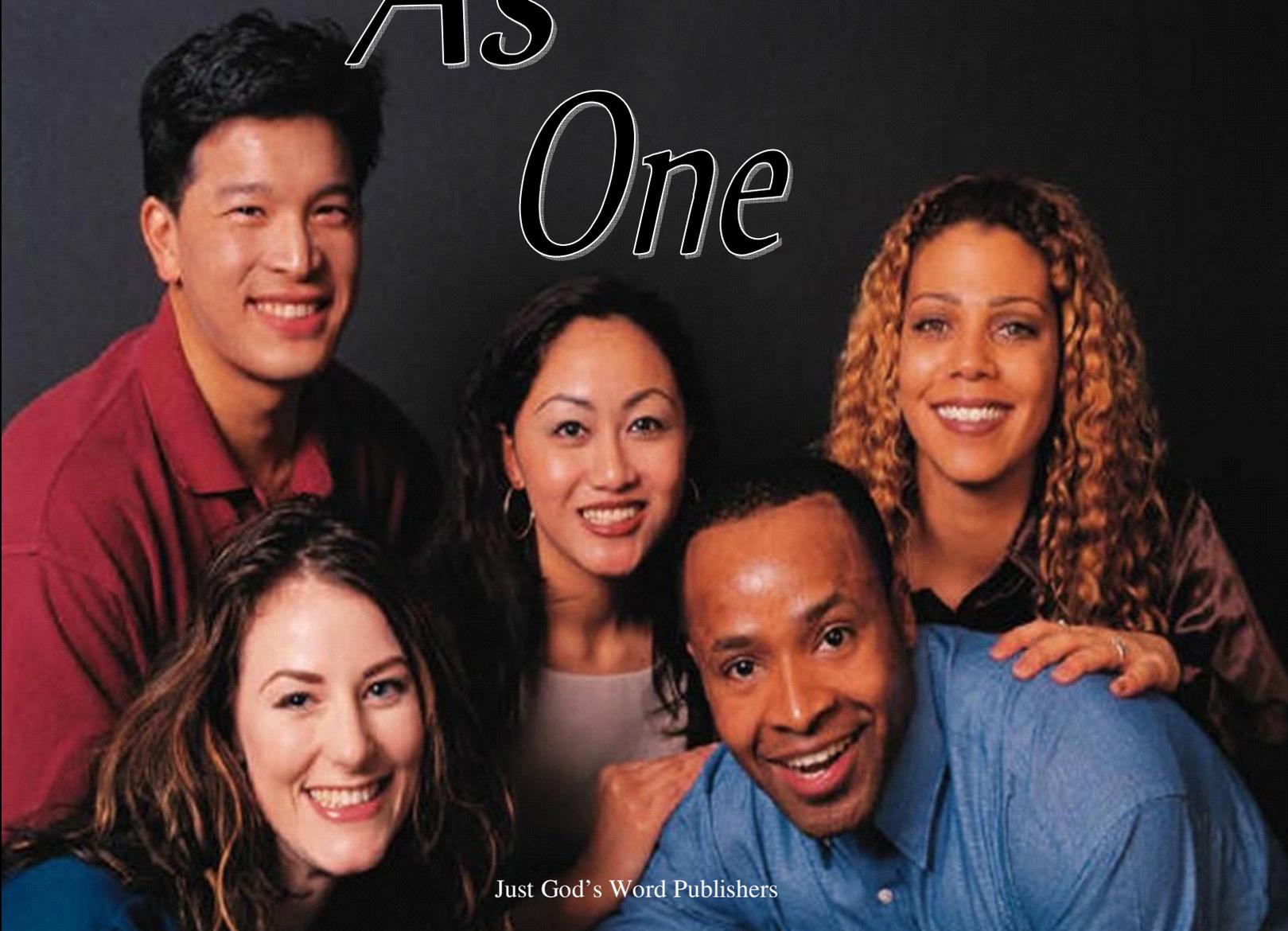


The Body As One is one of the most wonderful refreshing insights into the Kingdom of God. It takes a bold fresh look at what God has said in His Word about just what it means to One in God and a part of His every growing house.

Stanley J. Dorsey
Author of *LEVITICAL LIES & LITURGY*

The Body As One



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God's House

WARNINGS, CONDITIONS & PROMISES

“If you do what I ask, I will” are the words we so very often use to set up a situation where an agreement is set up between two parties and certain things are achieved. This agreement is based upon the idea that **IF** the work is accomplished in the agreed upon way, **THEN** payment will be given for the job done. This type of agreement is based on the knowledge that **IF** the job is not done, **THEN** payment will not be given. In other words there is a **condition** to be met in order for payment to be rendered. This becomes as an unspoken warning to the one agreeing to the conditions of the agreement.

God gave His promises all through Scripture in the same way. He set up scenarios and asked the one to whom He was speaking if he or she would agree to the conditions. If they agreed and fulfilled the conditions as proposed by God, He would then do what He promised based on their obedience. If the condition was met the outcome was always pleasing to both God and man, but if the condition was not met and the agreement was broken, then a warning was laid out before those who agreed to the promise in the first place. In this way we see that God's promises were built upon certain conditions that were to be met in order for God to fulfill His promises.

Too often we have been guilty of reading the Word of God in such a way as to disregard conditions laid out by God that point to two different outcomes based upon obedience or disobedience. This has lead many to see things through blurred vision. Yet God has requested of His church that they buy from Him *white garments, clean and pure, so you won't be naked and ashamed; and to get medicine from me to heal your eyes and give you back your sight.*

"My advice to you is to buy pure gold from me, gold purified by fire-only then will you truly be rich. And to purchase from me white garments, clean and pure, so you won't be naked and ashamed; and to get medicine from me to heal your eyes and give you back your sight. Rev. 3:18

This condition of a lack of eyesight was brought about because they were... *neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Rev 3:15-17* But God laid before them a promise: *As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. Rev 3:19-21* **IF** they would repent and overcome **THEN** He would be their God and they would be His very own.

As God has laid out these gems in His Word for us to see then we want to look into the depths of God's Word and learn His Way so that we too may walk upright and know with confidence that we walk within His knowledge and wisdom. So let's look deeper and see His warnings, conditions and promises that He gave.

TO YOUR DESCENDANTS I WILL GIVE THIS LAND (PROMISE)

Paul writes that God made this promise to Abraham, that if he would walk with Him and obey His voice that He would make of Abraham a great nation. Moses also records this promise in Genesis.

God had told Abram, "Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to. If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others. Gen. 12:1-2

“If you do...” and because of Abraham's obedience this promise came true. God also reiterates this same promise to Isaac after Abraham's death.

Now a severe famine overshadowed the land, as had happened before, in Abraham's time, and so Isaac moved to the city of Gerar where Abimelech, king of the Philistines, lived. Jehovah appeared to him there and told him, "Don't go to Egypt. Do as I say and stay here in this land. If you do, I will be with you and

bles you, and I will give all this land to you and to your descendants, just as I promised Abraham your father. And I will cause your descendants to become as numerous as the stars! And I will give them all of these lands; and they shall be a blessing to all the nations of the earth. I will do this because Abraham obeyed my commandments and laws." Gen. 26:1-5

There are two points of interest here:

Because of Abraham's obedience to God's command, God kept His promise.

and

Because of Abraham's obedience to God's command Christianity claims the promises of Abraham through grace.

These two points are opposed to each other, in that those who take this to themselves today do not believe that they can obey God as did Abraham. And then, through this belief they claim to be children of Abraham.

"...and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by him. We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are children of God; we are one in Christ Jesus. And now that we are Christ's we are the true descendants of Abraham, and all of God's promises to him belong to us. Gal 3:27-29

Those who believe that *Galations 3: 27-29* has been spoken directly to them are soothed by these words believing that grace covers them in their sins without realizing that God may not recognize them or their proposed good works that they believe they are showing to the world through attendance at church and paying their faithful tithe.

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you **who practice lawlessness!**'" Matt. 7:21-23*

The very words of God that so many say they believe in is the very reason that God will say that He never knew them. These words speak a totally different story than so many are telling, and the belief of *grace not law* is presented from pulpits all over this world while in the same breath they make claim to the promises of Abraham. But God speaks of being a child of Abraham in this way.

*You can see from this that **the real children of Abraham are all the men of faith** who truly trust in God. What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would save the Gentiles also, **through their faith**. God told Abraham about this long ago when he said, "I will bless those in every nation who **trust in me as you do**." And so it is: all who trust in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received. Gal. 3:7-8*

Abraham did not trust in God to lead him into sin, but to go with him and fill him so that he would be all that God was requiring of him. And because Abraham OBEYED God, he was counted among the righteous.

Condition

As Abraham before, we must trust in (rely on, have faith in, obey no other, hear His voice, live in His Word, die to self, let go and let Him have EVERYTHING, leave behind EVERYTHING and follow only Him) God in order to be one of Abraham's children. The question then arises, 'What do we trust in God for?'

Has God made any statements about those that show their trust in Him and have overcome/conquered this world?

Rev. 3:5 Everyone who conquers will be clothed in white, and I will not erase his name from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that he is mine.

Rev. 3:12 As for the one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; he will be secure and will go out no more; and I will write my God's Name on him, and he will be a citizen in the city of my God—the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from my God; and he will have my new Name inscribed

upon him.

Rev. 3:21 *I will let everyone who conquers sit beside me on my throne, just as I took my place with my Father on his throne when I had conquered.*

Most would agree (at least on the surface) that we must overcome the wrongs (sins) in our lives and have our relationship with Christ strengthened so we can be the kind of person God wants us to be. But just as quickly it is then said that we are just human and bound to errors (sins) and mistakes and are dependent upon the grace of God to clear away our sins that we continually fall into. In this kind of thinking the cross of Christ is seen as proof that God cannot be obeyed or sin become a thing of the past in our life. The cross of Christ then becomes a symbol of forgiveness where God accepts our continual offering up of our sin offering to Him and He accepts our humble attempts to be His children. All of this is said and believed and backed up by using the Scriptures to make it sound as if God no longer requires us to obey as Abraham did even though God has spoken His command to overcome just as He has overcome.

*If you believe that Jesus is the Christ—that he is God's Son and your Savior—then you are a child of God. And all who love the Father love his children too. So you can find out how much you love God's children—your brothers and sisters in the Lord—by **how much you love and obey God**. Loving God means doing what he tells us to do, and really, that isn't hard at all; for every child of God can obey him, defeating sin and evil pleasure by trusting Christ to help him. But who could possibly fight and win this battle except by believing that Jesus is truly the Son of God? And we know he is, because God said so with a voice from heaven when Jesus was baptized, and again as he was facing death—yes, not only at his baptism but also as he faced death. And the Holy Spirit, forever truthful, says it too. So we have these three witnesses: the voice of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the voice from heaven at Christ's baptism, and the voice before he died. And they all say the same thing: that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We believe men who witness in our courts, and so surely we can believe whatever God declares. And God declares that Jesus is his Son. All who believe this know in their hearts that it is true. If anyone doesn't believe this, he is actually calling God a liar because he doesn't believe what God has said about his Son. And what is it that God has said? That he has given us eternal life and that this life is in his Son. So whoever has God's Son has life; whoever does not have his Son, does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life. And we are sure of this, that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we really know he is listening when we talk to him and make our requests, then we can be sure that he will answer us. **I Jn 5:1-15***

Warning

Overcoming sin/Satan is the work of the true child of God. And it is a great opportunity offered to each one to work with the power of Heaven in achieving this task. This work of overcoming is far reaching in its understanding, for many things must be overcome. Yet the greatest need to overcome would appear to be in the area of shaking off the many doctrines that have been accepted as truth, and to replace them with a correct understanding of what God has spoken in His Word.

*"Then if anyone tells you, 'The Messiah has arrived at such and such a place, or has appeared here or there, 'don't believe it. For false Christ's shall arise, and false prophets, and will do wonderful miracles so that if it were possible, even God's chosen ones would be deceived. See, I have warned you. So if someone tells you the Messiah has returned and is out in the desert, don't bother to go and look. Or, that he is in the inner rooms, don't believe it! For as the lightning flashes across the sky from east to west, so shall my coming be, when I, the Messiah, return. **Matt 24:23-27***

Through the teachings of hypnosis, yoga, psychology, religious authority and so much more, many have come to believe that Christ is to be found wherever these teachings are found. It is as if each says: **HERE IS CHRIST!** Each then promotes their belief as truth and then teach it to others so they may promote each doctrine.

And God has spoken about these false teachings.

*"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." **Matt 15:8-9***

God spoke warnings about false claims and those who speak them, and He has made every attempt to provide the Way for those who so easily follow men here or there in an attempt to search for God. And in a day when so many voices are claiming that they have found the way to God and have caused so many to follow their doctrines instead, it is truly a necessity (if not a demand) to come closer to the throne of God and to know the difference between His voice and that of a lie.

Sadly there are many today who feel comfortable in the belief system that there are many ways to God and that God accepts their humble form of worship. This type of thinking has allowed mankind to believe that they can not be deceived, much like the Pharisees believed in the days of Christ. They believed they were **THE** heirs to the kingdom of God, thus they could not possibly be deceived.

*"Don't try to get by as you are, thinking, 'We are safe for we are Jew—descendants of Abraham.' That proves nothing. God can change these stones here into Jews!" **Matt. 3:9***

*"Our father is Abraham," they declared. "No!" Jesus replied, "for if he were, you would follow his good example. But instead you are trying to kill me- and all because I told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham wouldn't do a thing like that! No, you are obeying your real father when you act that way." They replied, "We were not born out of wedlock- our true Father is God himself." Jesus told them, "If that were so, then you would love me, for I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It is because you are prevented from doing so! For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and a hater of truth—there is not an iota of truth in him. When he lies, it is perfectly normal; for he is the father of liars. And so when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe it!" **John 8:39-45***

The Christ spoke life giving words, yet many were unable to hear or understand what He was trying to tell them because their doctrines prevented them from hearing it and their minds from thinking it through. No matter what brand of religion they held to for truth, they could not, nor would they listen no matter what was said to them. This kind of inability to understand has caused many throughout the centuries to look at the Scriptures and suppose themselves to be reading and interpreting them correctly.

And one of the easily misunderstood and misinterpreted aspects of God's salvation for mankind is to be found in the study of last day events. Throughout history, last day events in the Bible have been used to direct the peoples vision to the coming of Christ and the setting up of His kingdom on this earth. From the secret rapture theory to the belief of the Messiah reigning in Jerusalem for a thousand years, these concepts have been accepted and taught as truth (though the Scripture do not back these concepts if read in their entirety) Nonetheless they are presented from pulpits all over the land as though it was coming from the very throne room of God.

The Pharisees in Christ's day had done this very same thing. They presented the coming of the Messiah in a way that when He came no one recognized His appearing or believed His claim to Kingship. They, as many do today, felt that they of all people could not possibly be deceived. They were the children of Abraham and heirs to the Promise. They were the people of God, the chosen ones. Surely they would know the truth, for had they not been teaching it for centuries? So when the Christ came and did not fulfill their expectations as they had been taught through the doctrines of the church, they rejected Him as their Messiah. Even the disciples who were chosen by Christ Himself, because of what they had been taught from the holy writings (the law and prophets) by the rabbis, did not understand why He did not set up His kingdom on this earth at the appointed time.

*So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" **Acts 1:6***

This bit of history has been played out over and over again, that through time very few, if any, seem to learn the lessons that history teaches. As it has been said in very eloquent terms, *Unless mankind learns from the mistakes of the past he is bound to repeat them!* If those who claim to be God's people do not begin to look before they leap they will continue to be slaves with the rest of the world condemned to repeat the same mistakes over and over again rather than being the kingdoms and priests who are free from the blindness that afflicts so many. Their sincerity will not justify their beliefs no matter how pitiful they appear or cause God to look upon them as justified. Their blindness only leaves them in one position with God:

My people are destroyed because they don't know me, and it is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me; therefore, I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten

my laws, I will 'forget' to bless your children. Hosea 4:6

Knowledge from God is ever so important and He has said that no-one need be ignorant about His Word. He wants all to know Truth, and as He always has He will give what those who ask need, to be what He wants each to be.

Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open. If a child asks his father for a loaf of bread, will he be given a stone instead? If he asks for fish, will he be given a poisonous snake? Of course not! And if you hardhearted, sinful men know how to give good gifts to your children, won't your Father in heaven even more certainly give good gifts to those who ask him for them? Matt 7:7-11

A Larger View

To allow for a full view of any given point, one must look at all of the facts at hand and weigh out all of the issues before coming to any conclusion on the matter. This type of investigation gives a well rounded view of all the possible angles and approaches to the subject. And in the search for Truth not one possible fact is thrown out or disregarded as being of none effect to help in the investigation. Although this would be considered by most to be a good approach in their search for the Truth, it is not accepted by most of them. Though the Bible makes claim that it is an inspired writing and that it is written for their learning or edification, many come to a conclusion that major portions of scripture are not to be used today because they were only written for past times or that they are written in some complicated form that only someone with a religious degree could ever hope to understand it. So those who say they want to know the Truth then give up their personal search and begin to listen to what others have to say about what God has said instead of spending time with the Author Himself.

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. 2 Tim 3:16-17

If we can at least imagine that the Word of God in its fullness is written for our good and to be more than just a story book, we will be able to come to a whole new view of what God has said to those who will ask of Him to reveal Himself to them. If each one will allow God to paint a picture for them in His Word from creation to the fulfillment of the plan of salvation, then they need not get caught up in the struggle of what they have been taught that they are to throw out or spiritualize away of what He has said. If each one will let it, the Word of God, from end to end, will be a lamp that will Light their way.

I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. Ps 119:102-106

Many have allowed their view to become limited or to become blind altogether, by not seeing any real significance in what they have read because they have determined that scripture is to be seen as *different dispensations* (different systems for ordering affairs. Marriam Webster Dictionary copyright 1997)

These different dispensations or different ways (changes) of God (7 in all) are said to represent the different ways God works with mankind. Therefore, when these who believe this doctrine come to portions of the Scripture that they do not believe pertains to them, they can then set them aside as with yesterday's garbage. This done, they can then continue in their search for God with what is left. But wait! There are other portions of Scripture that they also believe they will never understand until God reveals it to them in heaven. Now what is left for them to read and understand?

Let's see how much of the Scripture God said is inspired and what it was intended for.

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. 2 Tim 3:16-17

But without the whole of scripture you only have a part, and if you only have a part then you can never be fully equipped. It is not a conscientious form of study or a rational way of investigation to only use parts and bits and pieces when the whole truth is made available. We would label a student as being very lazy or incompetent if they were to ignore large sections and bits and pieces here and there of their studies in order to get the WHOLE picture. Yet we find this type of belief placed prominently in the forefront of many people's thinking today. Without question or investigation many have accepted what they have been told and thus find the majority of Scripture as of little or no effect in their lives.

In this type of thinking lies a distorted view of the nature of Christ. In order to come up with a version of the character of the Father and the Son, most use a form of philosophy through psychology to see how God runs His government and what He expects of mankind. In this form of thinking the Old Testament seems out of place with death and destruction at every turn, in comparison with the New Testament form of Christ who came with *healing in His wings*. The Old Testament is seen as a system of laws where death is the punishment for being a law breaker while the New Testament is seen as being the new way that Christ brought to the world so that they no longer had to live under the curse of the law and its punishment of death. In other words, the Father and the Son come off as having dual personality complexes, or being of a genetically altered state of schizophrenic or bipolar disorder while we are caught in the middle not knowing when they will change their minds again or forget the reason why they created man in the first place. This has caused many to fear God and the *day of judgment*.

But if the Scripture is seen in whole it does not cause one to have this kind of understanding of God, yet the Scripture studied in little parts here and there will always give only a distorted view of the ways of God, and cause each person to misunderstand His intent and purpose. So we must come to the place where we can believe the Word of God when it states that:

"Ask, and you will be given what you ask for. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open."
Matt 7:7-8

This is the most basic form of faith in God, in that He will answer our requests to Him to open heaven's door for us when we ask. But if we cannot rely on God's word to be true in that He will answer our prayers, especially in the need to understand His Word, then it becomes a futile attempt to read the Bible and expect ANY understanding of it.

*But all the while my ambition has been to go still farther, preaching where the name of Christ has never yet been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures where Isaiah says that those who have never heard the name of Christ before will see and understand. **Rom 15:20-21***

Paul knew that the people could understand and that God meant what He said and gave them His Word for them to hear and understand. And yet thousands of years later most believe that much of God's Word will only be understood as He reveals it at some future time. But of course that would make what Paul said through the Spirit to those who also would not listen or understand meaningless; for what would it mean to tell people that they were acting against God by not understanding if in fact what they were being told was not to be known for thousands of years!

'Go to this people and say: 'Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; and seeing you will see, and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'" **Acts 28:26-27**

The sullen reality is that they do not want to understand, for to understand means to come to a point where a **decision** is required by the hearer about what has been said, and that is not a comfortable position for those who believe that God only comes in peace to His children and would never show Himself in any negative way.

"Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, rather, a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law a man's worst enemies will be right in his own home! If you love your father and mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not

worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will save it. **Matt 10:34-39**

God has said that:

*"Heaven can be entered only through the narrow gate! The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide enough for all the multitudes who choose its easy way. But the Gateway to Life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it. **Matt 7:13-14***

This is not a comfortable position for most to find themselves in, but it is the only place a child of God will be found. The problem is that the easy religion of today has presented before its congregations that the road that leads to life is not as hard as some have said and that as long as they are faithful in their tithes and offerings that God will give to them whatever their hearts desire and make the way before them as a six lane highway with no one else on it to slow them down.

But the Bible presents a much larger view of that road that speaks of God's plan of redemption and righteousness, not of a magical genie who is waiting to fulfill your every wish. The glory of His plan is seen in His desire to work with mankind through all of history.

The sadness is that many will never see just what God really did from the beginning because they have hardened their hearts against anything except what they have learned to accept as truth (even though their belief may not balance with scripture.) But if God's children will dig a little deeper in His Word, they will see just what He has been trying to show them about the war that took place in heaven between good and evil, and the end of the ages. If each one will read and understand then the Light will shine in their minds and the revelation of Jesus Christ will finally be seen.

There Was War In Heaven

*There was war in heaven; Michael and the angels under his command fought the Dragon and his hosts of fallen angels. And the Dragon lost the battle and was forced from heaven. This great Dragon- the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down onto the earth with all his army. **Rev 12:7-9***

Many have read this and have formed a conclusion without the ability to see the rest of the story because it was written in a part of the Bible that they had determined as a future event wrapped up in prophetic writings. But the complete story must be read so that the whole picture may be unveiled..

*I appointed you to be the anointed Guardian Angel. You had access to the holy mountain of God. You walked among the stones of fire. "You were perfect in all you did from the day you were created until that time when wrong was found in you. Your great wealth filled you with internal turmoil, and you sinned. Therefore, I cast you out of the mountain of God like a common sinner. I destroyed you, O Guardian Angel, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. Therefore, I have cast you down to the ground and exposed you helpless before the curious gaze of kings. You defiled your holiness with lust for gain; therefore, I brought forth fire from your own actions and let it burn you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all those watching you. All who know you are appalled at your fate; you are an example of horror; you are destroyed forever." **Ezek 28:14-19***

In the letter to the Prince of Tyre, God spoke to Satan and rebuked him as He did when He replied to Peter in the garden of Gethsemane.

*Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." **Matt 16:23***

Neither Peter nor the Prince of Tyre, were Satan, but they were being used by Satan. God thus rebuked Satan while at the same time talking to each person. This is basic spiritual warfare.

In the message to the prince of Tyre God revealed how sin began and why, and He laid out to those who would see what He had revealed the plan of salvation and just how He dealt with Satan and his rebellion. If as many state

that the Old Testament shows the way God dealt with sin under the first dispensation, then the reason must be seen through it all as to why God did not destroy Satan (as He destroyed so many of Israel for their disobedience in the wilderness wanderings) because of his sin. The answer lies in our own pro-creation abilities. We have the choice to pro-create a child who has the chance of losing their salvation, or choosing God and His will to be done in their life. Knowing this, we still bear children out of the basic need to share love with a new creation as did God when He made His creation. Liberty and freewill are born out of this kind of Love, for God is Love and perfect Love casts out ALL FEAR (evil).

In God's dealing with Satan, the answer is also given as to why he was thrown down to this earth.

Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. Ezek 28:17

For those who rule in God and rule with God, to them Satan is laid bare and his power and authority made known. And from the beginning his lies have been revealed for anyone who had eyes to see.

But now sin had entered in, and God's Word, His Law, would be tested and openly viewed as well and be shown as being righteous and good. The sad reality of all of this is the fact that most have learned to live with sin rather than knowing the power of God's Word, that it can be obeyed by knowing that Satan has no power other than what man gives him by listening to his lies and believing them. Satan has been laid out before those with eyes to see (those who are kings/kingdoms of God) as to what happens when anyone chooses to allow him to rule in their lives. And at the same time, God's Word has been revealed through Revelation that Satan is a defeated foe and that God is the Victor in the battle against sin/evil, and that if mankind would listen to and obey God, they would show that His Word, His Law is righteous, and His Way beyond reproach.

And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Ex 19:3-6

God set this world into motion and created man to answer the question of sin. And as God worked through the descendants of Abraham they had the unique opportunity of showing to the world that God's Word is True and that He has not asked anything outside of their ability to do. Satan, at the same time, has been very busy at convincing mankind that God's Word is just out of mankind's reach or understanding without the help of a mediator or interpreter. He has done this in a myriad of ways, from the doctrine of penance for sins committed, to the belief of the Saints (Virgin Mary, Joseph, Peter, Paul, or as Christ Himself) that act as continual mediators before God for the remission of mans sins. Satan has been successful in taking God's straight testimony and coming up with ideas and theories about a trinitarian Godhead and the divided work of God. He has convinced men of a day of judgment and retribution in some future time and the creation of a form of worship that demands for men to have authority over other men. Denominations have risen with every form of doctrine, dogma and decree that has been shown to be the path of truth and light to those who will follow it; and thus every form of man-made works has been imagined as the way to the kingdom of God.

Today we see what this kind of thinking has brought about with a smorgasbord of religious bodies to choose from. There is a church for every kind of lifestyle that exists today, and yet with one common thought that runs through them all; that God's Word is in need of interpretation because it does not mean what it says.

Yet despite what sin had/has done, God gave a Promise from the beginning that the Seed/the Son of Man would be sent into the world and would crush the power/head of the one who had deceived man from the beginning.

So the Lord God said to the serpent, "This is your punishment: You are singled out from among all the domestic and wild animals of the whole earth—to be cursed. You shall grovel in the dust as long as you live, crawling along on your belly. From now on you and the woman will be enemies, as will your seed and her Seed. You will strike his heel, but he will crush your head." Gen 3:14-15

And when the Messiah came He did just what He said He would do and defeated sin/Satan showing the world that sin has no power in a person's life **other than what the person allows**. And He spoke to anyone who would

listen that through His power and authority and through the act of being born again that if they would change their address, their place of living that they could/would become one in Him and bear the marks of true child of God—sinless living.

*Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 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. 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. 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. **I Jn 3:7-10***

But the reason the Son of God appeared, has been interpreted by many as what God did to show that only a god could live a sinless life and so He died for us to cover the sins of mankind because they cannot live a perfect (sinless) life. This doctrine is preached continually by the use of scripture that talks of Israel's stand against God and their living by law instead of by faith.

*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the un-circumcised through that same faith. Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. **Rom 3:22-31***

Christ became Israel's at-one-ment (atonement) through His blood. This atonement was a act of bringing them into the Father's presence, closing the gap as it were, that had been caused because of sin that had separated them from God for so long. This was not a covering for sin, but a destruction of sin's power that kept them at a distance from God. And this act of atonement made the power, dominion and authority of God clearly visible to anyone with eyes to see. It revealed that God's power and authority was stronger than any evil that could ever present itself as being too powerful to be overcome and that God is ever present to stand with those who would be victors in the battle against evil.

*And so I say to you fathers who know the eternal God, and to you young men who are strong with God's Word in your hearts, and have won your struggle against Satan: **I Jn 2:14***

God revealed the power, dominion and authority through the blood of His Son that overcomes this world, that is: any evil anywhere at any time that would present itself as a temptation to sin. His power is not revealed just through forgiveness as so many see it, but is revealed in the ability to stand clean before sin has its chance to do its evil work.

*But remember this—the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. **He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it. 1 Cor 10:13***

The life, death and resurrection of the Messiah presented a judgment scene for all to see. Not where God came to judge man, but instead to judge against sin and its ruler, Satan. And through that judgment against sin, God gave to all who would possess it power, dominion and authority. And through the blood offered for sin, every evil was laid bare and the power to overcome was revealed to those who would accept it.

Yet after all that was done, men seek for a reason to believe that sin is just a part of life and all they must do is

to realize the reality of their human condition and that if God were in the business of condemnation instead of grace that He would show it by destroying man immediately for their sinfulness.

They use that kind of thinking to come to a conclusion that grace is a covering for sin. So God is seen as showing love to His creation by living the perfect life that they could not ever hope of achieving and then dying in their place to save them in/from their sins. In other words, *If you follow through with that idea you come to this: the worse we are, the better God likes it!*

*True, some of them were unfaithful, but just because they broke their promises to God, does that mean God will break his promises? Of course not! Though everyone else in the world is a liar, God is not. Do you remember what the book of Psalms says about this? That God's words will always prove true and right, no matter who questions them. "But," some say, "our breaking faith with God is good, our sins serve a good purpose, for people will notice how good God is when they see how bad we are. Is it fair, then, for him to punish us when our sins are helping him?" (That is the way some people talk.) God forbid! Then what kind of God would he be, to overlook sin? How could he ever condemn anyone? For he could not judge and condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty brought him glory by pointing up his honesty in contrast to my lies. **If you follow through with that idea you come to this: the worse we are, the better God likes it!** But the damnation of those who say such things is just. Yet some claim that this is what I preach! **Rom 3:3-8***

So living in this world and being conformed to its struggles and its wisdom that preaches of a humanistic existence where sin or mistakes is just a part of living here, is believed while God speaks of a victory through a renewing process of the mind that transforms each one who will let God create in them a new man that no longer lives in sin but now is free from it.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Rom 12:2

If we will allow it; the life, death, and resurrection of Christ is proof to man and angel alike that God's way is just and right and that the power of heaven is available through the blood of Christ to overcome EVERY temptation and EVERY sin; not by the works of any man or the strength of a hundred licensed counselors, but by His Spirit and His blood.

*Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has happened at last! God's salvation and the power and the rule, and the authority of his Christ are finally here; for the Accuser of our brothers has been thrown down from heaven onto earth—he accused them day and night before our God. They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony; for they did not love their lives but laid them down for him." **Rev 12:10-11***

By the blood that was spilled for sin, Christ gave the power to overcome Satan and whatever he tries to throw at us.

Victory Of The Cross

He bled from his head
for all the things we have thought
—that we should never have thought.

He bled from his hands
for all the things that we have done
—that we should have never done.

He bled from his back
for all the burdens we have needlessly carried
—that we should never have carried.

and all that comes with it.

He bled from his side
for all the feelings that we have felt
—that were not given by him.

He bled from his feet
for all the places that we have gone
—where we should never have gone.

He overcame the shame of the cross,
for he hung naked for all the world to see,
so that we could have the victory over shame,

He suffered the reality of feeling all
alone and left to bear the pain of sin.

He took upon himself the weight of the world,
the payment for sin and looked beyond
The cross and said:
"Father forgive them".

Yet after all that was done, men seek for a reason to believe that sin is just a part of life and all they must do is to realize the reality of their human condition and that if God were in the business of condemnation instead of grace that He would show it by destroying man immediately for their sinfulness.

They use that kind of thinking to come to a conclusion that grace is a covering for sin. So God is seen as showing love to His creation by living the perfect life that they could not ever hope of achieving and then dying in their place to save them in/from their sins. In other words, *If you follow through with that idea you come to this: the worse we are, the better God likes it!*

*True, some of them were unfaithful, but just because they broke their promises to God, does that mean God will break his promises? Of course not! Though everyone else in the world is a liar, God is not. Do you remember what the book of Psalms says about this? That God's words will always prove true and right, no matter who questions them. "But," some say, "our breaking faith with God is good, our sins serve a good purpose, for people will notice how good God is when they see how bad we are. Is it fair, then, for him to punish us when our sins are helping him?" (That is the way some people talk.) God forbid! Then what kind of God would he be, to overlook sin? How could he ever condemn anyone? For he could not judge and condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty brought him glory by pointing up his honesty in contrast to my lies. **If you follow through with that idea you come to this: the worse we are, the better God likes it!** But the damnation of those who say such things is just. Yet some claim that this is what I preach! **Rom 3:3-8***

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By the blood that was spilled for sin, Christ gave the power to overcome Satan and whatever he tries to throw at us.

The Victory Of The Cross

The victory of Christ, is the centerpiece of the Love of God. God sent His only Son to pay the price for sin and to reveal its true evil and to show the road to victory. And in that victory He made the way clear to the throne of God that all may come and find grace and never leave His presence again. Therefore, the life or death of mankind is based solely on the freedom of choice to overcome and live in Him or to be defeated and accept death over Life. So then we realize that the evils of this world are not because of Him, but because of a choice to live outside His will, and nothing we can ever do will bring us any closer to heaven's power and God's Love than has been done. The gift has been given and it is left to our choice to follow God and receive His Salvation or to ignore His Love and live by the law of death.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
Eph. 2:8*

False Teachings

Through the belief in the need of the interpretation of Scripture, the church leaders had taught the people of Israel that because they were of the bloodline/geneology of Abraham they could do nothing to separate themselves from God. Every ungodly act, every crime committed was (in their eyes) covered through the act of bringing a sacrifice to be offered up for their sins, because they were a special people who had been chosen by God Himself above all peoples and nations of the earth. They had been convinced that they were better than the world because they had God as their covering.

"Our father is Abraham," they declared. "No!" Jesus replied, "for if he were, you would follow his good example. But instead you are trying to kill me—and all because I told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham wouldn't do a thing like that! No, you are obeying your real father when you act that way." They replied, "We were not born out of wedlock—our true Father is God himself." Jesus told them, "If that were so, then you would love me, for I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It is because you are prevented from doing so! For you are the children of your father the devil and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and a hater of truth—there is not an iota of truth in him. When he lies, it is perfectly normal; for he is the father of liars. And so when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe it. John 8:39-45

Today many today believe this same doctrine, that they too are the children of Abraham and are a part of God's kingdom and that if they continually repent and bring their petitions or need for forgiveness before God (their sacrifice) and bring their money to church and pay a faithful tithe and offering that they have assurance of being co-rulers with God on His throne. But just like Israel, claiming that one is a *child of Abraham* does not make them one. Instead it is by the way a child of Abraham acts (the works/life they live) that shows whether they are truly a descendant of his. And the works of a child of Abraham are the works of God that so many say are not able to be done, and the law that Israel was told to keep is said to be null and void today and thus the whole world lives under grace.

God does not agree with this but that is what is taught and believed today. This is why so many, through their belief of the promises made to Abraham, teach that the land of Israel is both their inheritance and where the world will see the final events of time take place. Yet what they fail to realize is that God's promises are based on a condition of obedience as they always have been, .

*And I will make your seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give to your seed all these countries; and in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. **Gen. 26:4-5***

*Oh, please remember what you told Moses! You said, "If you sin, I will scatter you among the nations; **but if you return to me and obey my laws**, even though you are exiled to the farthest corners of the universe, I will bring you back to Jerusalem. For Jerusalem is the place in which I have chosen to live." **Neh. 1:8-9***

*If you shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. **If ye love me, keep my commandments**. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. **I will not leave you** comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world sees me no more; but you see me: because I live, you shall live also. At that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. **John 14:14-21***

The promise of God was set in a condition of obedience that if Israel would listen to the voice of God that He would do wonderful things for them.

*"Look, today I have set before you life and death, depending on whether you obey or disobey. I have commanded you today to love the Lord your God and to follow his paths and to keep his laws, so that you will live and become a great nation, and so that the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to possess. But if your hearts turn away and you won't listen—if you are drawn away to worship other gods—then I declare to you this day that you shall surely perish; **you will not have a long, good life in the land you are going in to possess**. I call heaven and earth to witness against you that today I have set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Oh, that you would choose life; that you and your children might live! Choose to love the Lord your God and to obey him and to cling to him, for he is your life and the length of your days. You will then be able to live safely in the land the Lord promised your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." **Deut 30:15-20***

If Israel would obey God and do what He asked them to do (which proves that the law could be kept, for God does not ask impossible things to be done and then require the life of the one who does not do it) they would become a light to the world and show the character of God to every nation, tongue and people.

*"I will give them—in my house, within my walls—a name far greater than the honor they would receive from having sons and daughters. For the name that I will give them is an everlasting one; it will never disappear. As for the Gentiles, the outsiders who join the people of the Lord and serve him and love his name, who are his servants and don't desecrate the Sabbath, and have accepted his covenant and promises, I will bring them also to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and make them full of joy within my House of Prayer. I will accept their sacrifices and offerings, for my Temple shall be called 'A House of Prayer for All People'! For the Lord God who brings back the outcasts of Israel says, 'I will bring others too besides my people Israel.'" **Isa. 56:5-8***

God was asking Israel to come close to Him, to love Him and become His people, but instead all they saw was a piece of property and the opportunity to become the masters and everyone else would be slaves. They refused to look higher and see with spiritual vision the kingdom that father Abraham was looking for, a kingdom and land not of this world and the opportunity to be victors/masters over sin.

*Abraham trusted God, and when God told him to leave home and go far away to another land that he promised to give him, Abraham obeyed. Away he went, not even knowing where he was going. And even when he reached God's promised land, he lived in tents like a mere visitor as did Isaac and Jacob, to whom God gave the same promise. **Abraham did this because he was confidently waiting for God to bring him to that strong heavenly city whose designer and builder is God. Heb. 11:8-10***

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

*Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. **John 8:31-36***

Unfortunately instead of seeing victory on Israel's behalf we have instead seen the aftermath of their disobedience. The outright slaughter of a nation of people who refused to believe that this man called Jesus was the real Messiah. And this disobedience and blindness put them in a position of not receiving the blessings of God that He had said would be theirs. Notwithstanding this, they did receive the fulfillment of the Promise (though it was not what they were expecting because of what they had been taught to look for.) The Jewish nation had been looking for a land deal and an earthly king, not a baby born in a stable and being raised in an unacceptable city. And they were not looking for a rebellious attitude that would not accept the traditional authority of man (whether of church or any human government.)

Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed."

Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, "Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?"

*They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee." **John 7:47-52***

Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: The baptism of John — where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know."

*And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. **Matt 21:23-27***

Yet this is the King that came as Israel's Salvation. He was the Promise spoken of to Abraham, the Son of God who was not of this world. That is what father Abraham lived for and saw with Spirit filled vision.

*"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. **He knew I was coming and was glad.**" **John 8:56***

The Waste Places Shall Be Rebuilt

The perfect will of God was waiting to be fulfilled, but the Jewish nation chose their own course to follow. Because of their unwillingness and disobedience, God removed from them their crown and allowed the nations that were to look to Jerusalem and see the power of God, to instead destroy them and lay them waste.

*Do you still refuse to listen? Then in loneliness my breaking heart shall mourn because of your pride. My eyes will overflow with tears because the Lord's flock shall be carried away as slaves. Say to the king and queen-mother, "Come down from your thrones and sit in the dust, for your glorious crowns are removed from your heads. They are no longer yours." The cities of the Negeb to the south of Jerusalem have closed their gates against the enemy. They must defend themselves, for Jerusalem cannot help; and all Judah shall be taken away as slaves. See the armies marching from the north! Where is your flock, Jerusalem, your beautiful flock he gave you to take care of? How will you feel when he sets your allies over you as your rulers? You will writhe in pain like a woman having a child. And if you ask yourself, "Why is all this happening to me?" it is because of the grossness of your sins; that is why you have been raped and destroyed by the invading army. **Jer. 13:17-22***

This course of action was brought on because of Israel's blindness to the will of God. This was not what God had chosen for them, but this is what their sins had done for them. And today, like Israel before, many are making claim to a piece of ground and not seeing the real issue at hand. The Lord has made no less of a request today to those who call themselves children of God, yet most believe that through disobedience and sinfulness that everything will be alright in the end because God's grace will cover them.

*Well then, shall we keep on sinning so that God can keep on showing us more and more kindness and forgiveness? Of course not! Should we keep on sinning when we don't have to? For sin's power over us was broken when we became His and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ; through his death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died; and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy. For you have become a part of him, and so you died with him, so to speak, when he died; and now you share his new life and shall rise as he did. Your old evil desires were nailed to the cross with him; that part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded, so that your sin-loving body is no longer under sin's control, no longer needs to be a slave to sin; for when you are deadened to sin you are freed from all its allure and its power over you. And since your old sin-loving nature "died" with Christ, we know that you will share his new life. Christ rose from the dead and will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. He died once for all to end sin's power, but now he lives forever in unbroken fellowship with God. So look upon your old sin nature as dead and unresponsive to sin, and instead be alive to God, alert to him, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Do not let sin control your puny body any longer; do not give in to its sinful desires. Do not let any part of your bodies become tools of wickedness, to be used for sinning; but give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes. Sin need never again be your master, for now you are no longer tied to the law where sin enslaves you, but you are free under God's favor and mercy. **Does this mean that now we can go ahead and sin and not worry about it? (For our salvation does not depend on keeping the law but on receiving God's grace!) Of course not!** Don't you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master, and you will be his slave. Thank God that though you once chose to be slaves of sin, now you have obeyed with all your heart the teaching to which God has committed you. And now you are free from your old master, sin; and you have become slaves to your new master, righteousness. I speak this way, using the illustration of slaves and masters, because it is easy to understand: just as you used to be slaves to all kinds of sin, so now you must let yourselves be slaves to all that is right and holy. In those days when you were slaves of sin you didn't bother much with goodness. And what was the result? Evidently not good, since you are ashamed now even to think about those things you used to do, for all of them end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and are slaves of God, and his benefits to you include holiness and everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." **Rom. 6:1-23***

"You cannot live a sinless life, and I've never met a perfect person, so you see, there is no one who is sinless!!!" These words roll from tongues all over this world, and yet the scriptures call for overcoming and God gives promises for those who do.

*"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." **Rev. 2:7***

*"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. 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." **Rev. 2:17***

With almost a hateful vengeance, people lash out at the thought of righteous living (perfecting the Christ-like character.) As the Jews before them, they preach and teach what soothes the soul into a comfortable position where there is no need to even try to be good. As those who stood before Christ and claimed to be the true children of Abraham, they have convinced themselves of a false covering called grace. This kind of thinking brought the Jewish nation to the point where they believed that a physical connection to the blood line of Abraham brought them to a remnant level where nothing could touch them for they had the Promise and the power of God on their side. Today's

saying is: they thought that they were bullet proof. But as time went by they found out that they were not in as great a position as they thought, and found themselves being made slaves and death was a constant threat hanging over their heads day and night.

God had not forgotten them. He pleaded with them through the prophets and messengers that He sent to them. He begged them to change their ways and He would make their desolation as a well watered garden and He would turn their captivity and raise them to the level where they were supposed to be from the beginning.

Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. Ezek. 36:33

This was said in the reality that Israel had another chance to confess and return to the Lord, change their evil ways and be a light to the world. But again and again they refused to listen to the Word of God that was coming from those who the leadership did not recognize as being sent by God. Yet God told them through these messengers that if they would not disobey Him, the nations of the world would look to Israel and say:

"...this God-forsaken land has become like Eden's garden! The ruined cities are rebuilt and walled and filled with people!" Then the nations all around—all those still left—will know that I, the Lord, rebuilt the ruins and planted lush crops in the wilderness. For I, the Lord, have promised it, and I will do it." Ezek. 36:35-36

All of the promises (covenants) that God made with Israel were never completely fulfilled because of disobedience. The power of heaven was disregarded, the Son of God was hung on a cross, the disciples were hounded as criminals, and those who used the name of Jesus were tortured and murdered. So the message and the power of God was taken from them and given to the Gentiles (the heathen, those not accepted by the Jews.) When God did this He brought to those who would listen, a higher view of His kingdom and His promises. But again, as so many times before, the message became distorted by those who the people recognized as authority figures. Instead of keeping the people's view elevated to see the heavenly Kingdom, they lowered their sight to an earthly piece of property and made an application to the promises being fulfilled at the end of the age (end of time.) Many preached a message to the people that at the end of time God would again restore Jerusalem to its rightful place and the Jewish nation (though it murdered the prophets of God and then took care of the Promised One) would accept the Messiah and preach the everlasting message to the world. This was said while believing that sin could be forgiven by the buying of indulgences sold by the church and the forgiveness of sin through such avenues as flagellation (self torture.) The church ruled with a fist of iron and blood flowed throughout the land through the murdering of saints.

God promised the nation of Israel that if they would lean on the Everlasting arms He would cause them to be a mighty force against all evil and every nation would recognize the God of the Jews and repent. God desired that the nation of Israel would choose good over evil and thus He could do with them just as He promised. But after giving them His promise and leading them to a land to call their own, they could see no further than their forefathers and would not break free enough to follow Christ into His Kingdom. Unlike their father Abraham, they could not see beyond the veil into the mysteries of God and be a part of the house that He was building (His temple.)

*Abraham trusted God, and when God told him to leave home and go far away to another land that he promised to give him, Abraham obeyed. Away he went, not even knowing where he was going. And even when he reached God's promised land, he lived in tents like a mere visitor as did Isaac and Jacob, to whom God gave the same promise. **Abraham did this because he was confidently waiting for God to bring him to that strong heavenly city whose designer and builder is God. Heb. 11:8-10***

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. **Eph 2:19-22***

God was building a house. And as He went back to heaven to prepare it, His words rang in the ears of His people;

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where

I am, there you may be also. John 14:2-3

Yet today the view of this Kingdom and the Temple of God and just what He was building is not seen by those who claim to be His. This House or Temple goes beyond walls and doors. It takes us into the knowledge that His people are that which make up His Kingdom.

“As for the one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; he will be secure and will go out no more; and I will write my God's Name on him, and he will be a citizen in the city of my God—the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from my God; and he will have my new Name inscribed upon him. Rev 3:12

The House That God Built

Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other child of God. What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself! (not Peter as the first pope) We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God. (emphasis added) Eph. 2:19-22

Week after week many arrive at what they have come to know as a *church, temple, synagogue, etc.*, and participate in what they call worship. Century after century this has gone on in the name of God, and century after century people have been taught from the pulpits of this world that this is what God meant when He spoke of His church. Through this system, money has been poured into offering plates at such a rate that ‘Church’ has become the richest organization on earth. The cry goes out all over the land to support the work of God and to keep the ‘house of God’ functioning properly. Pastors must be paid, parking lots must be paved, pews must be padded, and the work of God must be kept alive so the masses may come and worship God in His house. But is this what God meant when He spoke of His House?

For centuries the view of the Levitical priesthood, with its liturgical service of offerings and worship, has been presented as the way God has chosen to speak to His people and to worship with them in Spirit and Truth. From the doctrine of tithing to the idea of hierarchical leadership that pervades the churches of the land, the Jewish system of worship that God instituted after Moses led the Israeli nation out of Egypt, is presented as **THE** form of worship that God demands of His people. Yet one cannot help but notice that the laws and commandments that went with that worship system are today denied and excused away through every form of doctrine available. From dispensationalism to ‘oh, that was for the Jews’ every reason is given to excuse away the Old Testament need for obedience to God as the Jewish nation before (as well as the view the Word of God only being relevant from a New Testament perspective (from about the book of Acts to the book of Revelation.)) As the saying goes, ‘a little here and a little there, but what about the rest?’ Was this what God meant when He spoke of His church, or are we only seeing just a small portion of a much larger picture?

*Now in that first agreement between God and his people there were rules for worship and there was a sacred tent down here on earth. Inside this place of worship there were two rooms. The first one contained the golden candlestick and a table with special loaves of holy bread upon it; this part was called the Holy Place. Then there was a curtain, and behind the curtain was a room called the Holy of Holies. In that room there was a golden incense-altar and the golden chest, called the ark of the covenant, completely covered on all sides with pure gold. Inside the ark were the tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments written on them, and a golden jar with some manna in it, and Aaron's wooden cane that budded. Above the golden chest were statues of angels called the cherubim—the guardians of God's glory—with their wings stretched out over the ark's golden cover, called the mercy seat. But enough of such details. Well, when all was ready, the priests went in and out of the first room whenever they wanted to, doing their work. But only the high priest went into the inner room, and then only once a year, all alone, and always with blood that he sprinkled on the mercy seat as an offering to God to cover his own mistakes and sins and the mistakes and sins of all the people. **And the Holy Spirit uses all this to point out to us that under the old system the common people could not go into the Holy of Holies as long as the outer room and the entire system it represents were still in use. Heb. 9:1-8***

(This is not said in order to make church services the world over to be sinful, but is instead asking for the reader to look deeper and see just what the Father and the Son have always wanted for mankind rather than what mankind wants (no matter what man says about the Word of God.))

Many have envisioned church as a Levitical type of service. They have come to accept this as a proper form of worship even though the mimicking of the Levitical priesthood denies the call of God for everyone to come boldly before His throne (which for the Levitical priest meant going into the Holy of Holies in the temple.)

So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need. Heb. 4:16

But this command to *come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there* can only be made if the Levitical system and the laws and commands that went with it have been changed, modified, or the original version of church put back in its rightful position by God, and the people of God allowed to understand just what role ministers, elders, deacons and deaconesses fulfill in the new kind of worship that is not based upon animal sacrifice.

*If the Jewish priests and their laws had been able to save us, why then did God need to send Christ as a priest with the rank of Melchizedek, instead of sending someone with the rank of Aaron—the same rank all other priests had? And when God sends a new kind of priest, his law must be changed to permit it. As we all know, Christ did not belong to the priest-tribe of Levi, but came from the tribe of Judah, which had not been chosen for priesthood; Moses had never given them that work. So we can plainly see that God's method changed, for Christ, the new High Priest who came with the rank of Melchizedek, did not become a priest by meeting the old requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, but on the basis of power flowing from a life that cannot end. And the psalmist points this out when he says of Christ, "You are a priest forever with the rank of Melchizedek." **Yes, the old system of priesthood based on family lines was canceled because it didn't work. It was weak and useless for saving people. It never made anyone really right with God. But now we have a far better hope, for Christ makes us acceptable to God, and now we may draw near to him. Heb. 7:11-19***

What many have failed to see in God's Word are those things that were only meant to be shadows of the real thing in heaven. They were never meant to take the place of God's original desire for mankind to become heavenly high priests and kings and to participate in a higher form of worship in a heavenly temple. Therefore a whole new view is seen of what a minister, elder and deacon would be rather than the mimicking of the Levitical temple/church service as is done to this day.

Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. Heb. 8:3-6

The movable temple in the wilderness, Solomon's temple, or Herod's temple, were only shadows, a sandbox illustration of a far greater plan and a higher kingdom. They could not be the ideal service to God, for they only dealt with sin and were a constant reminder of Israel's continual rejection of their God. That temple service stood in contrast to Moses relationship with God that was as a friend (face to face.) On the other hand was the reality of the temple high priest being shrouded away from the presence of God and always in fear that he may die because someone's sin may not have been confessed.

Yet, God has made many attempts in His Word to bring those who call themselves His to a place where they would realize the position that He has wanted them to be in (not as a Levitical priest) but like Abraham, or Jacob or Moses. But even though He has spoken over and over again about what His House (Temple) most do not or will not see the significance of just what it really means when He refers to His people as being His temple and just what kind of priest and kings He has made them to be.

"All right," Jesus replied, "this is the miracle I will do for you: Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up!" "What!" they exclaimed. "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can do it

*in three days?" But by "this sanctuary" he meant his body. **John 2:19-21***

*Do you not know that you (your body) is the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. **I Cor. 3:16-17***

*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; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body (temple). **I Cor. 6:19-20***

God called His people to a form of worship and priesthood that passes beyond the expression of buildings and paved parking lots. As well meaning as many are in their desire to serve God, their feeble form of worship denies His Word and allows sin to find rest in their temples, and their worship to Him rises up as a continual stench.

*"I am sick of your sacrifices (sacrifices were performed because of Israel's continual sin problem just as people do to this day as they send up to God their continual prayers (sacrifices) for forgiveness of their sins.) Don't bring me any more of them. I don't want your fat rams; I don't want to see the blood from your offerings (prayers of forgiveness). Who wants your sacrifices **when you have no sorrow for your sins?** The incense (prayers) you bring me is a stench in my nostrils. Your holy celebrations (church services and holy festivals) of the new moon and the Sabbath, and your special days for fasting—even your most pious meetings—all are frauds! I want nothing more to do with them. I hate them all; I can't stand the sight of them. From now on, when you pray with your hands stretched out to heaven, I won't look or listen. Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear, for your hands are those of murderers; they are covered with the blood of your innocent victims. Oh, wash yourselves! Be clean! Let me no longer see you doing all these wicked things; quit your evil ways. Learn to do good, to be fair and to help the poor, the fatherless, and widows. "Come, let's talk this over!" says the Lord; "no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as wool! **If you will only let me help you, if you will only obey, then I will make you rich! Isa. 1:11-19***

God has not changed, He desires a willing heart that radiates out to others the new creation that has taken the place of the old shadowy self that once lived in sin and never traveled any further than the church doors. That form of worship that dealt with tithes and offerings and the offering up of much prayer without feeling the need of having their temple cleansed, was a mockery to God. But the form of worship that He desires is that of obedience to Him, not the begging for forgiveness over and over again and never having complete victory over His enemy, Satan.

*Samuel replied, "Has the Lord as much pleasure in your burnt offerings and sacrifices as in your obedience? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. He is much more interested in your listening to him than in your offering the fat of rams to him. For rebellion is as bad as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols." **I Sam. 15:22-23***

Sadly a picture has been painted (given to us by those we have looked up to as great leaders of men and wise in the Word of God) of a false form of worship that continues in the same circle it has formed that leaves the soul wanting. We have heard men tell us over and over again about the house of God and the form of worship they have called holy and how we are to put our offerings and tithes into the plate as it is passed and imagine that we are doing as the Lord has commanded. But all of what they have said is based on a concept of a type of service that is of a Levitical form of worship that came to an end in the life, death and resurrection of the Messiah, and He invited all who would come to Him to have the same relationship that He and father Abraham had, as a friend, face to face.

Our Father's House

When Christ died as the Sacrifice for sin, the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom, that curtain that had hung between the holy and Most Holy place of the Levitical (Herod's temple) sanctuary. This act signified that the work of God was now complete and the Way had been declared to the throne of God without the need of any man to be a mediator between God and men. It declared that ALL things had now become new and the Door of the Temple of heaven was open for all to come inside.

Christ's sacrifice had cleared away the rubble of a system based on laws, judgments and rituals that were only to point to the Law-Giver. This being done, now all were to come **boldly** before the throne of God and partake of the

power of heaven!

*And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies, where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us **by tearing the curtain—his human body—to let us into the holy presence of God.** And since this great High Priest of ours rules over God's household, let us go right in to God himself, with true hearts fully trusting him to receive us because we have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean and because our bodies have been washed with pure water. **Heb. 10-19-22***

This is the Truth, and though it is available for every eye to see and for every mind to ponder, it is missed, misconstrued and misapplied to keep alive a system that feeds the desire of the flesh to have a covering for the sins of the people who only want justification, not victory. Thus the offering of many prayers on the behalf of sin continues to drift in the general direction of heaven to be received by whomever is expected to receive them and then to forgive them so they may FEEL good about their inability to overcome sin and all its trappings.

*True, some of them were unfaithful, but just because they broke their promises to God, does that mean God will break his promises? Of course not! Though everyone else in the world is a liar, God is not. Do you remember what the book of Psalms says about this? That God's words will always prove true and right, no matter who questions them. "But," some say, "our breaking faith with God is good, our sins serve a good purpose, for people will notice how good God is when they see how bad we are. Is it fair, then, for him to punish us when our sins are helping him?" (That is the way some people talk.) God forbid! Then what kind of God would he be, to overlook sin? How could he ever condemn anyone? For he could not judge and condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty brought him glory by pointing up his honesty in contrast to my lies. If you follow through with that idea you come to this: the worse we are, the better God likes it! **But the damnation of those who say such things is just.** **Rom. 3:3-8***

The dwelling place of God is not one based on a system of sacrifice for sins, but on a life of overcoming sin and its power to rule them. Yet we have a high priest who is "faithful and just to forgive us our sins," and not only that, but to:

CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

*But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. [And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.] **I Jn. 1:9***

Yes, He is faithful to forgive, He did that just as He said He would. This is not a situation of needing to be forgiven, it is an outward showing of our desire to walk with God and to talk with Him as a friend. The payment for sin was made; it is only through ignorance of the work of God that so many do not realize this fact. But once we know the Truth, it is our duty to overcome in His name and take back the ground that Satan once held when we did not know God as our friend. Just as Jesus told those who had ears to hear and eyes to see that though sin once held them in slavery, that now they were to be free and to be His friends forever.

*"I no longer call you slaves, for a master doesn't confide in his slaves; **now you are my friends**, proved by the fact that I have told you everything the Father told me. You didn't choose me! I chose you! I appointed you to go and produce lovely fruit always, so that no matter what you ask for from the Father, using my name, he will give it to you." **Jn. 15:15-16***

This new friend relationship was to be where two become one, God in them and they in God. This was the ever growing temple of God, His house, and from the beginning of time He tried to show mankind that He does not live in houses of sticks and stones, but in each heart that belongs to Him. Though there have been temples made of stone and other materials, and though men of God commissioned by God built magnificent structures for worship, the worship God desires is that of the heart.

"Our ancestors carried along with them a portable Temple, or Tabernacle, through the wilderness. In it they kept the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. This building was constructed in exact accordance with the plan shown to Moses by the Angel. Years later, when Joshua led the battles against the Gentile nations, this Tabernacle was taken with them into their new territory, and used until the time of King David. "God blessed David greatly, and David asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who actually built it. However, God doesn't live in temples made by human hands. "Heaven is my throne," says the Lord through his prophets, "and the earth is my footstool. **What kind of home could you build?" asks the Lord. "Would I stay in it? Didn't I make both heaven and earth?" Acts 7:44-50**

"But you will also begin to search again for Jehovah your God, and you will find him when you search for him with all your **heart and soul. Deut. 4:29**

"Therefore know this day, and consider it **in your heart**, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. **Deut. 4:39**

Oh, that they would always have such a **heart for me**, wanting to obey my commandments. Then all would go well with them in the future, and with their children throughout all generations! **Deut. 5:29**

Love the LORD your God with **all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your strength. **Deut. 6:5**

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you except to listen carefully to all he says to you, and to obey for your own good the commandments I am giving you today, and to love him, and to worship him with **all your hearts and souls? Deut. 10:12**

The true Israel of God, those who, as Abraham before them, obey God with ALL their heart (emotions), their mind (their intellect), their soul (the inward man), and their body (the flesh) and turn away from the evils of this world, become a part of His living temple, His dwelling place.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. **In my Father's house are many rooms**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." **Jn. 14:1-3**

Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other child of God. What a foundation you stand on now: the apostles and the prophets; and the cornerstone of the building is Jesus Christ himself! **We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God.** And you also are joined with him and with each other by the Spirit and are part of this dwelling place of God. **Eph. 2:18-22**

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.**" **Jn. 14:23**

But Christ, God's faithful Son, is in complete charge of God's house. **And we are God's house—he lives in us**—if we keep up our courage firm to the end, and our joy and our trust in the Lord. **Heb. 3:6**

The house that God built is made up of Living Stone and His children make up the floors, walls, ceilings and furnishings of this house. Rising together they become the pillars of His temple and lights to the world for all to find their way in a dark world of sin and sadness.

Then I saw a new earth (with no oceans!) and a new sky, for the present earth and sky had disappeared. And I, John, saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven. It was a glorious sight, beautiful as a bride at her wedding. **Rev. 21:1-2**

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and **as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.** **Isa. 61:10**

And no one can ever lay any other real foundation than that one we already have—Jesus Christ. But there are various kinds of materials that can be used to build on that foundation. **Some use gold and silver and jewels**; and some build with sticks and hay or even straw! There is going to come a time of testing to see what kind of material each builder has used. Everyone's work will be put through the fire so that all can see whether or not it keeps its value, and what was really accomplished. **1Cor. 3:11-13**

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like

newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. I Peter 2:1-9**

"No one lights a lamp and hides it! Instead, he puts it on a lamp stand to give light to all who enter the room. Your eyes light up your inward being. A pure eye lets sunshine into your soul. A lustful eye shuts out the light and plunges you into darkness. So watch out that the sunshine isn't blotted out. If you are filled with light within, with no dark corners, then your face will be radiant too, as though a floodlight is beamed upon you." **Luke 11:33-36**

God's house, His people, the Israel of God, are those who are **called out of darkness**. Now they live in the Light, and He is that Light. Therefore there is no place for sin (darkness) to be found in their lives because they live in Him. So just like their Lord, they are a light to the world. This Light will draw all men to the Truth if they desire it. But if they hate the Truth, it will only be a stumbling block, an undesired and hateful thing. It was no different for their Savior while on this earth and will be no different when they shine out to the world with the Truth of God.

Even though Israel of old did not accept their Messiah and hung Him on a cross to die, the promise of a time appointed had come true; the Truth had come and the temple of God was cleansed and the heavenly temple was open for all to come inside.

*And he said to me, "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary (His temple) shall be cleansed." **Dan. 8:14***

*If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. **I Cor. 3:17***

*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; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. **I Cor. 6:19-20***

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. **Eph. 2:19-22***

The church of God, His Body, His living temple, the body of Christ, were those who would walk and talk with Him as their friend and just like Him were no longer a part of this world, but now were just like Him, no longer of this world. Now they would be naked no more, but clothed with His Righteousness and living by His Grace and living before His throne day and night.

*Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, **because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 2 Cor. 5:1-3***

*He came as High Priest of this better system that we now have. He went into that greater, perfect tabernacle in heaven, not made by men nor part of this world. **Heb. 9:11***

*For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all **at the end of the ages** to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

Heb. 9:24-28

Only through the misuse of scripture and by the teaching that has been handed down through the centuries by those who designed doctrines to fight against the Truth can the idea of man made temples being the church/temple spoken of by God and the literal nation of Israel being the 'true Israel of God' and the idea of Christ being a continual sacrifice for sins be taught as though it is what God has shown us in His Word.

The sad part of all this is the fact of what God has spoken about that which brings about the destruction and slavery of His people, **and ignorance of His Word is that very reason.**

*"...my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children. **Hosea 4:6***

God no more likes ignorance today than He has before, and through the lack of knowledge many things are taught and believed that enslave those who believe what they have been told while those things that are the Truth are not seen or understood; like the reality of the true Jerusalem that is above (not the one in the land called Israel) which was Abraham's desire, a Kingdom that is above and is not of this world. That land was Abraham's rest, the land of Promise. And those who are seeking for that rest that father Abraham found will find it when they begin to look up and see the true Temple of God and to partake in His wonderful Kingdom and experience the freedom that comes from living in His house and knowing that Life has replaced the curse of death that once lived in their heart, for their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

*Now this true story is an illustration of God's two ways of helping people. One way was by giving them his laws to obey. He did this on Mount Sinai, when he gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. Mount Sinai, by the way, is called "Mount Hagar" by the Arabs- and in my illustration, Abraham's slave-wife Hagar represents Jerusalem, the mother-city of the Jews, the center of that system of trying to please God by trying to obey the Commandments; and the Jews, who try to follow that system, are her slave children. But our mother-city is the heavenly Jerusalem, and she is not a slave to Jewish laws. **Gal 4:24-26** No temple could be seen in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are worshiped in it everywhere. And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, for the glory of God and of the Lamb illuminate it. Its light will light the nations of the earth, and the rulers of the world will come and bring their glory to it. Its gates never close; they stay open all day long- and there is no night! And the glory and honor of all the nations shall be brought into it. Nothing evil will be permitted in it—no one immoral or dishonest—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. **Rev. 21:22-27***

The house of God, the Kingdom of God, the Book of Life, God's people, the building of God not made of sticks and stones, but a Spiritual house in a Spiritual Kingdom where His Spirit abides; and His house, His people can be found anywhere, maybe under a tree or in a house and wherever it is found, God is there. In that house there is no need for group approval or for an offering plate to pass, just a desire to be free from sin and to follow the One who has set them free.

Although religion has taught us that attending church on a regular basis and participating in its functions is a way of showing ones willingness to walk with God and to be a witness to the world, it denies the reality of a higher Church body and Authority that is not based on earthly laws and a committee vote.

So why would leaders of God's people stray so far from the original plan of God as to cause people to be blinded on such issues as church and the kind of Priest God is and just what His Kingdom is made up of? The scriptures give us the reason, but it may not be what we want to hear.

*Come, all you beasts of the field, come and devour, all you beasts of the forest! Israel's watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge; they are all mute dogs, they cannot bark; they lie around and dream, they love to sleep. They are dogs with mighty appetites; they never have enough. **They are shepherds who lack understanding**; they all turn to their own way, each seeks his own gain. "Come," each one cries, "let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better." **Isa 56:9-12***

"They are shepherds who lack understanding."

*I will give their wives and their farms to others; for all of them, great and small, **prophet and priest, have one purpose in mind-to get what isn't theirs.** They give useless medicine for my people's grievous*

wounds, for they assure them all is well when that isn't so at all! **Jer. 8:9-11**

God has spoken in His Word about the revealing of men's hearts, and in time that revelation took place; a revelation of all that had been done and by whom it had been done and for what reason it had been done. As in the days of the reformation, where the sins of the church became evident as the reformers took off the mask that the leadership was wearing and revealed that they were lying to the people and holding them in chains of fear, God also revealed the many lies that had kept Israel in chains of darkness. And in the time of Israel just like the days of the reformation, the people lived in poverty while the church lived in luxury. Even the priests were kept in poverty and those who had dedicated themselves to the church were made to take an oath of poverty giving all of their earthly possessions to the leaders in Rome. So it was with Israel, and the church ruled with a iron fist and kept the people as slaves to their self imposed doctrines and decrees.

Sadly, things are not so different today. Such homage has been given to the church throughout time causing it to be looked upon as some kind of earthly god, unable to stray far enough from God as to cause Him to pass by them and give to others what was once their privilege to give to the world. Finances pour into its coffers and make it one of the most profitable businesses of all time. TV has given religious leaders the chance to become mega-stars, and somehow, no matter what sin lays at its door, it is never so bad as to be found sinful. This is a falsehood, for no man is above the law, and those who feel they are will be seen for the lies they have told as Truth is revealed for all to see.

*Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs." **Luke 12:1-3***

*Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. **2 Thess 2:3-4***

The problem of course is in the reality of what has been done in the name of God. Truth has been exchanged for feelings of peace and safety. But when the Truth is spoken sin and its author are revealed. But in a world of ease and safety, truth is not accepted very easily.

But there is no gloating in this work and it brings no warm fuzzy feeling inside to be the one who stands up for the right and helps to remove the blinders that have been worn for so long. In fact, if time proves anything, this kind of work has never been accepted nor looked upon in ANY kind of positive way. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and others, were hated by those who they were sent to, even though what they said was from God. The disciples were hounded and killed by the church. Millions were martyred for their belief in God by the hands of inquisitors. And when killing and intimidation did not work, then laws will be made to make it appear that instead of speaking the truth, the one raising their voice and calling sin as sin was/is marked as a hate mongers or by today's term, a **terrorist**.

Is this what the cross of Christ was all about? Did Christ help to set up hate laws against Himself and His Kingdom? Were the disciples to be found in court suing over church affairs? Did Christ send out inquisitors to silence those deemed as evil or heretics? NO, NO and NO!! His Kingdom is not of this world and His followers are caught up with Him into heavenly places and reign with Him in Power and Glory. His followers, His children, know the voice of their Shepherd and are in this world as He was before them, not being a part of it as He was not. This is what His life, death and resurrection was all about... living in this world but not being a part of it and ALL its trappings.

*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. **1 Peter 2:11-12***

Through His life, death and resurrection God/I AM (Jesus Christ) showed just how one can be in this world and yet be free from it at the same time. And then He lifted up those who would be one in Him and gave the power to become over-comers through His victory. The grandest gesture of Love and Grace was revealed to mankind so that they may both live it and reveal it to others just what He has done for them. These are they who have been set free

from the things of this world and are no longer slaves of sin and its master. No guile may be found in their mouth and they are virgins, pure as the driven snow, and no fault can be laid at their doorstep.

The Cross of Christ, Victory or Defeat

We often speak of the cross of Christ and marvel at His love for us. We see the Lord suffering for our behavior, we claim His victory as ours, and we promise to be true to Him always.

But as time progresses in our lives, we begin to see that we are not keeping our promises with Him, and we realize that we are caught in a cycle of sinning and asking for forgiveness, sinning and asking for forgiveness. At this point, to calm our guilty conscience, we do one of two things:

1. In a valiant effort to seek a calm in the midst of the storm of our lives, we begin to rationalize to ourselves that God is so loving that He will change that part of us, at the end of this world that we cannot change. And we believe that He will do this because we are just human beings and will continue to fail in our intended obedience. (This group of people have a measure of guilt due to their sinfulness, but it is not strong enough to cause any significant change in their life.)
2. Then there are others that have built a belief that is based on an idea that if they just do what God has commanded them to do, they will receive entrance into heaven because of what they did for God. They try with all the human effort that they can muster to do what God has asked. In time they too realize that they are not reaching the intended mark. So they learn to live with the guilt that plagues their life as the Holy Spirit keeps pointing out their failures. This group seeks to please God by their works—if they will just do enough of the right thing God will look down upon them in mercy, and save them. This causes them to fear where they fit into the judgment at the end of the world. They never know if their salvation is sure and thus learn to obey God out of a fear of the unknown. This fear comes in many forms; from absolute fear, to a fear that is "cloaked" in righteous living. (But this is not the "Peace of God" spoken of in His Word.)

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid. **John 14:27***

Let us then look at the cross of Christ and see with heavenly vision just what peace God wants to give us and what we are to do with our desire to live for Him.

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I Love You This Much

We cannot understand what really happened at the cross until we look at the characteristics of the Father and the Son on the one side, and Satan on the other, and see with heavenly vision just what the heavenly character is compared to Satan's character.

John says that the very reason that Christ came to this world as a human being, was to *destroy the works of the Devil*.

*The reason that the son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the Devil. **I John 3:8***

The works of the Devil (Satan) are the evils of this world. He is the father of lies, a destroyer, the deceiver, the accuser of the brethren, and a murderer from the beginning.

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44***

*Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, "It has happened at last! God's salvation and the power and the rule, and the authority of his Christ are finally here; for the Accuser of our brothers has been thrown down—he accused them day and night before our God. **Rev. 12:10***

Here we see Satan's character and what he has done to mankind, yet one of the hardest things for so many to do is to distinguish between God's hand at work and just what the devil has done. So many times God is blamed for those things that belong to Satan. In contrast to who Satan is and what he does is the character of God: King of Peace, King of Righteousness, the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world, Prince of Peace, Wonderful,

Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Truth, the Way and the Life.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6
Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "King of Righteousness," and then also King of Salem, meaning "King of Peace," without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Heb 7:1-3

When we can see the character of God in its fullness, we realize the difference between good and evil. Yet what many have done is to blame God when evil knocks at their door and think that He is responsible for all the evil in the world. Thus they ask the question: 'So why does God allow bad things to happen to us if He really is a God of love? This question has been brought up over and over again through the centuries, and continually every woe known to man (as it is often said: 'the Gods must be angry') is placed at His feet. Yet it is also said by many that Christ went to the cross because He loves us. Therefore we must let God help us make sense of what has been imagined in peoples mind of a God of judgment and vengeance.

Many have imagined in their minds that God is sitting as a judge and is weighing out their good points against their bad points. Yet by their own lips many of those same people make it known that in fact they are judging God when they claim that He is either pouring out His love upon them (when things seem to be going as planned) or bringing evil to their doorstep (when things are not going as planned.) Yet in all of that, nowhere was the person on trial. Instead what we see is that God and His character were being judged (or put into the spotlight.) So the question arises in so many minds: 'Is God really someone I would want to serve if He is this maniacal creature that at one moment may be nice to you and then at the next moment might want to take your head off?'

But throughout Scripture, the apostles of Christ and the prophets of old have painted a picture of a loving God with outstretched arms asking for all to come to Him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

So how do we make sense of what we see (or have been taught to see) of a God of vengeance and bloodshed while at the same time seeing Him in the ultimate act of love in dying for man.

Sadly God has been presented to us by so many different teachers as a kind of angry parent, and we have listened as priest and pastor alike have spoken about a God with a split personality; and rarely have they told us (if at all (for how could they if they did not know themselves)) about the life, death and resurrection of Christ so that God would be seen in a way that does not make Him have a schizophrenic or dual personality complex.

And that is exactly why so many have feared God and what they imagine as the judgment. But what does God have to say about this in His Word?

For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim. 1:7

And just what does He say about His judgment in behalf of man?

And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. John 12:47-48

Despite the reality that God did not come into the world to condemn it, the fact is that many still live in:

- Fear of God's judgment;
- Fear of guilt and guilty feelings that they believe come from God;
- Fear of the guilt that brings fear of God;
- Fear of the uncertainty of one's Salvation;

Fear of not being loved by God;

...and the long, long list of the fears of life. Yet God came to destroy the works of Satan and the fear and guilt he brings, and still most blame God for evil.

The problem here lays at the feet of ignorance. *Acts of God* are purported to happen the whole world over and *God's hand* is seen in sickness and diseases and every kind of catastrophe known to man. And instead of knowing God as a friend most have allowed men's interpretation of God's Word to make them think that God is as bad as an enemy. Yet the Word of God reveals His character in a much different way than many have believed. So we need to see what really took place when the Messiah gave Himself to pay for sin, and just what part we have in His life, death and resurrection?

To Hang Between Heaven And Hell (Earth)

In the life of the Christ was a continual desire to feel all alone and to become wrapped up in Himself as He was despised and rejected by those who claimed to be looking for their Messiah. And then in the loneliness of the hours of torture and abuse of unbelievable proportions just before he was hung on a cross, when no one stood with Him, and on the cross when His Father turned His face from Him; in that time when absolute fear and despair were knocking at His door, He gave up the right to hate or feel like it had all been for nothing and nobody loved Him, and instead He said, "*not my will Father, only Your will be done.*" Then in His resurrection, after being disserved even by His own disciples, He came back to them and helped them to see what He had told them already and how what had been said of Him in His Word was now fulfilled.

Yet in the loneliness and despair of the cross, He hung naked for all the world to see. The shame was beyond comprehension. Yet He gave up the right to be angry at anyone or anything. Instead, He looked down from the cross and said "*Father forgive them.*" He laid all, everything, in His Father's hands, and gave up all rights to defend Himself and to give in to any of Satan's temptations to look at what had taken place through earthly eyes. Instead He saw through the eyes of Eternity, and knew the battle that was taking place and that the victory was won. Now Satan was laid bare for all to see him in his true self of evil and utter ignorance.

Christ won the battle over Satan and all his evils of fear, guilt, loss, separation, misery, pain of every kind, anger, lies, pride jealousy and rage. He revealed the character of sin and left no stone unturned. Yet so many struggle to get sin out of their life as though God did nothing much at all. But it is not God who has failed or has not done as He said He would, it is instead the disease of blindness that keeps us from seeing the whole story that the victory has been won and all we need to do is believe!

But again there is a great sadness that so many have believed what they have been told about what has been written in scripture, so that the victory of the life, death and resurrection of the Messiah has been turned into a work that has not been made complete and that only a god of some-kind could ever live the life that the Christ lived anyway. They do not believe that God was ever really like us (of human flesh and blood) but instead a god that only clothed Himself in flesh.

And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of anti Christ, where of you have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world. I
John 4:3

Christ was human, even though many do not believe it, and His life is a living example that mankind can live a life free from sin and Satan's power. Or are we going to put Satan in a position of having more power over us to keep us in sin then God has the power to keep us free from sin?

When the seventy disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Even the demons obey us when we use your name." "Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! And I have given you authority over all the power of the Enemy, and to walk among serpents and scorpions and to crush them. Nothing shall injure you! However, the important thing is not that demons obey you, but that your names are registered as citizens of heaven." Luke 10:17-20

"Even the demons obey us when we use your name." WOW!! You mean the demons must obey us instead of us obeying them? Well, that must mean that God is more powerful than Satan and his angels and that we can do

what God has asked us to! Eureka!

It is time to let God lead us rather than those who have shown that they have no real desire for God's people to become what God has wanted all along. And God's Spirit will lead us into ALL Truth and will be our Leader and King forever if we will just seek Him and knock at His Door.

*But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, in your hearts, so that you don't need anyone to teach you what is right. For he teaches you **ALL** things, and he is the Truth, and no liar; and so, just as he has said, you must live in Christ, never to depart from him. And now, my little children, stay in happy fellowship with the Lord so that when he comes you will be sure that all is well and will not have to be ashamed and shrink back from meeting him. Since we know that God is always good and does only right, we may rightly assume that all those who do right are his children. **I John 2:27-29***

Because His Word is true, we can trust that He did come in our flesh. We can have faith in the Truthfulness of Christ and that He is intimately aware of what we go through because He went through the same temptations of Satan and won the victory through the same power of God that is available to ALL who come to Him.

*Then answered Jesus and said to them, "I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do: for what things he does, the Son does likewise." **John 5:19***

*I can of my own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father who sent me. **John 5:30***

*To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am sat down with my father in his throne. **Rev. 3:21***

Even Christ could not nor would use His heavenly power to do what you and I can't do because we are not God. We must believe that the Word of God is the Truth, that we can do ALL things through Him who gives us our strength.

*I can do all things in him who strengthens me. **Phil. 4:13***

In the end there is no excuse for sin to be a part of the life of the one who says they live for God. God has given the power to overcome; it is men who are not willing to let go and let God take control over every little detail of their life.

We know that God has made a way for us to come to Him in repentance. We know that we have a High Priest who sits at the right hand of Power, and is waiting for us to take to ourselves His gift of forgiveness and Love that was given in its full glory through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Then knowing these things, it is high time for us to live that knowledge!

At the cross Christ looked down upon humanity and prayed to the Father, and said; "*Father forgive them.*" The cruelty of sin put Him there, but God's Word is True, that the prayers of a righteous man avails much. And The Father answered the desire of the Righteous One. No greater prayer could have ever been offered, no better blood could have been spilt, nothing greater could have been done than was done by God for those who He came for.

All of this, if it has an effect on us, will cause us to repent of our sins to the One who has already cleansed away sin forever, and who took the sin from the foundation of the world and buried it in the deepest parts of the ocean, and are remembered no more.

*But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. [And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.] **I John 1:9***

*...Where is another God like you, who pardons the sins of the survivors among his people? You cannot stay angry with your people, for you love to be merciful. Once again you will have compassion on us. You will tread our sins beneath your feet; you will throw them into the depths of the ocean! **Micah 7:18-19***

All this (just like Israel) is based on our willingness to repent of the unbelief we have had about God and let Him change our life of the evils we have held onto for so long. But this can only be done when we understand what

repentance is and just what we are to do once we have repented.

Confession Of The Heart

It is said that confession is good for the soul and that if we will confess our sins God will forgive us. But many have interpreted this as meaning that if we ever sin (even though we know we are not supposed to) we have God that will forgive us every time of what we have done. But is this what God has said in His Word?

*What then are we to say? Shall we remain in Sin to let grace become more plentiful? (good question) Not at all! How shall we, who have died to sin, still live in it? (another good question) Or do you not realize that as many of us as were baptized in union with Christ Jesus were baptized in union with his death? So we are buried with him in death through baptism in order that, just as Christ rose from the dead through the father's glorious power, so we too shall conduct ourselves in a new way of living. **Rom. 6:1-4***

If we believe that in order for God to show or make known His grace for all to see how wonderful He is to forgive and so we continue to ask for forgiveness, then we make the cross a lie! Because Christ died once, and for all mankind, for sin and the penalty of death it brought upon man.

*So also Christ died only once as an offering for the sins of many people; and he will come again, but not to deal again with our sins. This time he will come, bringing salvation to all those who are eagerly and patiently waiting for him. **Heb. 9:28***

The problem for which many have not found a solution is that they do not yet understand what sin is. They have been taught many things on this issue and the outcome has been a belief which states that God is so loving that He will do for mankind what they will not do for themselves. This has brought about a whole society that believes it is not responsible for what they do through the Satanic teaching of psychology that denies God's existence. It teaches that evil is just a part of life and that we must learn to live with evil. And so in the end it provides for each to fight their way through this life because it is just a game of survival of the fittest.

This has caused them to deny the cross without even realizing it because they see the death of Christ as only an act in the drama of life, not as an example of how we are to view sin. And it denies the Word of God that He has given us power to overcome even the *temptation* to sin.

That's right, we have a God who died for our sins, and not only that, but has made a way of escape from even the temptation to sin.

*But remember this—the wrong desires that come into your life aren't anything new and different. Many others have faced exactly the same problems before you. And no temptation is irresistible. You can trust God to keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it, for he has promised this and will do what he says. He will show you how to escape temptation's power so that you can bear up patiently against it. **I Cor. 10:13***

But many have been taught that no matter what they do, they are already covered by God's grace because of what He did at the cross. So really they can't sin even when they sin, because they are covered by grace. What, shall we continue to mock God's grace just because He has forgiven us? Shall we continue to sin, even though He came to die for sin and showed us how much He hates sin?

*Well then, shall we keep on sinning so that God can keep on showing us more and more kindness and forgiveness? Of course not! Should we keep on sinning when we don't have to? For sin's power over us was broken when we became Children of God and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ; through his death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. Your old sin-loving nature was buried with him by baptism when he died; and when God the Father, with glorious power, brought him back to life again, you were given his wonderful new life to enjoy. For you have become a part of him, and so you died with him, so to speak, when he died; and now you share his new life and shall rise as he did. Your old evil desires were nailed to the cross with him; that part of you that loves to sin was crushed and fatally wounded, so that your sin-loving body is no longer under sin's control, no longer needs to be a slave to sin; for when you are deadened to sin you are freed from all its allure and its power over you. And since your old sin-loving nature "died" with Christ, we know that you will share his new life. **Rom.***

6:1-8

The word Christian is to say that you are a follower (adherent) of Christ-like (believing in the ways of Christ) and says to the world that everything they do and say is how God would have done it or said it. Those who call themselves Christian or child of God might even wear wrist bands and other articles that say WWJD (What Would Jesus Do) in hope of proclaiming their connection to or obedience to God to the world. But the word *Christian* has *all too often* ended up being used flippantly as these same people declare that they only try to act like God (instead of really being an adherent) because they are only human and unable to completely obey or be like Him, and openly admit that they are often poor representations of Christ and that we are not to look at them as spiritual guides or as a proper witness of God because of their faults and sins. But this is stated on the grounds of misinterpreting or misunderstanding what God has spoken in His Word.

God has made a Way to come boldly before His throne through His life, death and resurrection. That Way is through an understanding of the temple of God and what role the Levitical priestly service played for the nation of Israel. And when anyone peers into earthly temple and sees its many compartments and the entire sacrificial system and looks at the two compartments of the sanctuary, the holy and most holy, they see a path to the throne of God that was laid on a fleshly or earthly level. That sanctuary and its service was to represent the need for Israel to confess and repent of their sins and to receive forgiveness and salvation. This service was to point out how God's people were to present themselves before God as righteous (free from sin) to stand as a holy people and to become the kings and priests He wanted them to be. But in the Jewish sanctuary service, only a Levitical high priest could enter into the most holy place of the sanctuary, and that only once a year. Thus as long as the people did not cease their disobedience against God, then the sacrificing of an innocent animal continued and they could never come into the rest of God as did Moses and others who did not need to sacrifice for the sins they were not committing.

But through the death of Christ, the sanctuary found its fulfillment. At the crucifixion the curtain in that sanctuary separated the holy from the most holy place, and was torn (as was Christ's flesh torn which opened the Way to the throne of God so that all would come before the throne of God no longer needing a mediator, that is someone acting as a Levitical priest on their behalf.) from top to bottom. This began a new Life giving Way for all who would become *children of the King* and who were given the heavenly service of being kings and priests to God Most High.

And so, dear brothers, now we may walk right into the very Holy of Holies, where God is, because of the blood of Jesus. This is the fresh, new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us by tearing the curtain—his human body—to let us into the holy presence of God. And since this great High Priest of ours rules over God's household, let us go right in to God himself, with true hearts fully trusting him to receive us because we have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean and because our bodies have been washed with pure water. Heb. 10:19-22

“...and from Jesus Christ who faithfully reveals all truth to us. He was the first to rise from death, to die no more. He is far greater than any king in all the earth. All praise to him who always loves us and who set us free from our sins by pouring out his lifeblood for us. And has made us kings and priests to God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” Rev. 1:5-6

The significance of Christ being a High Priest (and not one as a Levite since He could not be by not being born a Levite) is that in order for Him to be a priest He would have to bring an end to the earthly priesthood of confessions and sacrifice as well as law and hierarchical leadership. And in order for anyone other than a Levite high priest to come before God's throne the rules (law) would have to be changed to allow it; for only a Levitical high priest could not enter the most holy place of the earthly temple where the throne (ark of the covenant) of God was kept. But now the Way was made for all people to be priests and kings and not only come into God's presence but to stay there and never leave.

So if the priesthood of Levi, on which the law was based, could have achieved the perfection God intended, why did God need to establish a different priesthood, with a priest in the order of Melchizedek instead of the order of Levi and Aaron?

And if the priesthood is changed, the law must also be changed to permit it. For the priest we are talking about belongs to a different tribe, whose members have never served at the altar as priests. What I mean is, our Lord came from the tribe of Judah, and Moses never mentioned priests coming from that tribe.

This change has been made very clear since a different priest, who is like Melchizedek, has appeared. Jesus became a priest, not by meeting the physical requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, but by

the power of a life that cannot be destroyed. And the psalmist pointed this out when he prophesied, "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

*Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless. For the law never made anything perfect. But now we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God. **Heb 7:11-19***

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **Heb 4:14-16***

As the high priest passed through the veil from the holy to the most holy place, so those who pass through Christ's flesh (the veil) enter into the very presence of God and are washed by that blood that poured from His side and are cleansed and made holy and blameless. And as each one passes through the flesh of Christ, they are changed, fashioned into a new creation, a new person as they become one with Him as He is with His Father.

*But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **Col. 3:8-13***

Each must put off the old man (their old self) and be washed clean of all that is of this world and begin living a new life that produces good works, no longer living by the old human nature, but now living in that divine nature of God so that what He has said will be true; that His people are known by their good works (righteous acts) because now they are just like He was in this world.

*Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **2 Cor 5:16-17***

*Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. **1 John 3:7-10***

Unlike what so many have taught on the issue of works and about those who live by the good works of righteousness, these works are not used to get into heaven, rather they are a representation of the connection or relationship they have with their God. They have fallen in Love with God and would not do anything anymore to hurt the One they Love. So the works of righteousness that they now live by are only a natural occurrence from no longer living by their old human nature.

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **2 Peter 1:2-4***

These are they who talk with God as a friend and have the Faith of Jesus because they have tried Him and found Him to be true to His Word. The works of these children of God are not done by each persons own power or by some human demand or will, but are because God has put His love within them, a love for all His children (so much so that they cannot help but reach out with love to those who need to feel God's touch) and has filled them with His Power to overcome the same Way He overcame.

*To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **Rev 3:21***

There is nothing here that would cause a desire to seek any prideful glory for what has been done, but instead all praise, glory and honor go to God.

But to understand this, each must see with heavenly vision just what the work is as a priest and king so that they may overcome even as He (who had no sin in His Life) overcame. They must also see that Christ did this as one of us (without believing the lie that He came as a god who could not sin anyway) and thus we may live just as He did.

Through the view of the life, death and resurrection of God we see the greatest of all works performed for mankind where God opened up a straight path to his throne so that all may come before Him for help in ALL that they will go through and come before Him without the need for continual mediation on behalf of their sins.

Victory is within the reach of every person alive and God has made a way of escape from even the temptation to fall and it is here for all to see and understand, it is the true victory of the cross, not defeat. This is where we may find our rest from all that has so easily entangled us.

*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. **I Cor. 10:13***

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. **Gal 5:1***

*Now, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Heb 12:1-2***

The victory of God is the centerpiece of His Love for mankind. God loves us so much that he would send his only Son to pay for what sin had done to His creation. If we fear God after knowing all of this, then we do not realize what He has done. Despite what we may have been taught (or what we may have told others ourselves) FULL victory is available, and the Power of Heaven is waiting for our response.

Let us go boldly before the throne of God and receive what God has been waiting to give to us for these days in which we live.

A choice must be made. Just who will we serve?

Choose You This Day

Many times we find ourselves in situations that cause us to look at our humanity and try to make some kind of sense of it all. We weigh out the evidence and come to a conclusion on the matter. This method used outside of God causes us to see ourselves through man's philosophy and psychology to help us find rhyme or reason for our behavior. But as time continues on, we can see where this kind of thought process has taken us. Despite what we want to believe and all of the positive thinking we can muster up, the world is sinking deeper and deeper into a bottomless pit of emptiness and sorrow. And even though this is a fact, the idea of positive thinking has brought about an idea that with mankind's collective intelligence they can and have found the reason for their existence. They think they have become as smart as God and believe they can make laws that will bring man, earth and space into complete harmony and they believe that all they need is time and power to accomplish this task. Thus as the world becomes deeply entrenched in poverty, sickness and disease, those who hold to man's beliefs of science, psychology, philosophy, sociology, justice, law (and the never ending thoughts of men) continue to spend time and finances at such an alarming rate that the government they hold out as the answer to their problems becomes in such deep debt that the mind cannot begin to fathom what it all means. So man invents words to try to make it understandable when all it has done is to confuse and bring men into slavery to each other.

Yet there have always been those who see themselves as possessing the answers to all of the world's woes. Hitler, Mussolini, Napoleon, and Alexander the Great (and every world leader that promises things they cannot hope to achieve) and so many more who have all felt that their knowledge was a superior kind and all that man needed to do was bow to them, to follow them into prosperity and tranquility. Today, countries and their leaders have stated with boldness that with their laws and policing powers, they will bring peace and unity back to this world.

“When private individuals entertain wrong ideas about the world's future, usually not much harm results. But when rulers or influential groups think themselves in partnership with God and undertake to remold the world to their own hearts desire, instead of their artificial “heaven on earth” they usually succeed in making a “hell on earth” for their opponents. Of all the strange ideas that have confused humanity during the centuries, none have worked more ruin and misery than false views about the coming of the Messiah and what He is to do. What a record of blood and devastation they have made.

“These false ideas caused the crucifixion of Jesus and all of the destruction of Jerusalem under the Romans. In a certain real sense, they laid the foundation of the Catholic Church, with its crusades, the Inquisition, its wars of religion, its St. Bartholomew, its dragonades, and a revulsion against these produced the Red Terror of the French revolution. All the starry-eyed utopian dreams, past and present, are variant forms of twisted ideas about a coming millennium. And the present obsession about disarmament and world peace stems from the same mistaken notions.

“In the days just ahead, when all the powers of the earth conspire together to produce their delusive unity and to compel God's people to conform to the majority, it will be the same evil theory about the reign of the Messiah that will impel the persecutors to their final act of warring against God in the person of His followers.” (G.M.Price The Time of the End, pgs 84-86)

*There is a way that seems right to a man and appears straight before him, but at the end of it are the ways of death. **Prov. 16:25***

Yet even though history shows how men have failed miserably in their attempts to pave the way to a new and better world, they continue to repeat the failures of the past and ignore the answer that is right before their eyes. Just as Israel did, they believe their false prophecies spoken by false prophets that have been held up by leaders as those who should be listened to and who know the correct interpretation of what has been said by God and other supposed wise men as well. And in the end what God has actually said is divided and sub-divided until it is no longer believed in the face of so much human wisdom. So a question is asked: Which is better, the ways of God or the ways of man?

The Ways Of Man Or God

*As for God, His way is perfect! The Word of the Lord is tested and tried; He is a shield to all those who take refuge and put their trust in Him. **Ps. 18:30***

Men make rules and design programs and laws hoping to stem the tide of confusion and evil. Each person who helps design the rules and laws hopes that with each new theological position that they vote into being that they will be one step closer to bringing about the absolute solution to the problem at hand. And with each new rule brought

into existence, those who the law was designed for become more and more a slave to those who see themselves as authority figures over other men. But is this the way of God? Did Christ come to this world to show us the way of designing programs and making new laws and rules so that men would be able to keep other men in line? Did God say that the answer to peace is to be found in larger religious organizations and bigger government? Is this what He said would bring peace to the earth? Is human peace what God said was to be sought after? Is that what He came for?

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to part asunder a man from his father, and a daughter from her mother, and a newly married wife from her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be they of his own household. He who loves and takes more pleasure in father or mother than in Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves and takes more pleasure in son or daughter than in Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take up his cross and follow Me that is, cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living [and if need be in dying also] is not worthy of Me. **Matt. 10:34-38***

Man has become 'hell-bent' on bringing about peace both in the world and in the churches of the day. But instead of peace, a war has ensued. God spoke of wars that would come, but on a far different level than of flesh and blood and human authority. Instead it is His Word that causes war, a war of one person deciding for Truth and another deciding for this world and its continual denial of Truth.

Few have ever realized the spiritual implication of rising to a new level of thought and a higher Kingdom and just what kind of Peace is to be sought after; and instead they have drawn swords, spears, machine guns, tanks and missiles and every kind of invention of man for hurting each other to prove their version of peace and claim to rulership of a earthly kingdom.

*Jesus answered, My kingdom (kingship, royal power) belongs not to this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My followers would have been fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My kingdom is not from [this world] -has no such origin or source. **John 18:36**
And as My Father has appointed a kingdom and conferred it on Me, so do I confer on you [the privilege and decree] that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **Luke 22:29-30***

The misconception of earthly kingdoms being the kind of kingdom spoken of in scripture as well as literal Israel being the kingdom of God, has caused man to come up with plans of murder and the idea of making rules and laws to be passed to bring about an end that justifies the means of those who believe they hold the power of God in their hands.

The ways of man (the so called wisdom of man) has led men to believe that within their minds and by their own strength that they hold the power of the god's and that celestial authority is theirs for the claiming.

Yet God has spoken His Word (and it gives no-one any such authority) so that we might become wise in His Way and be transported out of this world into His Kingdom that is not built upon any human authority or claim of galactic domination.

*And when I go and make ready a place for you, I will come back again and will take you to Myself that where I am you may be also. **John 14:3***

But in order to accomplish this God has made it clear what must be done.

*Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored.] **Joel 2:12**
My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. **Gal. 4:19***

This broken fellowship is not about one human needing to be one with another, but instead is a broken relationship with God (though to love one another is a commandment of God, but can only be done if God lives in each one.) All problems and sicknesses can be traced back to that broken fellowship with God. Yet the world would try to cause us to believe that because our lives are not at peace with each other (or ourselves) that we suffer as we do. But God is explicit in that we are out of touch with Him and refuse to come under His umbrella of Love just like

Israel who believed much like so many do today that those who they do not agree with are not worth the effort that it would take to allow them the same privileges as we want of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

O! Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused! Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate-abandoned and left destitute [of God's help].
Matt. 23:37-38

In our seeking for reasons for our problems we have virtually (if not almost entirely) overlooked the Word of God. So we continue to seek and listen to those who believe themselves to be learned in the way of wisdom of the mind and do not realize that this wisdom that they proclaim has come from those who cursed God and denied Him on every level. Such are the likes of Freud, Jung, Mesmer, Charcot and others who deny the God of heaven. Yet many will allow the knowledge of the flesh (the worlds ideas and concepts) to be taught to them if it comes on a platform of what they already accept as truth.

So a question is asked: Has God become so weak that we need man's knowledge of peace and how to acquire it or have we been left to fend for ourselves?

When the strong man, fully armed, guards his own dwelling his belongings are undisturbed—his property is at peace (secure). But when one stronger than he attacks him and conquers him, he robs him of his whole armor on which he had relied, and divides up and distributes all his goods as plunder (spoil).
Luke 11:21-22

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matt 6:19-21**

If we have been paying attention we see that what God has given so that each of us may be rich beyond our wildest dreams is the Treasure that is more valuable than gold, Himself, and that the place where these riches and this treasures is found is in the heart; and that if we are strong in Christ then NOTHING can destroy (be stolen) of that which God has given. So how is it that so many have become weak so that sin has become just a part of their everyday life instead of their heart (their mind) be transformed and now a part of that eternal Kingdom where no thief can break in and steal? Sadly the only reason for that weakness is because of the use of earthly weapons (humanities answers) to find peace and tranquility in this life.

For though we walk [live] in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh (world) and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical (weapons of flesh and blood), but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds. **II Cor. 10:3-4**

The Word of God has every answer for every situation, but we must want to know the answer. He will not force upon us that which we do not want and yet all the answers to our problems are in His Word, but we must be willing for Him to unveil to us just what it takes to have His Peace. Much must be removed out of the way so He may light our path and reveal to us His creation power that He gave us to use so that His will may be done in our life, and He has promised that if we will ask ANYTHING in His name, He will give it.

Dear Lord, give us wisdom and understanding.

Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, together make a symphony) about anything and everything-whatever they shall ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven. **Matt. 18:19**

Christian Psychology Or God's Word

Many make the remark: 'Well I don't just go to any worldly counselor or analyst, my counselor is a christian.' They feel safe in that the word psychology has the word 'Christian' attached to it. It is almost as if they believe that something magical takes place, that somehow the same human weaponry that was shunned before is now holy and sanctified because the word Christian is used.

The word Christian has been used over the centuries to make many things possible that would not have been

possible any other way. Everything from mass murder (when the church of Rome used it to kill supposed heretics) to calling on governments to make laws and decrees that force people to do that which they do not want to do. Things like *Christian rock* have been used to bring the music of the world into that place that would have never let in it before, and also helped to change the look of Christians to appear more like the world and not be so (un-hip) so out of touch with life.

The word Christian has been used to help people fall in love with money and things as more and more Christians become involved with the finances of the world. Churches have invested the money given to them for what was labeled as *the work of God*. Christian has been used by entrepreneurs to gain business they would not have others obtained. The word Christian has been used over and over again to make people believe that somehow things are now alright that would otherwise be shunned because of the evil attached to it.

*And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (the church) in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the trusty and faithful and true Witness, the Origin and Beginning and Author of God's creation. I know your [record of] works and what you are doing; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! I will spew you out of My mouth! For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered and grown wealthy, and I am in need of nothing," and do not realize and understand that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked. Therefore I counsel you to purchase from Me gold refined and tested by fire, that you may be [truly] wealthy, and white clothes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nudity from being seen, and salve to put on your eyes that you may see. **Rev. 3:14-18***

There are many things done because men have consoled each other with human wisdom that says 'do it this way' or 'it's ok, its Christian' or 'God will forgive you, I am sure He understands.' But instead of telling His children to listen to human wisdom, God invites all to come up to Him and partake in His knowledge. He has invited all to sit with Him in His Kingdom and has made a Way open into heavenly places through His flesh that was torn for sin and has made each one a priest and king that will become one with Him as He is with His Father.

*And He raised us up together with Him and made us sit down together—giving us joint seating with Him—in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One. **Rev. 2:6***
*And formed us into a kingdom [a royal race], priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and the power and the majesty and the dominion throughout the ages and forever and ever. Amen, so be it. **Rev. 1:6***

God did not say this as a futuristic statement of something that would be yet to take place, but is the position He has put those in who would walk and talk with Him as a friend and live within Him as He is with the Father. He did not lie to Israel when He laid before this open Door. Yet for them to be a part of this calling they must come out of darkness (the old life they used to live in sin) and now live a new perfected life (become a new creation) that no longer lived in sin but now was set free and no longer a slave.

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special, peculiar people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfection's of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. **I Peter 2:9***
*Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. **John 8:34-36***

One of the obvious problems that we run into at this point is that there are so few who believe that God indeed has done what He said He came to do and that He is waiting to heal, cleanse, and purify those who will come to Him and lay ALL their cares on Him. Instead they choose a life of unrest and heavy labor because they will not believe that God is able to provide what is needed to live the life He has asked them to live. Yet that does not change God or His promises because of their unbelief.

"Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with

*their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and **I would heal them.**' Acts 28:26-27*

Instead of admitting that God is real and He has the power to change the life of each one who comes to Him, society and religion push with a vengeance that the answer to peace and prosperity lies in the field of psychoanalysis and pharmaceuticals. That belief has created minds that can no longer think for themselves and convinced those who call themselves *God's people* to believe in such things as hypnotism (mesmerism), euthanasia (suicide), tolerance, the end justifies the means, Buddhism, Hinduism, meditation, New Age re-creationism, and a myriad of satanic beliefs that are now accepted as tools to achieve whatever is desired or thought of. Now God is no longer needed because we know how to get what we want.

Yet no matter what men may do, God's Love is eternal; yet man cannot continue to mock God and yet be saved. There comes a time and a season that all things must come to an end, where either all things become new, and sin is forever removed wherever it exists in each life or Satan becomes the master and the Door is forever shut. The question is, will we be a part of God's Kingdom and become a new creation in Him, able to stand in His fire (His presence) or will we decide for Satan and his deceptions and find ourselves devoid of His eternal Life and left with only death and destruction?

*No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [that is, deceitful riches, money, possessions or what is trusted in]. **Matt. 6:24***

*If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. **I Cor 3:12-15***

The New Creation

*Consequently, from now on we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view—in terms of natural standards of value. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint and as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh]. Therefore if any person is (en grafted) in Christ, the Messiah, he is (a new creature altogether,) a new creation; the old (previous moral and spiritual condition) has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come. **II Cor. 5:16-17***

Many read this text as though what it really says is: **If any person is engrafted in Christ, the Messiah, he is saved by the blood of the Lamb, a new creation; the old moral and spiritual conditions are still pretty much the same, but now he is saved. The things he once did he will still have a struggle with and may continually fall short of the glory of God (but he really doesn't need to worry about overcoming because he's covered with the blood) and he is forgiven no matter what he does.**

Nowhere in Scripture can that idea be held up as long as the Scripture is used as a whole, yet day by day so many act as though God has turned a blind eye to how they act and what they do and think.

The patience of God has an object, but we are defeating His will in our lives when we think like this. The Scripture points out that when we become one with Christ EVERYTHING must become NEW. The old person is GONE and the new creation has taken its place.

*When someone becomes a child of God, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! **II Cor. 5:17***

In God the new creation, the brand new person inside who lives in Christ, rises out of the ruins of the old and corrupted nature. This is why Paul would say: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. **Gal 2:20***

As it has always been from the beginning, God has appointed us to tear down the old (die to the old sinful nature) and to become a part of His city (His Temple) that lives within us.

Today your work begins, to warn the nations and the kingdoms of the world. In accord with my words spoken through your mouth I will tear down some and destroy them, and plant others, nurture them, and make them strong and great.

*For see, today I have made you impervious to their attacks. They cannot harm you. You are strong like a fortified city that cannot be captured, like an iron pillar and heavy gates of brass. All the kings of Judah, its officers, priests, and people will not be able to prevail against you. **Jer. 1:10, 18***

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. **Eph 2:19-22***

But this work, His temple is only built upon faith in God. If we are impatient and unwilling to let God do His work (let His will be done in us) then we will continue to seek a quick fix that the world has to offer us that will never answer the need for Peace in our life (though it is far from quick and even farther from the whole truth of the matter and has never yet provided the peace that anyone has ever looked for) and though larger and larger sums of money are needed to feed that system that never comes up with THE answer, yet most will seek this road to travel. So how in the midst of this conflict are those who call themselves children of God suppose to act?

*Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results. **Jas. 5:16***

How many of us would need (or think we need) a earthly counselor or doctor of any kind if we all cared for each other like children of God should? How many heartaches would be healed by each others' loving care? How many fears would be non-existent in a spiritually uplifting environment? How many so called mental illnesses would never be given a chance to grow in a church that believed in the power of the prayer of a righteous person. And how many sicknesses would be dealt with as Christ did and as He taught His disciples to do the same by rebuking Satan and laying on of hands and anointing the sick?

*And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. **Mark 16:17-18***

Yet even though God gave Power to His witnesses and told them what to do and what would happen, the church would not accept these witnesses. So what caused those who claimed to be children of Abraham to turn against the Truth and kill His followers, and what would cause them to be at such conflict in the face of all that was done and said that proved beyond any doubt as to who this Jesus of Nazareth was? And what would cause anyone today to be at conflict with the same Words that the disciples spoke? As the leaders of the synagogue were able to convince the nation of Israel that they must kill this Jesus in order so that they could get back to the business at hand of waiting for their Messiah, are the leaders today in such control that no matter if God were to come again that they would be able to gather their flocks around them and help them to once again crucify the One they say they have been waiting for (as they do every time that someone comes into their midst with a teaching that they do not agree with and dispel the heretic from their church?) With the myriad of religions that exist today are we going to say that it is the same God leading each and every one to disagree with the other and yet call it all Christian? Is that the God that Christians say they serve?

*But I will do it to cut out the ground from under the feet of those who boast that they are doing God's work in just the same way we are. God never sent those men at all; they are "phonies" who have fooled you into thinking they are Christ's apostles. Yet I am not surprised! Satan can change himself into an angel of light, so it is no wonder his servants can do it too, and seem like godly ministers. In the end they will get every bit of punishment their wicked deeds deserve. **I Cor. 11:12-15***

Is God a liar so that He tells one person one thing and tells them it is the Way the Truth and the Life while at the same time tells another person something else and then tells them it is the Way the Truth and the Life? Has God said and not fulfilled His Word? Did He promise Israel that if He came that we would only do a little of what He said He

would and then would finish it in some future time?

God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Num. 23:19

Did God give His Word and then take away the understanding of it so that we would have to search and search and search and yet never see parts of it until sometime in eternity when He finally reveals it to us after He has said:

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone. II Tim. 3:16-17

...fully equipped for EVERY, that is EVERY point!!! Did God tell us a lie because in fact we could not use His whole Word for teaching or instruction because we cannot understand it?

NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

But then why do so many treat it as though they do not believe it or that it really does not mean what it says (except for those parts that they say says what it says and backs up the doctrines they believe.)

But if what God said is true, that the WHOLE of scripture is to be for teaching and instruction (which would mean that we must be able to understand it to do such a thing) then in the end there are no excuses or reasons that can justify our lack of knowledge or concern for wisdom about certain parts or our disobedience to what He has said that those who love Him will do! And when we understand this, we will put away every preconceived opinion and idea and enter into the Kingdom of God and sit with Him to rule with Him in the kingdom He has given each of us, and we will enter His Temple, never to depart again.

The Kingdom of God Is At Hand

Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure the lepers, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! Matt. 10:7-8

The Kingdom of God has been something that many have been waiting for over the centuries of time. With anticipation of the glory to come they have longed for this Kingdom to arrive. Yet Christ spoke through His disciples and directly to the church by Himself and told them that the Kingdom of God was already here.

But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. Matt. 12:28

But because of so much teaching on this subject by those who claim to read and understand God's Word, this kingdom is believed to this day to be a place with gold streets and angels playing on harps. It is also believed that the kingdom of which He spoke is a literal place on this earth where He will sit on the throne of David in that city called the city of David, Jerusalem. This might suffice for some as what the kingdom of God is and where it is to be found, but if God is right (and He is) then the kingdom is far different than anyone has ever imagined or believed to be. When the entire discord is read of Matt 12:28 we will begin to see that God was talking about Himself as being the kingdom just as Satan is his own kingdom.

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. Matt 12:22-30

In order for either side (Satan or God) to do anything as silly as working both sides of the fence in the struggle of evil over righteousness would be to be divided against THEMSELVES. But because men only see the world around them and what they have determined what the word kingdom means to them, they do not see that God speaks a totally different language with a totally different understanding that comes from another place that is not of this world.

*Then Jesus answered, "I am not an earthly king. If I were, my followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of the world. **John 18:36***

Even after Christ said this, man continues to see in their mind, an interpretation that allows them to believe that God is talking about setting a kingdom on this earth, and that someday He will come and rule with a rod of iron with them at His side as sub-authorities. Those who believe that doctrine just as the leaders of Israel had done, see God as using their form of rulership and worship. But of course to believe that they must ignore the action of the Messiah in NOT being a part of the system of temple worship that all of Israel was participating in. From the point of animal sacrifice to the acceptance of human (church) authority He walked a path that showed that He did not accept the ways of the law and order and proper protocol as man had defined it but instead walked in the Way of God where God was the Ruler and King of the Kingdom in which He lived in. Christ said what His Kingdom is and just where it was to be found, but very few have ever heard it.

*For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. **Gal. 4:22-26***

His Kingdom has never been of this world, but is of that city that is above that He rules in.

Denominational structures have attempted (with a pretty good outcome as it would seem) to convince others to see the church as a kind of spiritual Jerusalem and therefore imagine themselves as being those who are the righteous and saved for eternity as long as they are a part of that spiritual kingdom.

Yet God has spoken that the real Jerusalem is above not below on this earth even though men try to convince themselves otherwise. But if we will see with Spirit filled eyes what Christ was saying to those who would listen, we will see without any doubt in our minds that He was referring to Himself when He spoke of the Kingdom of God, that is why He said:

*"Didn't you ever read in the Scriptures: 'The stone rejected by the builders has been made the honored cornerstone;' how remarkable! What an amazing thing the Lord has done? What I mean is that the Kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and given to a nation that will give God his share of the crop. **Matt. 21:42-43***

The Stone the builders rejected was going to be taken from those who would not give God His share of the crop and would be given to those who would give God His share (just how much does the Creator own?) That stone was none other than the Messiah, Himself (the Kingdom, the Stone that has become the Cornerstone.)

So the Kingdom of God which was Christ, was taken from literal Israel and given to the Israel of God.

*And now that we are Christ's we are the true descendants of Abraham, and all of God's promises to him belong to us. **Gal. 3:29***

*May God's mercy and peace be upon all of you who live by this principle and upon those everywhere who are really God's own. **Gal. 6:16***

The crown of Israel was taken from them and given to a people who would do what God had asked from the beginning.

*The joy of our hearts has ended; our dance has turned to death. Our glory is gone. The crown is fallen from our head. Woe upon us for our sins. **Lam. 5:15-16***

This crown, this Kingdom can be lost, but for those who will hear the voice of God they are commissioned to keep the Kingdom that has come. But that Kingdom can only be kept by worshiping in Spirit and Truth.

*Jesus replied, "The time is coming, ma'am, when we will no longer be concerned about whether to worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. For it's not where we worship that counts, but how we worship—is our worship spiritual and real? Do we have the Spirit's help? For God is Spirit, and we must have his help to worship as we should. The Father wants this kind of worship from us. **John 4:21***

We need not wait for some kingdom to come, all have already been invited into Him (The Kingdom of God) to rule in us and to do in us what He desires. For those who will hear it, *'the Kingdom of God is at hand for everyone, everywhere,'* and for those who will accept Him to themselves and let Him shine out through them, it can be said of them that the Kingdom of God is living in them just as it was told to Israel of old.

*One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the Kingdom of God begin?" Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God isn't ushered in with visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'It has begun here in this place or there in that part of the country.' For the Kingdom of God is within you." **Luke 17:20-21***

There is a great sadness at this point, that so many will not accept what God has said except through the doctrine of interpretation so that what God has said now means something else. But for those who stand for the Truth no matter what others may say, to them the new creation (what they have now become) lives in the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom of God lives in the new creation. They do not wait for some physical sign of the return of The Kingdom, for it lives within them!

Sadly, if we do as others have done before us and judge God by what we see with our eyes of flesh (worldly vision) then we will never see with Spiritual filled eyes those things that are only found by investigation of the Word of God.

God is willing to give to us what we need, are we willing to let Him give it to us? So many times we stop any advancement of truth because of our preconceived opinions and ideas of what we think is right. But if we are right then what hurt can investigation bring but to prove that what we believe is the Truth.

An author of old wrote a timely and insightful view of this subject. They wrote:

If a brother differs with you on some points of truth, do not stoop to ridicule, do not place him in a false light, or misconstrue his words, making sport of them; do not misinterpret his words and wrest them of their true meaning. This is not conscientious argument. Do not present him before others as a heretic, when you have not with him investigated his positions, taking the Scriptures text by text in the spirit of Christ to show him what is truth. You do not yourself really know the evidence he has for his faith, and you cannot really clearly define your own position. Take your Bible, and in a kindly spirit weigh every argument that he presents and show him by the Scriptures if he is in error. When you do this without unkind feelings, you will do only that which is YOUR DUTY and the duty of every minister (messenger) of Jesus Christ.

When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing to hear because you are prejudiced against the message or the messenger will not make your case excusable before God. To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness. If our youth are seeking to educate themselves to be workers in His cause, they should learn the way of the Lord, and live by every word that proceeds out of His mouth.

They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has not more light for His people. If they entrench themselves in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed, they will be in danger of discarding precious jewels of truth that shall be discovered as men turn their attention to the searching of the rich mine of God's word. (EGW, CWE pp. 50,51)

Interestingly enough, this is the same position that the early reformers took upon investigation of the Word of God during a time when to say anything that was different from the church and all its extensions of authority was to take your life in your own hands. Yet despite their cries for liberty to study and liberty to speak in an open forum, the church with its self proclaimed authority, would not allow it.

Now in the day of information as men are racing from here to there and working harder and moving faster, what have we learned? Are we repeating the same mistakes of the past and falling into the trap of proclaimed authority?

Have we learned to live by law for so long that we can no more see God's Way than did Israel when they rejected God and demanded men's rules and laws to be king over them? Or will we be like the reformers and study together and pray together so that whatever God has for us to see that we will stand as one united force against sin and Satan? God's true people will. So...

May God be given control of His people once again, so they may become the light to the world as the apostles of old.

The Truth Shall Set You Free

As one orator put it; *"We love a well informed audience, but a well informed audience is our worst enemy."*

How true that is. Information holds the power to build up or to destroy. But just as in the past, if information is held back and not allowed to be seen, someday it will explode into view and all the lies and cover ups will be unearthed, and those who tried to hide the information will wake up to find that the truth has been revealed and there is no place to hide. Yet even though most know this fact (and history is filled with this happening over and over again) it still seems a better road for most to take to hide the truth whenever it suits them and to turn a blind eye whenever the moment calls for it, than to be honest and open at every turn.

But for those who want to know more, and want to be led in the paths of righteousness, for them there is only one road to take. That road is not the wide path to destruction but is a road far less traveled and paved with the blood of those who've gone before them.

Amidst all of this there are those who feel they are the *remnant* of God, the true church of God and filled with the evidences of the power of God working among them. They hold up their banners of faith and claim to be the keepers of the flame while at the same time holding on to the world and its power structure and using its laws and decrees to run their institutions and corporate structures while filling up their coffers with more and more money made from dealing in world's financial district (no matter what it was or is they are buying and selling) and the daily collection of monies made by making people feel that if they give their money to this or that church that they are giving to God. If that is not enough, they accept the ways of the government that they tell their people to obey and use their laws to protect themselves and join in with the world in their willingness to sue each other at any moment and for any reason they deem necessary. *'Well we must protect the church from those who seek to use its name to help promote themselves, and as far as money made from the worlds market, we have to pay our workers somehow don't we?'*

God's promise to lead His people and provide for their needs has become an old and antiquated way of life. Now we have our laws and good lawyers to move us from one place in life to another. And along with all the guidance from counselors to clergy we have no need for help from an invisible God (except for our desire to be forgiven so we can all be saved in our sins and get into heaven.)

"So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." **Matt. 6:28-34**

'Now you've gone to far. Didn't God give us brains to work and talent to use His money to make more money to spread the gospel? Just look at the parable of the talents. Didn't the master throw out the servant who did not make more money with the money he left the servant to use? Well?!' (This is what many say.) So let's take a look at that story.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you

*should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And **throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***”

Was this parable about money? NO!! This parable was not about money. If it were about money then many are in trouble who did not take their money and invest it into the world markets to make more. Because now God will throw them *into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*. Poor, poor souls! (No pun intended) And what happens to those who put their money into the market but lost thousands or millions or billions of God’s money? What will God do to them?

What silliness! This parable was about what we owe God if we are going to be His servants, His children. If we love Him and are called according to His Promise, then we will give as He has given to us. And what has He given us? Grace, peace, love, joy, forgiveness, salvation, longsuffering, meekness, etc. etc. etc.

Sadly, most have learned to misinterpret the Word of God and have made it read in such a way so that it justifies anything they wish to do in the name of God. So why would anyone who loves the Lord do such a thing? Maybe they do not know. But if they claim to know and understand the Word of God, then they must know what they are doing. How sad, how horribly sad.

*Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak lies against me. They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail upon their beds. They gather together for grain and new wine but turn away from me. I trained them and strengthened them, but they plot evil against me. They do not turn to the Most High; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of their insolent words. For this they will be ridiculed in the land of Egypt. **Hos. 7:13-16***

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. So watch yourselves. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him." Luke 17:1-4

Such a responsibility lies at the door of each one who proclaims to know the Word of God. That responsibility is a wonderful thing if the truth is being spoken, but is like a heavy weight that will bring down to their destruction each one who is lying.

The ultimate deception is to believe the lies that have been told for far too long. We have been subject far too long to faulty thinking and misled thoughts, and unless we are willing to come under the FULL control of God’s will and work in harmony with Heaven (as was Lucifer’s choice to make in the face of Spirit and Truth) we will allow our thoughts to form an opinion about God that is not true and we will seek for whatever pleases us or causes us to feel safe in a destructive environment. We have a choice to make, we have a battle to be won. There will be no fence straddle’s in this battle. Either we will be on God’s side, or we will follow the herd over the cliff. It can be said with unerring accuracy: ‘*Whichever way the herd is going, run in the opposite direction.*’ A majority vote will not win this battle, only a direct connection with heaven’s Power and Truth on our side will give us victory in the face of so much interpretation and false authority.

**Study and pray as never before,
seek the Lord while He may be found,
call upon Him while He is near.**