings (e.g. Theophilus of Antioch) speak of God as Trinity.²¹ More importantly, the Lord Jesus makes things plain, telling us that the Father is greater than Himself. " **John 14:28 AMP** ... "for the Father is greater and mightier than I am."²² This clear statement shows us what is called headship, the Father is head of all.

And the Lord Jesus says that when the Father sends the Holy Spirit, He will not speak on His own, but will take what the Father has given to Jesus, that Jesus passes to the Holy Spirit, and

make it known to us.

Some cults don't like the word Trinity, saying that it does not occur in the Bible. It is clearly shown in the Bible, the word God-head / or Deity is used, and Trinity (three in unity or trine) is a clearer way of accurately describing God.²³

If any one gets contentious about this, point out that the word bible is not mentioned in the Bible either! The word Scripture is used, but now that we bind all the Scripture books together, bible is more appropriate, as it in essence means "library" (from Greek *biblia* – βιβλία).²⁴

STUDY GROUPS

Brothers and sisters using this in groups are recommended to decide how far to go before each session, and to plan the use of the materials, avoiding covering too much at one time.

These 'resources' often quote from originals at length, but do more digging yourself!

Check back for updates:–

pdf.paulanorman.com

Trinity

The Trinity is shown to us through the relationships within the God-head. The Lord Jesus in stating that the Father is greater than Himself, has made a distinction of Persons, two distinct Persons are being spoken of. And in going on to say that the Holy Spirit will not speak on His own, but...

John 16:15 NET “Everything that the Father has is mine; that is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what is mine and will tell it to you.”

... the Lord Jesus is again showing us the distinction of Persons of the God-head, now three distinct Persons have been identified.

TRINITY / GOD-HEAD / DEITY

Acts of the Apostles 17:29 RSV “Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man.

Romans 1:20 RSV “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse;

Colossians 2:9 RSV “For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

This can be no better seen than at the baptism of the Lord Jesus by the hand of John the baptist.

Luke 3:21-23 NET ¶ Now when all the people were baptised, Jesus also was baptised. And while he was praying, the heavens opened,

22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my one dear Son; in you I take great delight.”

23 So Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years old. He was the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ...”

Here in these three verses we have some of the greatest truths of the Bible revealed by the Holy Spirit.

We have —

God the Father speaking from Heaven and saying that Jesus is ‘My Son’ — to the Hebrew (Jewish) mind this is a most powerful statement of equality of nature and authority and so here also describes Divinity.²⁵

See note on son-ship Page 203

Jesus the Son of Man Who has just been pointed out by His Father as the incarnate (in the flesh) **Son of God**, coming out of the Jordan River, after being immersed (what baptism implies in its root meaning - Greek bapto – βαπτο)

The Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus and remaining.

Then Luke starts off Jesus’ supposed genealogy through Joseph (“*He was the son – as was supposed – of Joseph*”) – supposed

because Jesus was miraculously conceived by Mary of the Holy Spirit — no human/male was involved at all, there was nothing of the flesh about it at all.

So again, in three verses we have the full Trinity/God-head/Deity at work,

1. The Father speaking from Heaven,
2. The Holy Spirit coming to alight upon Jesus,
3. Jesus declared the Son of God by the Father,
4. Then pointers to the virgin birth of Jesus through Mary –

In all, the Son of God incarnate (means in human flesh) — the Lord Jesus Christ.

Kurios Ihsous Cristos –

Κυριος Ιησους ριστος

The title ‘Lord Jesus Christ’ says a lot as well. Christ is not Jesus’ surname as in John Smith – Smith being the surname. Nor is LORD like a British peerage title – Lord Harry Bluegrass.

When the Bible was written Greek was the common language of the Roman world, much as English is used internationally today (see Page 76 forward). In that (*Common*–) Greek language called *Koiné* – Lord is kurios – κυριος. Used in a common way, κυριος means something like the English, polite sir, or Sir.

Used as a title like, ‘the Lord Caesar’, in the Roman world kurios – κυριος or Latin *dominus*, it referred to the idea that Caesar was god. In fact Roman citizens as a matter of law were required to worship Caesar as god, even pouring out glasses of wine as ‘drink offerings’ to him as god.

“Although the Christians were admittedly good subjects, their faith forbade their offering incense or giving divine honours to the Emperor or to the idols.

“Thus they were looked upon as being disloyal to the Empire, and, as idol worship entered into the daily life of the people, into it’s religion and business and amusements, the Christians were hated for their separation from the world around them.

“Severe measures were directed against them, at first spasmodic and local, but by the end of the first century it had been made illegal to be a Christian; persecution became systematic, and extended over the whole Empire.”

“There were considerable intervals of respite, but with each recurrence the attack became more violent; all the possessions of the confessors of Christ were confiscated, they were imprisoned, and not only were they put to death in countless numbers, but every imaginable torture was added to their punishment.

Informers were rewarded; those who sheltered the believers shared their fate; and every portion of the Scriptures that could be found was destroyed.

By the beginning of the fourth century this extraordinary warfare, between the mighty world-empire of Rome and these unresisting churches that were yet invincible because "they loved not their lives unto the death", seemed as though it could only end in the complete extinction of the Church.

“Then an event happened which brought this long and dreadful conflict to an unexpected close. In the struggles that were going on in the Roman Empire, Constantine was victorious and, in 312, gained his decisive victory, entered Rome and immediately issued an edict bringing the persecution of Christians to an end.

This was followed, a year later, by the Edict of Milan, by which all men were given freedom to follow whatever religion they chose.

Thus the Roman Empire was overcome by the devotion to the Lord Jesus of those who knew Him. Their patient, unresisting endurance had changed the bitter hostility and hatred of the Roman world, first into pity, and then into admiration. Broadbent [1935, P. 18-19]



Julius Caesar²⁶

As was explained at the beginning of that piece,

“Although the Christians were admittedly good subjects, their faith forbade their offering incense or giving divine honours to the Emperor or to the idols.

“Thus they were looked upon as being disloyal to the Empire, and, as idol worship entered into the daily life of the people, into it’s religion and business and amusements, the Christians were hated for their separation from the world around them.

“Severe measures were directed against them, . . .

In many cultures, a ‘lord’ even had power of life and death over you, and in some parts of the world till very recently. No Roman citizen who was a Chris-

tian would make an offering to Caesar as god, and upon refusing to do it in front of a magistrate (judge), would lose their life! That is how much ‘Lord’, as a title like this actually means!

“Jesus is Lord” —means Jesus is Divine!

Culturally it is very much lost in translation, and needs to be fully grasped from our hearts.

We need to understand these Truths that the Lord Jesus teaches us, about the relationships and roles within the Trinity, if we are to understand the kind of relationship that God wishes to have with us. He wants to bring our complete human make-up: spirit, soul and body, into complete unity with Him. And then we are to have the same kinds of loving relationships with the rest of our Christian family—the Church—the Body of Christ.

Look at the voluntary humility of both the Son and the Holy Spirit, yielding to He—the Father—Who is greater than Each, and yet the unity,

John 16:13-15 NET But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own authority, but will speak whatever He hears, and will tell you what is to come.

14 He will glorify me, because He will receive from me what is Mine and will tell it to you. **15** Everything that the Father has is Mine; that is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what is Mine and will tell it to you.

— the Holy Spirit will bring glory to Jesus– not to Himself. This is one of the reasons that we do not pray to the Holy Spirit but to the Father in the Name of the Son as the Lord Jesus teaches us, and/or

to the Lord Jesus, but not pray to the Holy Spirit, angels, ‘p’astors, nor saints (alive or dead).

Just as the Holy Spirit will bring glory to Jesus, we are to bring glory to God the Father and the Son, and bless and lift each other up – not ourselves.

Acts 4:10-12 NIV “... It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

11 He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’

12 Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

– *The Lord Jesus Christ* –

God the Son — The One Appointed by God the Father to *Save* the human race from their sin and the coming judgement.

No Other Name

Lord —refers to Jesus’ Divinity as the Son of God,

Jesus —equally refers to His humanity and *saving* work as our *Saviour*, sacrifice and high priest, and... .

Christ —to His ‘Appointment’ (being the Messiah — Anointed/One Chosen) by God the Father.



The Cross – “Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews ... the notice was written in (Aramaic) Hebrew, Latin, and Greek”

John 19:20-21 ²⁷

Philippians 2:1-11 RSV

¶ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

3 Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves.

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

Who for the joy set before Him

In the verses just read from Philippians, Paul instructs us as to the way we should emulate the members of the God-head in our conduct, relationships and attitudes towards one another.

Here we learn a tremendous amount about the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can learn that things didn't come automatically to Jesus — that He went through a genuine process in human life and was rewarded for it by the Father, as in some things we must.

There can be so much said almost over-emphasising our free gift of Salvation—in contrast to other groups which falsely require people to earn their Salvation from God or church leadership, that we loose sight of those things which we do actually have to perform for God in to receive what He promises—beyond the free gift of Eternal Life that He holds out in the Lord Jesus for us.

Jesus walked successfully through a full human apprenticeship if you like, and we are called to walk in the same manner – to walk in humility, faithfully observing and lovingly doing the will of our Father in Heaven, looking forward to God's Eternal Presence and then even rewards!

So here we review first what the writer of Hebrews wrote to re-instruct his readers on what is called there the “first word or principles of Christ”. That is – the very first things, the basics.

We are going to focus on Resurrection and Eternal Judgement, first we'll go over a few of the earlier points.

First Word of Christ Messiah —

1. The Foundation of Repentance From Acts That Lead to Death
2. And of Faith in God
3. Instruction About Baptisms
4. The Laying on of Hands
5. The Resurrection of the Dead
6. And Eternal Judgement

These are all things that are essential to a person's grasp of the gospel – things that must be believed to be saved. In the form that we read them in Hebrews 6:1-2 they are reminders—paragraph headers to people who apparently already knew them well, but were in danger of needing to be taught them again.

Hebrews 5:12–14 AMP

For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food.

13 For everyone who continues to feed on milk is obviously inexperienced and unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness (of conformity to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action), for he is a mere infant not able to talk yet!

14 But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble and what is evil and contrary either to divine or human law.

HOLY SPIRIT, PRAYER, AND THE BIBLE —

What you read here, and throughout this writing, is seeking to address the areas that are lacking in the Church, and particularly in the Western World.

This means to get a complete balanced overview, that time needs to be spent with the New and Old Testaments yourself looking through things more fully, using Bible language aids, historical references, and above all spending time in prayer for the guidance, instruction and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Develop this way for your whole life, in all things!

In this list of first foundations there is mention of laying on of hands — here this means at first not so much the laying on of hands that is done in church ordination customs (to set-aside/appoint ministries), but demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, the authority of God – as in the gospels where it said that the Lord Jesus touched someone and they were healed. Or Paul or some other disciple lays hands on them, and they received the power of the Holy Spirit.

This belief in the immediate and personal demonstration of the power of ‘God the all Powerful’ is really important, obviously to be saved a person must believe that God by His Spirit is all powerful and has all authority – or else how will God raise them bodily from the dead. And that He will demonstrate such power in this life now. So you

must, in short *believe* in God as He declares Himself to be, and not just in some watered down version of God presented by any false religion of men and Satan’s making.

Laying on of hands then refers in the first instance to the power and authority of God ex-

pressed through the Holy Spirit today.

In the Hebrews 6:1–2 portion of Scripture there is also mention of baptisms — and here this is a special form of the word in the New Testament Greek that refers to the purification and dedication side of things – holiness if

you like, where a person commits themselves irrevocably to the Lord, having repented of sin and religiousness, has put their faith in Christ, and now undertakes to live pure and faithfully for their Heavenly Father all the rest of their days.



The Pledge of Keeping A Clear Conscience Towards God —Your Response to the Gospel²⁸

9 We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he is never going to die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

10 For the death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

That a person need go under water to follow Christ, is only the expression of their lifelong commitment to the LORD and promise to live with a pure conscience before God.

The power of it is only through personal living faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus—by faith being cleansed by the sacrificial blood

Romans 6:1-11 NET What shall we say then? Are we to remain in sin so that grace may increase?

2 Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?

4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection.

6 We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

of Jesus that He bled on the cross—that deadly altar where in the Eternal Spirit He offered as our High Priest His own body and blood up to God His Father, for our sins and our due punishment.

To obtain from His Father our forgiveness, and our Salvation, and give it freely to us.

So rising out of the waters

of baptism you now live by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Lord Jesus’ resurrection.

Hebrews 9:14 RSV how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

(The *dead works* referred to above beyond sinfulness, can include a person’s efforts through doing ‘good’ things and or religious activity — like the Law of Moses in the Old Testament, to try to *earn* righteousness and Salvation from God instead of receiving it as a gift through faith in Christ.)

With out the commitment to live with a pure conscience before God, there is no salvation, just as without faith, no one can be saved, and without a living repentance from the former way of life of sinning, there can be no salvation.

Paul explains in the Romans six Scripture above that there is more than symbolism in gospel baptism, in it reckon yourself by God’s Spirit, dead with Christ on the cross, and as you come out of the water, alive for Him and His Life in/through you.

Baptised and resurrection ready!

Obviously a baby, or very young child can not do these things, as each individual must do this directly between themselves and God!

So without the promise to God to keep and maintain a cleansed conscience, there is no salvation as – for without holiness, no one will see the LORD.

The next few portions of Scripture tie these things to-

gether for us.

Hebrews 12:14 AMP
Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will ever see the Lord.

1 Peter 3:21-4:1 NIV
¶ ...and this [days of Noah] water symbolises baptism that now saves you also— not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand— with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

1 ¶ Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.

Peter says that obeying the gospel message saves you by the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Why does he say *resurrection*, and not the cross of the Lord Jesus?

Because the resurrection of Jesus bodily form the dead to a glorified body, in fulfilment of the ancient prophecies in Scripture, proves both Who Jesus is— Lord, and that God accepted His death upon the cross for all sin.

Psalms 49:10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

(In this next Scripture portion, parallels are being drawn between the Temple built according to the specifications given by God through Moses, and to Jesus’ body; between the Old Testament Jewish priesthood, and the

superior Priesthood of Christ.)

Hebrews 10:19-25 RSV ¶ Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,

20 by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful;

24 and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

More on aspects of meeting together later on (around page 125). There we will explore how this is to be done, and that to meet together, in God’s terms, is more than just any old religious meeting—the Lord Jesus’ gathering together with His people happens in the power and direction of the Holy Spirit.

As said before, we are going to be primarily concerned with the last two points of Hebrews 6:1–2 (Resurrection and Eternal Judgement), but first to get all this into perspective, and to understand the importance of it all, notice the solemn warning given in verse eight below. The Holy Spirit identifies the areas we are about to look at as the elementary -foundational — literally the ‘first word/message of Christ’.

The Elementary Teachings . . .

Hebrews 6:1-8 ISV

Therefore, leaving behind the elementary teachings about the Messiah, let us continue to be carried along to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead actions, faith toward God,

2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement.

3 And this we will do, if God permits.

4 For it is impossible to keep on restoring to repentance time and again people who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have become partners with the Holy Spirit,

5 who have tasted the goodness of God's word and the powers of the coming age,

6 and who have fallen away, as long as they continue to crucify the Son of God to their own detriment by exposing him to public ridicule.

7 For when the ground soaks up rain that often falls on it and continues producing vegetation useful to those for whom it is cultivated, it receives a blessing from God.

8 However, if it continues to produce thorns and thistles, it is worthless and in danger of being cursed, and in the end will be burned.

These are not minor matters and have serious warnings attached to them.

Remember that God never bluffs, nor lies.

Warnings come to pass, unless God sees good reason to withdraw them.

Ressurrection

Psalms 49:7-11 NIV I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

8 ¶ I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Resurrection is a Miracle that God performs by the power of His Spirit. The Lord Jesus was raised from the dead miraculously, after His Heavenly Father accepted His physical death upon the cross, on our behalf for our sins, that we may be bought back by His Body and blood from the Judgement Seat of God. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted His sacrifice on our behalf.

In the Old Testament God might show his acceptance of a sacrifice of an animal or other thing by sending fire down from Heaven.

1 Kings 18:38 ISV Right then the Lord's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, the dust, and even the water that was in the trench!

In our case He showed His acceptance of what Jesus has done on our behalf by dying sacrificing Himself on the cross at the Jewish Passover feast, and three days

later God physically raised Him from death. And then around seven weeks later God sent the Holy Spirit at Jesus' request, and He fell as flames of fire upon the first Christians at the next major Jewish feast—Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4 ISV When the day of Pentecost was being celebrated, all of them were together in one place.

2 Suddenly, a sound like the roar of a mighty windstorm came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated, and one rested on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them that ability.

When God gives you his Holy Spirit—He is another sign that He has accepted your faith in His message through His Son Jesus, and you are a son of His!

Galatians 4:6-7 NIV Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Jesus' obedient death upon the cross, triumphed over all the powers and principalities (including the Devil and his demons).

Colossians 1:20 NET

...and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross – through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

The Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus

Colossians 2:13-15 NET

And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions.

14 He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.

15 **Disarming the rulers and authorities, he has made a public disgrace of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**

Jesus conquered Satan, but we are bought back, not from Satan—we are freed from him and his evil power, but we are actually bought back—ransomed—from the Judgement seat of God, where otherwise our sins would condemn us, and unable to pay God for our sins, we would be thrown into the Eternal Lake of Fire where the Devil and his angels are finally to go.

As you read through these verses on resurrection, if you let the facts embed in you, of the reality of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ even as God confirms this to your heart, then also let your whole outlook on life, goals and ambitions be changed.

The promise of God's resurrection of your own body form death is a great part of your hope — it represents Eternal Life to you.

It will strengthen you, even in love for Him, even to dying for the sake Of the Name of the Lord Jesus, if under persecution rather than disowning Him or His message.

Matthew 27:50-54 NET

¶ Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit.

51 Just then the temple curtain was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks were split apart.

52 And tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had died were raised.

53 (They came out of the tombs after his resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.)

54 Now when the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and what took place, they were extremely terrified and said, "Truly this one was God's Son!"

John's Testimony — *'that you also may believe'*

John 19:31-37 RSV ¶

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him **33** but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. **35** He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth that you also may believe.

36 For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, "Not a bone of him shall be broken." **37** And again another scripture says, "They shall look on him whom they have pierced."

The Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ

Mark 15:43-16:7 NET

¶ Joseph of Arimathea, a highly regarded member of the council, who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

44 Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. He called the centurion and asked him if he had been dead for some time.

45 When Pilate was informed by the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

46 After Joseph bought a linen cloth and took down the body, he wrapped it in the linen and placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone across the entrance of the tomb.

47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was placed.

16:1 ¶ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought aromatic spices so that they might go and anoint him.

2 And very early on the first day of the week, at sunrise, they went to the tomb.

3 They had been asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" **4** But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled back.

5 Then as they went into the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

6 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been raised! He is not here. Look, there is the place where they laid him.

7 But go, tell his disciples, even Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.”

The Resurrected Lord Jesus Eats

Luke 24:36-52 NET ¶ While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 But they were startled and terrified, thinking they saw a ghost.

38 Then he said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

39 Look at my hands and my feet; it’s me! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones like you see I have.”

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 And while they still could not believe it (because of their joy) and were amazed, he said to them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 So they gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in front of them.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures,

46 and said to them, “Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day,

47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And look, I am sending you what my Father promised.

But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50 Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

51 Now during the blessing he departed and was taken up into heaven.

52 So they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy



The Appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalene²⁹

John 20:14-17 NET When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni” (which means Teacher).

17 Jesus replied, “Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Resurrection is so profound that doctors have been converted upon the eventual resurrection of their patients, Norman [2002, P. 15] see – The Green Mandarins³⁰

Resurrection—a totally dead person is raised back to a healthy and full life—when life is now **totally** physically impossible.

2 Kings 13:21 NET One day some men were burying a man when they spotted a raiding party. So they threw the dead man into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet.

2 Kings 4:32,35 NET When Elisha arrived at the house, there was the child lying dead on his bed...

35 Elisha went back and walked around in the house. Then he got up on the bed again and bent down over him. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

The miracle is in the Old Testament, and is performed by the Lord Jesus and His disciples, right through to today.

Luke 7:13-16 RSV And when the LORD saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."
14 And he came and touched the bier (coffin), and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.

16 Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

The Lord Jesus is very matter

of fact about it. . .

Matthew 10:7-8 AMP ¶ And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand!

8 Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Freely (without pay) you have received, freely (without charge) give.

The LORD Does it Through Peter

Acts of the Apostles 9:40-42 AMP But Peter put them all out of the room and knelt down and prayed;

then turning to the body he said, Tabitha, get up! And she opened her eyes; and when she saw Peter, she raised herself and sat upright.

41 And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling in God's people and the widows, he presented her to them alive.

42 And this became known throughout all Joppa, and many came to believe on the LORD to adhere to and trust in and rely on Him as the Christ and as their Savior.

The LORD Does it Through Paul

Acts of the Apostles 20:9-12 NET A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, was sinking into a deep sleep while Paul continued to speak for a long time. Fast asleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.

10 But Paul went down, threw himself on the young man, put his arms around him, and said, "Do not be distressed, for he is still alive!"

11 Then Paul went back upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he talked with them a long time, until dawn. Then he left.

12 They took the boy home alive and were greatly comforted.

Resurrection of the dead is perhaps the greatest evidences of the power of the Lord Jesus, and the truth of His gospel, amongst humans today.

It can not be done in the name(s) of Buddha, Mohammed, Vishnu nor any of the others, they are dead or demons and not empowered by the true God—only God's only Begotten Son—the Lord Jesus can do it!

Two Resurrections : Be in the First One!

Unlike the Western cultural expectation of everyone dying and going to heaven, sitting on a cloud, looking like an angel, having a halo and playing a harp, not everyone does go to heaven, all who do not utterly trust Jesus in this life now will go to hell. And no human ever turns into an angel.

Luke 14:12-15 NET ¶ He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you host a dinner or a banquet, don't invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours so you can be invited by them in return and get repaid.

13 But when you host an elaborate meal, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 Then you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

15 When one of those at the meal with Jesus heard this, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will feast in the kingdom of God!”

For the faithful there is the ‘marriage supper of the Lamb’—‘the feast in the kingdom of God’, all of God’s children are called to make themselves ready for—to cleanse their lives of all

that would disqualify them from attending—puts a keen edge on “*many are called but few are chosen*”, and Matthew chapter 25 (please read).



The Marriage Supper of the Lamb — Take Your Invitation Seriously³¹

Everyone will be raised from the dead in their own bodies renewed inside out to be heavenly bodies. Those who have trusted and obeyed the LORD, as Job declares (for what happens to others see further down)—

Job 19:25-27 NET ¶
As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that as the last
he will stand upon the earth.
26 And after my skin has
been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God,
27 whom I will see for my-
self,
and whom my own eyes will
behold,
and not another.

My heart grows faint within
me.

To please God we are to be noble minded and of pure heart in this life now. Because we have faith, our deeds are to be worthily those of Christ, both lovingly in the natural realm, and by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 3:8-11,14 NIV
...But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.

I consider them rubbish, that I
may gain Christ

9 and be found in him,
not having a righteousness of
my own that comes from the
law [Moses], but that which
is through faith in Christ—the
righteousness that comes from
God and is by faith.

10 I want to know Christ
and the power of his resurrec-
tion and the fellowship of shar-
ing in his sufferings, becom-
ing like him in his death,

11 and so, somehow, to at-
tain to the resurrection from
the dead.

14 I press on towards the goal
to win the prize for which God
has called me heavenwards in
Christ Jesus...

2 Corinthians 5:6-11 RSV

So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 We are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men;

Christ Will Conquer



The Lord Returns, This Time Not in a Manager But in Power to Raise the Faithful, Put Down His Enemies, and Rule the Earth³²

The Lord Jesus Will Return From Heaven Just as He Left—in the Clouds

Acts of the Apostles 1:6-11 ISV

Now those who had gathered together began to ask Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He answered them, “It is not for you to know what times or periods the Father has fixed by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,

in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 After saying this, Jesus was taken up while those who had gathered together were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, two men in white robes stood right beside them.

11 They asked, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?

This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go up into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

In many of the Scripture that follow, ‘sleep’ is used to describe how believers will be with the Lord Jesus in Heaven (‘absent from the body – present with the Lord’ and consciously aware as shown in the book of Revelation), awaiting their resurrection bodies.

Revelation 6:9-11 AMP

When the Lamb broke open the fifth seal, I saw at the foot of the altar the souls of those

whose lives had been sacrificed for adhering to the Word of God and for the testimony they had borne.

10 They cried in a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long now before You will sit in judgement and avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?

11 Then they were each given a long and flowing and festive white robe and told to rest and wait patiently a little while longer, until the number should be complete of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Others die and go below to await the day of Judgement. The word ‘*sleep*’ is used about Christians as you never refer to followers of the Lord Jesus as dying, for they live for ever! Un-repentant sinners ‘die’.

‘*sleep*’ describes how a believer is not with us, just as you can not talk to, or do intelligent things with, a person who is actually asleep, but saying that means that rather than being permanently departed, they will be restored in resurrection bodies when the Lord Jesus returns.

The Lord Jesus made it really plain when He spoke of Lazarus in this way. . .

John 11:11-15 NET After he said this, he added, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I am going there to awaken him.”

12 Then the disciples replied, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.”

13 (Now Jesus had been talking about his death, but they thought he had been talking about real sleep.)

14 Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died,

15 and I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

The use of the word *sleep* in what follows is perhaps then best viewed as Christian jargon meaning something simple about our hope in the coming resurrection, and not as the basis of some big doctrine called ‘*soul sleep*’ that some false groups try to make it into.

In his childhood, older relatives of this writer used to speak of Christians departed from this life, as “not being with us at the moment”. That catches the essence of what is being said when referring to departed believers being asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:6 NET Now we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so also we believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep as Christians.

15 For we tell you this by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not go ahead of those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

5:1 Now on the topic of times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you.

2 For you know quite well that the day of the Lord will come in the same way as a thief in the night.

3 Now when they are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction comes on them, like labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will surely not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in the darkness for the day to overtake you like a thief would.

5 For you all are sons of the light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of the darkness.

6 So then we must not sleep as the rest, but must stay alert and sober.

At the Last Trumpet

Paul explains this again in second Thessalonians,

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 NET Now regarding the arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to be with him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,

2 not to be easily shaken from your composure or disturbed by any kind of spirit or message or letter allegedly from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here.

3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not arrive until the rebellion comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, and as a result he takes his seat in God’s temple, displaying himself as God.

5 Surely you recall that I used to tell you these things while I was still with you.

6 And so you know what holds him back, so that he will be revealed in his own time.

7 For the hidden power of lawlessness is already at work. However, the one who holds him back will do so until he is taken out of the way,

8 and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of his mouth and wipe out by the manifestation of his arrival.

9 The arrival of the lawless one will be by Satan's working with all kinds of miracles and signs and false wonders,

10 and with every kind of evil deception directed against those who are perishing, because they found no place in their hearts³³ for the truth so as to be saved.

11 Consequently God sends on them a deluding influence³⁴ so that they will believe what is false.

12 And so all of them who have not believed the truth but have delighted in evil will be condemned.

So we are raised in a resurrection body just like the Lord Jesus. *"we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed."* ...

1 Corinthians 15:50-58
ISV Brothers, this is what I mean: Mortal bodies cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and what decays cannot inherit what does not decay. 51 Let me tell you a secret. Not all of us will die, but all of us will be changed—

52 in a moment, faster than an eye can blink, at the sound of the last trumpet. Indeed, that trumpet will sound, and then the dead will be raised never to decay, and we will be changed.

53 For what is decaying must be clothed with what cannot decay, and what is dying must be clothed with what cannot die.

54 Now, when what is decaying is clothed with what cannot decay, and what is dying is clothed with what cannot die, then the written word will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up by victory!"

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 Now death's stinger is sin, and sin's power is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus the Messiah!

58 **AMP** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord, knowing and being continually aware that your labour in the Lord is not futile it is never wasted or to no purpose.

Christ Is Risen!

1 Corinthians 15:20-28
ISV But at this moment the Messiah stands risen from the dead, the first one offered in the harvest of those who have died.

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in the Messiah will all be made alive.

23 However, this will happen to each person in the proper order: first the Messiah, then those who belong to the Messiah when he comes.

24 Then the end will come, when after he has done away with every ruler and every authority and power, the Messiah hands over the kingdom to God the Father.

25 For he must rule until God puts all the Messiah's enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be done away with is death,

27 for "God has put everything under his feet." Now when he says, "Everything has been put under him,"

this clearly excludes the one who put everything under him.

28 But when everything has been put under him, then the Son himself will also become subject to the one who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

(Look for Green Mandarins Norman [2002, P. 15] on <http://pdf.paulanorman.info/newsletters/>) And an available online video http://paulanorman.com/drafts/book_2007_0A/video/#malakia

... Good News ... Bad News ...

Now in contrast as we read on we will see the utterly sad part of it for all who do not sincerely know the Lord Jesus Christ ...

Acts of the Apostles 24:14-16
RSV But this I admit to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the law or written in the prophets,

15 having a hope in God which these themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.

16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men.

For believers, there is Eternal Life, bliss with the Lord Jesus and God the Father, in a body that can never get sick or die again. Eventually a new Heaven and a new Earth, but first ...

Revelation 20:6 AMP

¶ Blessed (happy, to be envied) and holy (spiritually whole, of unimpaired innocence and proved virtue) is the person who takes part (shares) in the first resurrection! Over them the second death exerts no power or authority, but they shall be ministers of God and of Christ (the Messiah), and they shall rule along with Him a thousand years.

Make Sure God's Grace to You is Not Without Effect

For those who have not heard or responded to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, a resurrection body as well, that also can not be destroyed, but they will be in it – not in bliss, but ...

Revelation 20:10-15 AMP

¶ Then the devil who had led them astray deceiving and seducing them, was hurled into the fiery lake of burning brimstone, where the beast and false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (through the ages of the ages).

11 Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was seated upon it,

from Whose presence and from the sight of Whose face earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

12 I also saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.

And the dead were judged (sentenced) by what they had done—their whole way of feeling and acting, their aims and endeavours—in accordance with what was recorded in the books.

13 And the sea delivered up the dead who were in it, death and Hades surrendered the dead in them, and all were tried and their cases determined by what they had done according to their motives, aims, and works.

14 Then death and Hades (the state of death or disembodied existence) were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone's name was not found recorded in the 'Book of Life', he was hurled into the lake of fire.



**What Awaits those Outside of Christ — Get Motivated to Spread the Gospel!
People Burning in the Lake of Fire.³⁵**

Revelation 14:9-13 ISV

¶ Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying in a loud voice, “Whoever worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or his hand

10 will drink the wine of God’s wrath, which has been poured undiluted into the cup of his anger.

He will be tortured with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and the lamb.

11 The smoke from their torture goes up forever and ever.

There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.”

12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to their faithfulness in Jesus:

13 I heard a voice from heaven say, “Write this:

How blessed are the dead, that is, those who die in the Lord from now on!” “Yes,” says the Spirit. “Let them rest from their labours, for their actions follow them.”

And that is the fate of the unsaved. So be motivated by love to share the gospel with others.

Followers of Jesus must also keep themselves on the right side of God. Remember when reading the following that God does not make empty or idle threats.

Revelation 3:3-5 ISV So remember what you received and heard. Obey it, and repent. If you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you won’t know the time when I will come to you.

4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me in white clothes because they are worthy.

5 The person who conquers in this way will wear white clothes, and I will never erase his name from the Book of Life. I will acknowledge his name in the presence of my Father and his angels.

Being in the ‘Book of Life’ is essential for us. You must realise that if you really want to misbehave, Jesus has been given the authority from the Father to wipe people out of the Book of Life. If you walk with the LORD you have nothing to fear - but if you continually will not yield to God’s Holy Spirit and His conviction — then watch out!

Instead be a person “*who conquers in this way*”, as described in verse 5 above.

For God will send His angels out to gather us to the Lord Jesus when He returns in the clouds for every eye to see.

Not currently in God’s ‘Book of Life’? Then no being bodily gathered to meet the Lord when He returns, nor any help from God’s angels as each heir of Salvation will get now in this life.

Hebrews 1:13-14 ISV But to which of the angels did he ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

14 All of them are spirits on a divine mission, sent to serve those who are about to inherit salvation, aren’t they?

Judgement can happen in this life now, here are some verses to look at. In all cases the point was to make others lovingly live in the fear of God, respecting Him and His ways.

None of these examples are from the Old Testament, they are all from our times (as God views things). You might like to read around these references in your own bible to get the build up and the full consequences.

Acts of the Apostles 12:21-24

NET On a day determined in advance, Herod put on his royal robes, sat down on the judgement seat, and made a speech to them.

22 But the crowd began to shout, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!”

23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck Herod down because he did not give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of God kept on increasing and multiplying.

Judgement by God in this Life Now

Acts Of The Apostles 5:7-14 ISV

After an interval of about three hours, Ananias’ wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 So Peter asked her, “Tell me, did you sell the land for that price?” She answered, “Yes, that was the price.”

9 “How could you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?” Peter asked her. “Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and these men will carry you outside as well.”

10 She instantly fell down at Peter’s feet and died. When the young men came in, they found her dead. So they carried her out and buried her next to her husband.

11 And great fear seized the whole church and everyone else who heard about this.

12 Now many signs and wonders were being performed by the apostles among the people, who were gathered together in Solomon's Colonnade.

13 None of the others dared join them, although the rest of the people continued to hold them in high regard.

14 Nevertheless, believers were being added to the Lord in increasing numbers—both men and women.

God's Hit List

This may sound very obvious, but needs to be stated clearly. . .

In determining whether we are walking right with God or not, as believers (assuming here that you have moved on to give up the deliberate carrying out of sins, and in faith in Christ have had your body washed in the waters of baptism—fully committed yourself to Him), we need to view things from God's point of view, for that is the one that we are to live by now, and will later stand before Him in the Day of Judgement over.

So then other people's ideas of what is important to God, fellowships and religious groups' teachings, what your mother or father and relatives just idly think, what the neighbour says, or your friends and people casually in your life (work, cafés, internet chat rooms, Facebook, people you meet at the pub etc. . .)—what they all think is irrelevant, compared to what the Lord Jesus Christ says, does, and will do.

But how you treat all other SUCH people is very relevant and will be brought up before you when you face the Lord Jesus and are judged by the words that He spoke.

Not only the general words in the Bible—but what He spoke

and warned or encouraged you about into your heart and mind by the Holy Spirit now. How you have lived by what He put in your conscience—things He should not have to keep reminding you of that He has taught you about Him and His ways.

Living respecting God moment by moment in this life now, is called living in the fear of God, or in the fear of the LORD. Fear meaning more than an emotion, but with awe, respect, and a sense of wonder at Who He IS, knowing that He is ultimately your Judge as well.

With God then things start first with love, and the Lord Jesus says that we love Him if we obey Him. We need to have this clearly in our minds at all times.

John 15:13-17 NIV

Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

17 This is my command: Love each other.
(See page 55 for more verses)

So love is not that oozy gooey feeling that television soap operas show, nor that which is found in sin, immorality, and romantic novels like Mills and Boon, or any other evil 'bible fiction' novel or video which you can pick up on the internet, or in so-called Christian bookshops.

Let us then leave behind fallen self centred, and demonic sinful version of what love is, and live in love from God's point of view—for He will judge us accordingly. . .

1 John 3:13-24 NET

Therefore do not be surprised, brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have crossed over from death to life because we love our fellow Christians. The one who does not love remains in death.

15 Everyone who hates his fellow Christian is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 We have come to know love by this: that Jesus laid down his life for us; thus we ought to lay down our lives for our fellow Christians.

17 But whoever has the world's possessions and sees his fellow Christian in need and shuts off his compassion against him, how can the love of God reside in such a person?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue but in deed and truth.

19 And by this we will know that we are of the truth and will convince our conscience in his presence,

20 that if our conscience condemns us, that God is greater than our conscience and knows all things.

21 Dear friends, if our conscience does not condemn us, we have confidence in the presence of God,

22 and whatever we ask we receive from him,

because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing to him.

Notes and Credits

(Urls accurate when written)

- 1, Pg 2 *In the Electronic version, if you see a speech bubble, move your mouse over it or Click on it.—If you see a speech bubble, move your mouse over it or Click on it. It contains more information, normally a scripture. Works best so far in Acrobat Reader.*
- 2, Pg 10
Marx and Engels, 1848 Manifesto of the Communist Party
MIA: Marxists: Marx Engels: Library: 1848: Manifesto of the Communist Party: Chapter 2: Proletarians and Communists from [German Original]
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch02.htm>
- 3, Pg 10 *“So, though we are genuinely thankful for the many positive changes in the new NIV (2011), and though we are deeply appreciative of the very different process by which our friends at the CBT and Zondervan pursued and unveiled this new version, we still cannot commend the new NIV (2011) for most of the same reasons we could not commend the TNIV.
 “Our initial analysis shows that the new NIV (2011) retains many of the problems that were present in the TNIV, on which it is based, especially with regard to the over 3, 600 gender-related problems we previously identified.
 “In spite of the many good changes made, our initial analysis reveals that a large percentage of our initial concerns still remain.
 “CBMW will be releasing an exact percentage after we complete our full detailed analysis.
 “We are also still concerned about the frequent omission of the words, “man,” “brother,” “father,” “son,” and “he.” <http://jaredmoore.exaltchrist.com/2010/11/23/niv-2011-rejected-by-the-council-of-biblical-manhood-womanhood-cbmw/>
 The NIV 2011 Forces a Choice — [http://trevinwax.com/2010/11/16/the-niv-2011-forces-a-choice/NIV2011/NIV2010 Changes](http://trevinwax.com/2010/11/16/the-niv-2011-forces-a-choice/NIV2011/NIV2010%20Changes)
<http://biblewebapp.com/niv2011-changes/>*
- 4, Pg 11 <http://www.economist.com/node/5259490>
- 5, Pg 11
Los Angeles Times
“C.S. Lewis Bible provokes debate”, Nomi Morris, April 16th, 2011
<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-beliefs-lewis-20110416,0,3206652.story>
- 6, Pg 11
Christianity Today
That Hideous Bible? C.S. Lewis Bible Kicks Up Gender Protest, Ken Walker | February/01/2011 09:05AM
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2011/february/hideousbible.html>
- 7, Pg 12 <http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/ProductDetail.htm?ProdID=com.zondervan.9780310950813&QueryStringSite=Zondervan>
- 8, Pg 12
- President Jimmy Carter Authors New Bible Book, Answers Hard Biblical Questions**
*“ I personally think it is very fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies.”...
 “So if a local Baptist church wants to accept gay members on an equal basis, which my church does by the way, then that is fine.”
 “When we go to the Bible we should keep in mind that the basic principles of the Bible are taught by God, but written down by human beings deprived of modern day knowledge. So there is some fallibility in the writings of the Bible.”*
Quotes from the Paul Brandeis Raushenbush interview, 19th March 2012, ©2012 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/19/president-jimmy-carter-bible-book_n_1349570.html
- 9, Pg 13
Lloyd Geering
Lloyd Geering appears to have possibly infiltrated an important teaching position for Presbyterian ministers and others, and poisoned their young minds against the truths of God.
For his efforts for ‘the cause’ (‘services to the community’ [sic]) he was awarded the equivalent of a knighthood by PM Mrs. Helen (Clark) Davis in 2007.
“In 1967 Geering gained a high profile when he was charged with “doctrinal error” and “disturbing the peace and unity of the (Presbyterian) church”. The case was brought before the 1967 General Assembly of the PCANZ, and dismissed without being much discussed. The charges were brought by a group of conservative laymen and a conservative minister.
“During his church trial he claimed that the remains of Jesus lay somewhere in Palestine and that the resurrection had been wrongfully interpreted by churches as a resuscitation of the body of Jesus. He also rejects the notion that God is a supernatural being who created and continues to look over the world.” From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lloyd_Geering
- 10, Pg 13 <http://www.messagebible.com/About/About-The-Message.aspx>
- 11, Pg 13 <http://www.messagebible.com/About/About-Eugene.aspx>
- 12, Pg 13 <http://www.messagebible.com/Home.aspx>
- 13, Pg 14 *The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson*
- 14, Pg 17 *George Canty quoted by Adrian Hawkes Monday, January 3, 2011* <http://www.assistnews.net/ansarticle.asp?URL=Stories/2011/s11010012.htm>
- 15, Pg 21 *George Canty quoted by David Pytches Pytches [1993, P. 93]*
- 16, Pg 23
A sower went out to sow his seed
Philip Halling, Hugh Chevallier new work ©Michael To'o & Paul A Norman 2011 license CC BY 2.0 more info on web <http://JesusWay.info/?imageCredit=from-Michael-The-Sower-01-Sowing-7cm.jpg>

17, Pg 23

Seed on the Path

BS Thurner Hof, John Varndell, Tony Wills new work ©Michael To'o & Paul A Norman 2011 license CC BY 3.0 more info on web <http://JesusWay.info/?imageCredit=from-Michael-The-Sower-02-Path-7cm.jpg>

18, Pg 23

Some Fell on the Rocks

3268zauber, Cesar Vonc, Dehaan, Bogdan new work ©Michael To'o & Paul A Norman 2011 license CC BY 2.0 more info on web <http://JesusWay.info/?imageCredit=from-Michael-The-Sower-03-Stones-7cm.jpg>

19, Pg 23

Among the Thorns

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20, Pg 24

... Into Good Soil and Grew, and Yielded a Hundredfold

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21, Pg 24

Theophilus of Antioch

Theophilus of Antioch wrote by 170 AD using the word Trinity to describe God (his are among some of the earliest writings outside the New Testament, that survive to our day. The word was very evidently in common usage, much before the so-called Church Councils, or the Roman Catholic Church even came into being. The word in Greek is Τριάδος, Τριάς — trias, meaning "a set of three" or "the number three".

22, Pg 24

John 14:28

" You heard Me tell you, I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you really loved Me, you would have been glad, because I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater and mightier than I am."

23, Pg 24

Deity—Godhead

OLB Strongs 2304 , , theios thi'-os from 2316; TDNT-3:122,322; adj AV-divine 2, Godhead 1; 3

- 1) A general name of deities or divinities as used by the Greeks
- 2) Spoken of the only and true God, trinity
- 2a) of Christ
- 2b) Holy Spirit
- 2c) the Father

24, Pg 24

Bible

The English form of the Greek name biblia – βιβλία, meaning "books," the name which in the fifth century began to be given to the entire collection of sacred books, the "Library of Divine Revelation." The name Bible was adopted by Wickliffe, and came gradually into use in our English language.

Easton's Revised Bible Dictionary

25, Pg 25

Son-ship

To the Hebrews, son-ship was not just a matter of being born to someone, your father had to choose you and announce you in a public ceremony. Each family only had one such son. He was deemed equal to his father legally and in authority.

He could sign contracts that bound the father, but so could the father bind the son, but they stood by each-other's decisions – with the son yet always yielded to the father.

This gives a particular meaning to Jesus' words when he talks like this to the Jews ...

John 10:29-33 NET "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them from my Father's hand.

30 The Father and I are one."

31 The Jewish leaders picked up rocks again to stone him to death.

32 Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many good deeds from the Father. For which one of them are you going to stone me?"

33 "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God"

26, Pg 26

Julius Caesar

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27, Pg 27

The Cross – "Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews ... the notice was written in (Aramaic) Hebrew, Latin, and Greek"**John 19:20-21**

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28, Pg 29

The Pledge of Keeping A Clear Conscience Towards God—Your Response to the Gospel

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29, Pg 33

The Appearance of Christ to Mary Magdalene

Alexander Ivanov, c. 1834

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http://freechristimages.org/biblestories/jesus_appears_mary_magdalene.htm more info on web <http://JesusWay.info/?imageCredit=Appearance-Christ-Mary-Magdalene-Alexander-Ivanov-converted-2011-07-05.jpg>

30, Pg 34

The Green Mandarins

A couple of days later the Tavua Hospital doctor asked to see me. He explained that Eroni had diverticulitis, a condition where infected and inflamed blood vessels in the lower bowl suddenly rupture and bleed profusely. This explained why the toilet bowl had been really full of what looked like pure blood and little water.

Standing in front of me with a clipboard of papers, he slowly leafed through them explaining how each one of them represented blood and plasma given to Eroni.

First he had given them all of the stock of his blood type that was on hand, then he had given what blood he could get from Lautoka City base hospital. Then more was flown up from the Memorial Hospital in Suva. In between all this they had given Eroni plasma.

Apparently to a doctor it all meant that when admitted to hospital, Eroni did not have very much blood to speak of in him at all. Also all of his arteries that could be investigated, had collapsed. The doctor wanted an explanation for how Eroni was alive, as he could not give a medical one, but he knew that we were all 'spiritually minded'.

So I gave God the glory and testified to him of the saving and healing power of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus Forever the Resurrection and the Life!

<http://paulanorman.info/pdf/newsletters/index.shtml>

31, Pg 35

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb — Take Your Invitation Seriously

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32, Pg 36

The Lord Returns, This Time Not in a Manager But in Power to Raise the Faithful, Put Down His Enemies, and Rule the Earth

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33, Pg 37

no place in their hearts—Gk “they did not accept the love of the truth.”

34, Pg 37

deluding influence—Gk “a working of error.”

35, Pg 39

What Awaits those Outside of Christ — Get Motivated to Spread the Gospel! People Burning in the Lake of Fire.

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36, Pg 46

The Lord's Supper A Very Serious Meal

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37, Pg 47

Mark 9:2-10—2 Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John and led them alone up a high mountain privately. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became radiantly white, more so than any launderer in the world could bleach them. 4 Then Elijah appeared

before them along with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 So Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 6 (For they were afraid, and he did not know what to say.) 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came from the cloud, “This is my one dear Son. Listen to him!” 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down from the mountain, he gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 They kept this statement to themselves, discussing what this rising from the dead meant.

38, Pg 51

'subjunctive'

(grammar, of a verb) inflected to indicate that an act or state of being is possible, contingent or hypothetical, and not a fact. <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/subjunctive>

Strong's 5792 Mood-Subjunctive

The subjunctive mood is the mood of possibility and potentiality. The action described may or may not occur, depending upon circumstances. Conditional sentences of the third class ("ean" + the subjunctive) are all of this type, as well as many commands following conditional purpose clauses, such as those beginning with “hina.”

39, Pg 52

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40, Pg 52

Amplified

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“The first complete Bible produced by The Lockman Foundation was the Amplified Bible. The Amplified Bible is a translation that, by using synonyms and definitions, both explains and expands the meaning of words in the text by placing amplification in parentheses and brackets and after key words or phrases. This unique system of translation allows the reader to more completely grasp the meaning of the words as they were understood in the original languages. Through multiple expressions, fuller and more revealing appreciation is given to the divine message as the original text legitimately permits.”

<http://www.lockman.org/download/index.php>

41, Pg 62

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42, Pg 62

Benny Hinn's False Prophecies

Hank Speaks Out Benny Hinn's False Prophecies June 25, 2008

http://www.equip.org/hank_speaks_outs/benny-hinn-s-false-prophecies

43, Pg 71

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