The Crossover

- The Narrow Way

Joh4:24**"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." - Jesus Christ**

Luk13:24**"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." - Jesus Christ**

Mat7:14**"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." - Jesus Christ**

Luk1:37**"For nothing is impossible with God."**

- angel Gabriel talking with Mary about the birth of Christ, who was conceived in her by the Holy Spirit.

Mat3:1In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea [2]and saying, "Repent[4a], for the kingdom of heaven is near."

Luk1:17"And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, **to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."** - angel of the Lord speaking about John the Baptist

Luk3:16" ..... **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** [17]His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." - John the Baptist speaking of Jesus

Luk3:8**"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance[4b]. ..... [9]The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."**

[10]"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

[11]John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

[12]Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"
[13]"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

Mar1:14 ..... Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. [15] ..... **"The kingdom of God is near. Repent[4c] and believe the good news!"**

Mat5:3**"Blessed are the poor in spirit,**
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

.....

[5]**Blessed are the meek,**
for they will inherit the earth.

[6]**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**
for they will be filled.

[7]**Blessed are the merciful,**
for they will be shown mercy.

[8]**Blessed are the pure in heart,**
for they will see God.

[9]**Blessed are the peacemakers,**
for they will be called sons of God."

Mat5:13**"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men."**

[14]**"You are the light of the world.** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [15]Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house [Luk11:33...,that those who come in may see the light]. [16]In the same way, **let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."**

[21]"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' [22]**But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment."**

[23]"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, [24]leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

.....

[28]**"But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [29]If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."**

.....

[38]"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' (Exo 21:24; Lev 24:20; Deu 19:21) [39]But I tell you, **Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.** [40]And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. [41]If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. [42]**Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you."**

[43]"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44]But I tell you: **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45]that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.** He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ..... [48]**Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."**

Luk6:27"But I tell you who hear me: **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28]bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. .....** [30]Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. [31]**Do to others as you would have them do to you."**

.....

[35]"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, **and you will be sons of the Most High**, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. [36]**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."**

Mat6:14**"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. [15]But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."**

.....

[19]"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20]**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,** where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21]**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

.....

[24]"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and Money."**

Luk12:29**"And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.** [30]For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. [31]But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well."

Mat6:33**"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

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

Mat7:1**"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. [2]For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."**

Luk6:37**"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."**

Mat7:13**"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. [14]But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."**

Luk6:43"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. [44]Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briers. [45]**The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."**

Mat7:19**"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."**

.....

[21]**"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."**

Luk6:46**"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?** [47]I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. [48]He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. [49]But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Luk13:23Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, [24]**"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."** [25]Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' "

[26]"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' "

[27]"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' "

[28]"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."

Mat10:32**"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. [33]But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven."**

..... [37]**"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; [38]and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39]Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."**

Luk14:25Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: [26]**"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. [27]And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."**

..... [33] ..... **"any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."**

[34]**"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? [35]It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out."**

Luk16:10**"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. [11]So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"**

Mat11:12**"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it."**

Luk16:16**" ..... the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it."**

Mat11:28**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29]Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30]For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

Luk13:6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. [7]So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "

[8]**" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. [9]If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "**

Mat12:33**"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.** [34]You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. [35]The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. [36]**But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. [37]For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."**

Mat12:47Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

[48]He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" [49]Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. [50]**"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."**

Luk8:21He replied, **"My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."**

Luk8:11"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. [12]Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, **so that they may not believe and be saved.** [13]Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. **They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.** [14]The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, **but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.** [15]But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and **by persevering produce a crop."**

Mat13:31He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. [32]**Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."**

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

Luk17:20Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, [21]nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because **the kingdom of God is within you."**

.....

Mat13:40"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. [41]**The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. [42]They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [43]Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.** He who has ears, let him hear."

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

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

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

Mat15:18"But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' "

Mar7:21**"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, [22]greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, [false testimony Mat15:19], slander, arrogance and folly. [23]All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "**

Mar8:34 ..... **"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross [daily Luk9:23] and follow me.** [35]For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but **whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. [36]What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul [very self Luk9:25]? [37]Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? "**

Mat16:27**"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."**

Mar9:23**" ..... Everything is possible for him who believes."**

[24]Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, **"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"**

Mar10:42Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. [43]Not so with you. Instead, **whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [44]and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.** [45]For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mat23:11"The greatest among you will be your servant. [12]**For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."**

Luk17:5**The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"**

[6]**He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."**

Mat21:43**"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit."**

Mar12:28 ..... "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

[29]**"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

[30]**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (Deu 6:4-5)**

[31]**The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Lev 19:18) There is no commandment greater than these."**

Mat25:31"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. [32]**All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** [33]He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."

[34]"Then the King will say to those on his right, **'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. [35]For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, [36]I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "**

[37]"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? [38]When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? [39]When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "

[40]"The King will reply, **'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' "**

[41]"Then he will say to those on his left, **'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43]I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "**

[44]"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "

[45]"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "

[46]**"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."**

Mat28:18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19]**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20]and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** - after Jesus' resurrection from the dead

Joh1:1**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was with God in the beginning.**

[3]**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. [4]In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

..... [14]**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

.....

[16]**From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.**

.....

[33]**" 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' "** - John the Baptist saying what God told Him about Jesus

Joh3:5Jesus answered, **"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of** water and **the Spirit.** [6]Flesh gives birth to flesh, but **the Spirit gives birth to spirit."**

..... [8]**"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**

.....

[14]**"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, [15]that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."**

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

.....

[36]**"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."** - John the Baptist speaking about Jesus

Joh5:24**"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."**

.....

[28]" ..... a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his* voice [29]and come out—**those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."**

* Jesus'

Joh5:42**" ..... I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. ..... [44]How can you believe if you ..... make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?"**

Joh6:40**"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."**

Joh6:27**"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. ..... "**

[28]Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

[29]Jesus answered, **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."**

.....

[33]**"For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."**

.....

[35]Then Jesus declared, **"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."**

.....

[63]**"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing."**

Joh7:37On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, **"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. [38]Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." [39]By this he meant the Spirit,** whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Joh8:31To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, **"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32]Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

.....

[34]Jesus replied, **"I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.** [35]Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. [36]**So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."**

- a man born blind who Jesus healed, speaking about Jesus to the Jewish religious leaders who were questioning him

Joh9:31**"We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will."**

Joh12:25**"The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."**

Joh12:47"As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, ... [48]**There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."**

Joh13:34“A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

[35]By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Joh14:6Jesus answered,

“I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Joh14:10“ ..... it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. [11]Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

[12]I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

[13]And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. [14]You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

[15]“If you love me, you will obey what I command.

[16]And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— [17]the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [18]I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19]Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20]On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

[21]Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

.....

[23]Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.

My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

[24]He who does not love me will not obey my teaching.”

.....

[30]“I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,

[31]but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”

Joh15:1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. [2]He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. .....

[4]Remain in me, and I will remain in you.

[5]If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit;

..... [6]If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

[7]If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

[8]This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

[9]“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

[10]If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love,

just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.”

[11]I have told you this so that my joy may
be in you and that your joy may be
complete.

[12]“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

[13]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.”

.....

[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.”

.....

- Jesus praying for His disciples

Joh17:17“Sanctify[1a] them by the truth; your word is truth.”

..... [26]“I have made you known to them,

and will continue to make you known

in order that the love you have for me may be in them

and that I myself may be in them.”

Act3:22“For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. [23]Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.' (Deu 18:15,18,19)” - speaking about Jesus

..... [26]“When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.” - speaking about Jesus

Act5:30“The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. [31]God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance[4d] and forgiveness of sins to Israel. [32]We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Act10:34Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism [35]but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Act14:21 ..... they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, [22]strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

Act15:8“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. [9]He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.”

Act26:17“ ' ..... I am sending you to them [18]to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified[1b] by faith in me.' ” - Jesus speaking to Paul

.....

[20]“First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent[4e] and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.”

Jam1:2Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3]because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4]Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

.....

[12]Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

[13]When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; [14]but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. [15]Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

.....

[19]My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, [20]for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

[21]Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

[22]Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

.....

[26]If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. [27]Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Jam2:5 ..... Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

.....

[8]If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” (Lev 19:18) you are doing right.

.....

Jam2:12Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, [13]because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Jam2:14What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? [15]Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. [16]If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? [17]In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

[18] ..... Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

[19]You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

[20]You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? [21]Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? [22]You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. [23]And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” (Gen 15:6) and he was called God's friend. [24]You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

..... [26]As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Jam3:2We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

.....

[5] ..... the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. [6]The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. [8] ..... It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

.....

[13]Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

[14]But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15]Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16]For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

[17]But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18]Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Jam4:1What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2]You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3]When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

[4]You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5]Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? [6]But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.” (Pro 3:34)

[7]Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8]Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. [9]Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10]Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

.....

[17]Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Jam5:8 ..... be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. [9]Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

.....

[12]Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “Yes” be yes, and your “No,” no, or you will be condemned.

1Pet1:1Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To God's elect, strangers in the world, ... [2]who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying[1j] work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:
Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

[3]Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [4]and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, [5]who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. [6]In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. [7]These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. [8]Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, [9]for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

.....

[13] ..... prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. [14]As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. [15]But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; [16]for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” (Lev 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7)

[17]Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

....

[22]Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. [23]For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

1Pet2:1 ..... rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. [2] ..... crave pure spiritual milk .....

1Pet2:9 ..... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1Pet2:11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.

.....

[16] ..... live as servants of God.

.....

[18]Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

[19]For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. ..... [21]To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

[22]“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.” (Isa 53:9)

[23]When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. [24]He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1Pet3:8Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. [9]Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. [10]For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep his tongue from evil
and his lips from deceitful speech.
[11]He must turn from evil and do good;
he must seek peace and pursue it.
[12]For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (Psa 34:12-16)

1Pet3:15But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, [16]keeping a clear conscience, ...

1Pet4:1Therefore, 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. [2]As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. [3]For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery[2c], lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4]They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation[6a], and they heap abuse on you. [5]But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

.....

[7]The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. [8]Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

.....

[10]Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, ...

1Pet4:17For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? [18]And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” (Pro 11:31)

[19]So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

1Pet5:5 ..... All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.” (Pro 3:34)

[6]Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. [7]Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

2Pet1:2Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

[3]His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. [4]Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

[5]For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; [6]and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; [7]and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. [8]For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

[10]Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, [11]and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

.....

[19]And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2Pet2:4For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; [5]if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; [6]if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; [7]and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men [8](for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— [9]if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. [10]This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; .....

.....

[12]But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

[13]They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. [14]With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! [15]They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.

.....

[17]These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. [18]For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. [19]They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity[5d]—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. [20]If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. [21]It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. [22]Of them the proverbs are true: “A dog returns to its vomit,” (Pro 26:11) and, “A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”

2Pet3:3 ..... you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

[4]They will say, “Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”

[5]But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. [6]By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

[7]By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

[8]But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [9]The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance[4h].

[10]But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

[11]Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [12]as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. [13]But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

[14]So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. [15]Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. [16] ..... 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.

1Joh1:1That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. [2]The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

.....

[5]This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

[6]If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

[7]But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1Joh2:1 ..... Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. [2]He is the atoning[3b] sacrifice for our sins, ...

[3]We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

[4]The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

[5]But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him.

This is how we know we are in him: [6]Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

.....

[9]Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

[10]Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

[11]But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

.....

[14]I write to you, fathers,
because you have known him who is from the beginning.
I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God lives in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

[15]Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. [16]For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. [17]The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

.....

[20]But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

.....

[24]See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you.

If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father.

[25]And this is what he promised us—even eternal life.

.....

[27]As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, **remain in him.**

[28]And now, dear children, **continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.**

[29]If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

[1Joh3:1]How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2]Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that **when he appears, we shall be like him,** for we shall see him as he is.

[3]Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

[4]Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. **[5]But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.**

[6]No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

[7]Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray.

He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

[8]He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

[9]No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

[10]This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

[11]This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. [12]Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. **[13]Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you.**

[14]We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers.

Anyone who does not love remains in death. [15]Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

[16]This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. [17]If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? [18]Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. [19]This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence [20]whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

[21]Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God [22]and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

[23]And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

[24]Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

[1Joh4:7]Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

[8]Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9]This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **[10]This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning[3c] sacrifice for our sins. [11]Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

[12]No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

[13]We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

.....

[16] ..... God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

[17]In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. [18]There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. **The one who fears is not made perfect in love.**

[19]We love because he first loved us. **[20]If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. [21]And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.**

[1Joh5:1]Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. **[2]This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.**

[3]This is love for God: to obey his commands.

And his commands are not burdensome, [4]for everyone born of God overcomes the world.

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. [5]Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

.....

[13]I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. [14]This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. [15]And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

.....

[18]We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

[19]We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

[20]We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true.

And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

[21]Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

[2Joh1:1]The elder,
To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth - [2]because of **the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:**

[3]Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.

[3Joh1:11]Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good.

Anyone who does what is good is from God.

Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

[Jud1:5]Though you already know all this, **I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.** [6]And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. [7]In a similar way, **Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.**

[8]In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.

.....

[12]These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—**shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. [13]They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.**

[14]Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: **"See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones [15]to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." [16]These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires;** they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

.....

[20]But you, dear friends, **build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. [21]Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.**

.....

[24]To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— [25]to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

[Rom1:4] ..... Jesus Christ our Lord. [5]Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship **to call people** from among all the Gentiles **to the obedience that comes from faith.**

[18]The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, [19]since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. [20]For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

[21]For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22]Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools .....

.....

[24]Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. [25]They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

[26]Because of this, **God gave them over to shameful lusts.** Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. [27]In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

[28]Furthermore, **since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved[5a] mind, to do what ought not to be done.** [29]They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, [30]slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; [31]they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32]Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

[Rom2:5]But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. [6]God "will give to each person according to what he has done." (Psa 62:12; Pro 24:12) [7]To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. [8]But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

.....

[16]God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

[Rom2:29]No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and **circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit**, ...

[Rom3:21]But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **[22]This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.** There is no difference, [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **[25]God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement[3a], through faith in his blood.**

[Rom4:3]What does the Scripture say? **"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."** (Gen 15:6)

[4]Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. [5]However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. [6]David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

[7]"Blessed are they
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
[8]Blessed is the man
whose sin the Lord will never count against him." (Psa 32:1,2)

[9] ..... We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ..... [11] ..... he is the father of all who believe .....

[Rom4:18] ..... Against all hope, Abraham **in hope believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Gen 15:5) **[19]Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead**—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. **[20]Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, [21]being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.**

[Rom6:6]For we know that **our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with,**

that we should no longer be slaves to sin .....

.....

[12]Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.**

[13]Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness,

but rather **offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.**

[14]For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

[Rom6:15]What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! **[16]Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are**

slaves to sin, which leads to death,

or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

[17]But thanks be to God that, **though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.**

[18]You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

[19]I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. **Just as you used to offer the parts of your body**

in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness,

so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

[20]When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

[21]What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

[22]But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God,

the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

[23]For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Rom7:4]So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order **that we might bear fruit to God.**

[5]For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

[6]But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit,** and not in the old way of the written code.

[Rom8:1]Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

[2]because **through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.**

[3]For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, [4]in order that

the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,

who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

[5]Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires;

but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

[6]The mind of sinful man is death,

but **the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;**

[7]the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. [8]Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

[9]You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit,

if the Spirit of God lives in you.

And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

.....

[12]Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

[13]For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die;

but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

[14]because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15]For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, **but you received the Spirit of sonship.** And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." **[16]The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [17]Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**

[18]I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

.....

[28]And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. [29]For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

[Rom10:4]Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

[Rom11:18] ..... consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. [19]You will say then, "Branches were broken off* so that I could be grafted in." [20]Granted. **But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. [21]For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.**

[22]Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

* the Israelites

[Rom12:1]Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. [2]Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.**

.....

[9]Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

[10]Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

[11]Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

[12]Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

[13]Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

[14]Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

.....

[17]Do not repay anyone evil for evil. .....

[18]If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

[19]Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," (Deu 32:35) says the Lord.

.....

[21]Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

[Rom13:9] ..... "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Lev 19:18) [10]Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

.....

[12]The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. **So let us put aside the deeds of darkness** and put on the armor of light. **[13]Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery[2a], not in dissension and jealousy. [14]Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.**

[Rom14:10] ..... For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. [11]It is written:

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;
every tongue will confess to God.' " (Isa 45:23)

[12]So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

.....

[22] ..... Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. [23]But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin.**

[Rom15:2]Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

[Rom15:16] ..... so that the Gentiles might **become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified[1c] by the Holy Spirit.**

[17]Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. [18]I will not venture to speak of anything except **what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God** by what I have said and done— [19]by the power of signs and miracles, **through the power of the Spirit.**

[Rom16:25]Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, [26]but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, **so that all nations might believe and obey him**— [27]to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

[1Cor1:4]I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ..... [8]He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

[10] ..... **be perfectly united in mind and thought.**

[1Cor4:4] ..... It is the Lord who judges me. [5] ..... the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

[1Cor5:11]But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ..... [13] ..... "Expel the wicked man from among you." (Deu 17:7, 19:19, 21:21, 22:21,24, 24:7)

[1Cor6:9]Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders [10]nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11]And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified[1d], you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

.....

[13] ..... The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. .....

[17]But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

[18]Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. [19]Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; [20]you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

[1Cor7:19] ..... Keeping God's commands is what counts.

.....

[22]For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman; similarly, **he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.**

[23]You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

[1Cor8:3]**But the man who loves God is known by God.**

[1Cor9:19]Though I am free and belong to no man, **I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.** ..... [22] ..... I have become all things to all men **so that by all possible means I might save some. [23]I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.**

[1Cor10:1]For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. [2]They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. [3]They all ate the same spiritual food [4]and drank the same spiritual drink; for **they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. [5]Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.**

[6]Now these things occurred as examples **to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things** as they did. [7]Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." (Exo 32:6) **[8]We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.** [9]We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. [10]And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

[11]These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ..... **[13]No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.**

.....

[24]Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

.....

[31]So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. ..... [33]even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1Cor13:4**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5]It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6]Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7]It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**

[8]Love never fails. .....

1Cor15:1Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **[2]By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.**

.....

[19]If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

.....

[45]So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being" (Gen 2:7); **the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.** ..... [47]The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. ..... [49]And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, **so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.**

.....

[58]Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, ...**

1Cor16:13**Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.**

[14]Do everything in love.

2Cor1:12 **..... Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God.** We have done so not according to worldly wisdom but according to God's grace.

.....

[21]Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He** anointed us, [22]set his seal of ownership on us, and **put his Spirit in our hearts** as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

.....

[24] ..... we work with you for your joy, because **it is by faith you stand firm.**

2Cor2:14**But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.**

2Cor3:18And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2Cor4:13**It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken."** (Psa 116:10) **With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ...**

.....

[18]So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2Cor5:7**We live by faith, not by sight. ..... [9]So we make it our goal to please him, ... [10]For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

2Cor5:11Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. .....

..... [16]So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.

2Cor5:17Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [18]All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ ..... [21]God made him who had no sin to be sin for us [OR, be a sin offering], so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

2Cor6:4 ..... as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; [5]in beatings, imprisonments and riots; **in hard work,** sleepless nights and hunger; **[6]in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;** [7]in truthful speech and **in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; .....**

.....

[16] ..... For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (Lev 26:12; Jer 32:38; Eze 37:27)

[17]"Therefore come out from them
and be separate, says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you." (Isa 52:11; Eze 20:34,41)
[18]"I will be a Father to you,
and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2Sam 7:14; 7:8)

2Cor7:1Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2Cor10:5**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

2Cor12:7**To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. [8]Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. [9]But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. [10]That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.**

.....

[15]So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well.

2Cor13:3 **..... Christ is speaking through me.** He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you.

2Cor13:5Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. **Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ..... [7]Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. ..... [8]For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.** [9]We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and **our prayer is for your perfection.**

.....

[11] ..... **Aim for perfection,** ..... **be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.**

Gal1:3Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **[4]who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,** according to the will of our God and Father, [5]to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gal2:20"I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave himself for me."

[11] ..... "The righteous will live by faith." (Hab 2:4) ..... [13]Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Deu 21:23) [14]He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that **by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

.....

[22]But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that **what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.**

.....

[26]You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, [27]for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Gal4:6**Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts .....**

Gal5:5But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.

[6] ..... The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

.....

[13] ..... serve one another in love.

.....

[16]So I say, **live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** [17]For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

.....

[19]The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery[2b]; [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.

[22]But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23]gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **[24]Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. [25]Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

Gal6:2**Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.** ..... [4]Each one should test his own actions.

Gal6:7Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

[8]The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction;

the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

[9]Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10]Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

.....

[14]May I never boast except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [15] ..... what counts is a new creation.**

Eph1:3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

[4]For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

.....

[18]I pray ..... that you may know ..... [19]his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Eph2:1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, [2]in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

[3]All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Eph2:10**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

.....

[19] ..... you are ..... members of God's household, [20] ..... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. [21]In him the whole building is joined together and rises **to become a holy temple** in the Lord.

.....

[22]And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Eph4:2**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.**

[3]Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Eph4:13until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, **attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Eph4:17So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that **you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. [18]They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. [19]Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.**

[20]You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. [21]Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

[22]You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

[23]to be made new in the attitude of your minds; [24]and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

.....

[31]Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

[32]Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Eph5:1**Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children [2]and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

[3]But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

.....

[5]For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

[6]Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. [7]Therefore do not be partners with them.

Eph5:21**Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

Eph5:25Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [26]to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,** [27]and to present her to himself as **a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.**

Eph6:5**Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.** [6]Obey them ..... **like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. [7]Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ...**

Eph6:16 ..... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Phi1:9And this is my prayer:

that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

[10]so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

[11]filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—

to the glory and praise of God.

.....

[29]For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, ...

Phi2:3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. [4]Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

Phi2:12Therefore, my dear friends, **as you have always obeyed ..... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, [13]for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.**

[14]Do everything without complaining or arguing, [15]so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved[5b] generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe [16]as you hold out the word of life .....

Phi3:7But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. [8]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, 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 resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11]and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

.....

[18]For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. **[19]Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. [20]But our citizenship is in heaven.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, **the Lord Jesus Christ, ...**

Phi4:4**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! [5]Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.**

Col1:21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. [22]But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— [23]if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.

.....

[27] ..... God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles **the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

[28]We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so **that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.** [29]To this end **I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.**

Col2:9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [10]and **you have been given fullness in Christ,** who is the head over every power and authority. **[11]In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature,** not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but **with the circumcision done by Christ,** [12]having been buried with him in baptism and **raised with him through your faith in the power of God,** who raised him from the dead.

[13]When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ...

Col3:1**Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,** where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. **[2]Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. [3]For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** [4]When **Christ, who is your life,** appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

[5]Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. [6]Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. [7]You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. [8]But now **you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. [9]Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices [10]and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

.....

[12]Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13]Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14]And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.**

.....

[23]Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, [24]since you know that **you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**

1The2:6 ..... As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, [7]but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. **[8]We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.**

[9]Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

[10]You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. [11]For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, [12]encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1The3:12**May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else,** just as ours does for you. **[13]May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy** in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1The4:3It is God's will that you should be sanctified[1e]: that you should avoid sexual immorality; [4]that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, [5]not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ..... [7]For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. [8]Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but **God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.**

[9]Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for **you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.** [10]And in fact, you do love all the brothers throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers, to **do so more and more.**

1The5:13 ..... Live in peace with each other. ..... [14] ..... be patient with everyone.

[15]Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

[16]Be joyful always; [17]pray continually; [18]give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1The5:21 ..... Hold on to the good. [22]Avoid every kind of evil.

[23]May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify[1f] you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24]The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2The1:3We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because **your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.** [4]Therefore, among God's churches we boast about **your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.**

[5]All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and **as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.** [6]God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you [7]and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. **[8]He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9]They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord** and from the majesty of his power [10]on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

[11]With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, **that our God may count you worthy of his calling,** and that **by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.** [12]We pray this **so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him,** according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2The2:9The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, [10]and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. **They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** [11]For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie [12]and so that **all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**

[13]But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning **God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying[1g] work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.** [14]He called you to this through our gospel, **that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Heb1:8But about the Son he* says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,
and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.
[9]**You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;**
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy." (Psa 45:6,7)

* God

Heb2:1**We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.** [2]For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, [3]how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

.....

[10]In bringing many sons to glory, **it was fitting that God**, for whom and through whom everything exists, **should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.** [11]**Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.**

Heb2:18**Because he* himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.**

* Christ

Heb3:1Therefore ..... **fix your thoughts on Jesus** .....

..... [6]But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. **And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.**

Heb3:12**See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.** [13]But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, **so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.** [14]**We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.** [15]As has just been said:

"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion." (Psa 95:7,8)

[16]**Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?** [17]**And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?** [18]**And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed?** [19]**So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.**

Heb4:1Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, **let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.** [2]**For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.** [3]**Now we who have believed enter that rest,** .....

And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. [4]For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work." (Gen 2:2)

..... [6]It still remains that some will enter that rest, and **those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.**

..... [9]There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; [10]for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. [11]**Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.**

[12]**For the word of God is living and active.** Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. [13]Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

.....

[14] ..... since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.**

Heb5:7During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and **he was heard because of his reverent submission.** [8]Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered** [9]**and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him .....**

Heb6:4It is impossible for those who have **once been enlightened,** who have **tasted the heavenly gift,** who have **shared in the Holy Spirit,** [5]who have **tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,** [6]if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance[4g], because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

[7]**Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.** [8]**But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.**

[9]Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case—things that accompany salvation. [10]God is not unjust; he will not forget **your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.** [11]**We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.** [12]We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who **through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.**

Heb9:13The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify[1h] them so that they are outwardly clean. [14]**How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**

.....

[26] **..... But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.** [27]**Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ...**

Heb10:5Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

[7]" ..... 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, O God.' " (Psa 40:6-8)

.....

[10]**And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

..... [12]**But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.** [13]Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, [14]because **by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**

.....

[23]**Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.**

.....

[26]**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,** [27]**but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.** [28]Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. [29]How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified[1i] him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? [30]For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," (Deu 32:35) and again, "The Lord will judge his people." (Deu 32:36; Psa 135:14) [31]**It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

.....

[35]**So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.** [36]**You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.** [37]For in just a very little while,

"He who is coming will come and will not delay.
[38]**But my righteous one will live by faith.**
And if he shrinks back,
I will not be pleased with him." (Hab 2:3,4)

[39]**But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.**

Heb11:1**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.** [2]**This is what the ancients were commended for.**

Heb11:24By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. [25]**He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.** [26]**He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.** [27]By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; **he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.**

Heb12:1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, **let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.** [2]**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, ...**

Heb12:7**Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons.** For what son is not disciplined by his father? [8]**If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.** [9] **..... submit to the Father of our spirits and live!** [10]Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but **God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.** [11]No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, **it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.

[12]Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. [13]**"Make level paths for your feet," (Pro 4:26)** so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

.....

[14]**Make every effort to** live in peace with all men **and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.** [15]**See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.** [16]**See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.** [17]Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

.....

[22] **..... you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.** You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, [23]to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. **You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,** [24]to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, ...

.....

[26] ..... but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." (Hag 2:6) [27]The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

[28] ..... since **we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,** let us **be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,** [29]**for our "God is a consuming fire."** (Deu 4:24)

Heb13:1**Keep on loving each other as brothers.**

..... [4]Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for **God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.**

.....

[8]**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

.....

[12] **..... Jesus ..... suffered ..... to make the people holy through his own blood.**

Heb13:18Pray for us. **We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.**

1Tim1:4 **..... God's work—which is by faith.** [5]The goal of this command is **love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.**

.....

[18] **..... fight the good fight,** [19]**holding on to faith and a good conscience.** Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

1Tim4:7 **..... train yourself to be godly.**

.....

[12] **..... set an example** for the believers **in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.**

.....

[15]**Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.** [16]**Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

1Tim5:1Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. **Treat** younger men as brothers, [2]older women as mothers, and **younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.**

.....

[8]**If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

.....

[22] **..... do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.**

1Tim6:11 **..... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.** [12]**Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called** ..... [13]In the sight of **God, who gives life to everything,** and of Christ Jesus ..... I charge you [14]to **keep this command without spot or blame** until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...

2Tim1:7**For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.**

[8]**So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, ... join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,** [9]**who has saved us and called us to a holy life**—not because of anything we have done but **because of his own purpose and grace.**

2Tim2:3**Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.** [4]**No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.** [5]**Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.**

2Tim2:19 ..... God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," (Num 16:5) and, **"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."**

[20]In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. [21]**If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.**

[22]**Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

[23]Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. [24]**And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.** [25]**Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance[4f] leading them to a knowledge of the truth,** [26]**and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.**

2Tim3:1But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. [2]People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, [3]without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, [4]treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**— [5]**having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.**

[6]They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over weak-willed women, **who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires,** [7]**always learning but never able to acknowledge the truth.** [8]Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also **these men oppose the truth—men of depraved[5c] minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected.**

.....

[10]You, however, know all about my teaching, **my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,** [11]**persecutions, sufferings**—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. [12]In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,** [13]while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Tit1:1Paul, **a servant of God** and an apostle of Jesus Christ **for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness**— [2]**a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life,** which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ...

.....

[15]To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, **both their minds and consciences are corrupted.** [16]**They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.**

Tit2:11**For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.** [12]**It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** [13]while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, **Jesus Christ,** [14]**who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**

Tit3:1Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, **to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,** [2]**to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.**

[3]**At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures.** We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. [4]But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, [5]he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,** [6]**whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,** [7]so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having **the hope of eternal life.** [8]This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so **that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.** These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Rev1:5 **..... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,** [6]**and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father**—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

[7]**Look, he is coming with the clouds,**
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

[8]**"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."**

[9]I, John, your brother and companion in **the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus,** was on the island of Patmos **because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.**

.....

[17]When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. **I am the First and the Last.** [18]**I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!** And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

..... [20]"The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Rev2:1"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: [2]**I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.** [3]**You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.** [4]**Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.** [5]**Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent[4i] and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.** [6]**But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.** [7]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."**

.....

[11]"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death."**

.....

[17]"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it."**

.....

[18]"To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. [19]**I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.** [20]**Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality** and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. [21]**I have given her time to repent[4j] of her immorality, but she is unwilling.** [22]**So I will cast her on a bed of suffering,** and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. [23]I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that

I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

[24]Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): [25]Only **hold on to what you have until I come.** [26]**To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—**

[27]'He will rule them with an iron scepter;
he will dash them to pieces like pottery' (Psa 2:9)

— just as I have received authority from my Father. [28]I will also give him the morning star. [29]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev3:1"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. [2]**Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.** [3]**Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent[4k]. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.** [4]**Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.** [5]**He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.** [6]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

[7]"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. [8]**I know your deeds.** See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. **I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.** ..... [10]**Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.** [11]**I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.** [12]**Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.** [13]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

.....

[20]**"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.** [21]**To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.** [22]He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Rev4:8 **..... "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,**
who was, and is, and is to come."

Rev4:11**"You are worthy, our Lord and God,**
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."

Rev12:9The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

.....

[12]"Therefore rejoice, you heavens
and you who dwell in them!
But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short."

.....

[17]**Then the dragon ..... went off to make war against ..... those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**

Rev14:9A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, [10]he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. [11]And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." [12]**This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.**

[13]Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Rev15:1I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. [2]And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, **those who had been victorious** over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God [3]and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.
[4]Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Rev16:15**"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."**

[16]Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Rev19:6Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
[7]Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.
[8]**Fine linen, bright and clean,**
was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

[9]Then the angel said to me, **"Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."**

[10]At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who **hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."**

Rev20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison [8]and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. [9]They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. **[10]And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

[11]Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. [12]And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. **The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** [13]The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and **each person was judged according to what he had done.** [14]Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. **[15]If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Rev21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **[2]I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,** prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. [3]And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. [4]He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."**

[5]He who was seated on the throne said, **"I am making everything new!"** Then he said, "Write this down, for **these words are trustworthy and true."**

[6]He said to me: **"It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."**

"To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."

[7]"He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

[8]"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

.....

[22]I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. [23]The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for **the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.** [24]The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. [25]On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. [26]The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **[27]Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

Rev22:3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. [4]They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. [5] ..... And they will reign for ever and ever.

Rev22:10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. [11]Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; **let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."** - angel speaking to John

[12]"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. [13]I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

[14]"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. [15]Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood."

[16]"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

[17]The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" **Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.**

.....

[20]He who testifies to these things says, **"Yes, I am coming soon."**

Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

[21]The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen

1 - sanctify: to free from sin, purify, and set apart for a sacred purpose. 1a: ^ 1b: ^ 1c: ^ 1d: ^ 1e: ^ 1f: ^ 1g: ^ 1h: ^ 1i: ^ 1j: ^

2 - debauchery: indulgence in pleasure that lacks moral restraint, extreme indulgence in sensual pleasure. 2a: ^ 2b: ^ 2c: ^

3 - atonement: to restore to friendship or harmony, settle, resolve --- to repair, the act of making amends or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury, something done or given as amends or satisfaction, the payment of damages for an offense or injury --- the reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. 3a: ^ 3b: ^

4 - repent: to turn from sin/harmdoing and dedicate oneself to the correction of one's life to God's principles: to feel regret and sorrow, to change one's mind. 4a: ^ 4b: ^ 4c: ^ 4d: ^ 4e: ^ 4f: ^ 4g: ^ 4h: ^ 4i: ^ 4j: ^ 4k: ^

5 - deprave: to make bad, to corrupt morally, degrade with unsound principles or moral values. 5a: ^ 5b: ^ 5c: ^ 5d: ^

6 - dissipation: spending or using up wastefully or foolishly, causing to spread thin or scatter and gradually vanish. 6a: ^

Faith and **Love**

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