

How Then Shall We Live?

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Now it is clear no one is justified before God by the law, because ***the righteous one will live by faith***. But the law is not based on faith, but ***the one who does*** the works of the law ***will live by them***. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us (because it is written, "***Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree***") in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith.
(Galatians 3:11-14)

<http://tinyurl.com/Call2Unity>

Psalm 1 – The righteous Man

Psa 1:1-6 How blessed is the one who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand in the pathway with sinners, or sit in the assembly of scoffers! (2) Instead he finds pleasure in obeying the LORD's commands; he meditates on his commands day and night. (3) He is like a tree planted by flowing streams; it yields its fruit at the proper time, and its leaves never fall off. He succeeds in everything he attempts. (4) Not so with the wicked! Instead they are like wind-driven chaff. (5) For this reason the wicked cannot withstand judgment, nor can sinners join the assembly of the godly. (6) Certainly the LORD guards the way of the godly, but the way of the wicked ends in destruction.

Psa 32:1-2 How blessed is the one whose rebellious acts are forgiven, whose sin is pardoned! (2) How blessed is the one whose wrongdoing the LORD does not punish, in whose spirit there is no deceit.

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Habakkuk 2:4

The Just... Who?

- **Rom 1:17** For the **righteousness of God is revealed** in the gospel from **faith to faith**, just as it is written, **"The righteous by faith will live."**
- **2 Cor 5:21** God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we would **become the righteousness of God**.

...Shall Live... How?

- **Gal 3:11-14** Now it is clear no one is justified before God by the law, because **the righteous one will live by faith**. [...] (13) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us [...] (14) in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham would come to the Gentiles, **so that we could receive the promise of the Spirit by faith**.

...By Faith. What?

- **Heb 10:36-39** For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised. (37) For just a little longer and he who is coming will arrive and not delay. (38) **But my righteous one will live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, I take no pleasure in him. (39) **But we are not among those who shrink back and thus perish but are among those who have faith and preserve their souls**.

2

The Righteousness of God is revealed from Faith to Faith...

2 Cor. 5:21 ..."For He made Him who know no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

What is the meaning of the phrase (Hab 2:4) relative to the **Patriarchal, the Mosaic, and the Christian eras?**

- **Within each era**, the believer's relationship to God is based upon God's promises.
- **Within each era**, sin is dealt with in accordance with God's instruction, the believer simply obeys and accepts by faith.

For all fall short of the Glory of God

Truth, Sin, The Nature of Mankind, Worldviews

- **Truth** is objective, knowable, and personified in Jesus of Nazareth. (John 14:6-11; John 18:37; Acts 2:22)
- The **Natural Man** recognizes God's creativity and intelligence in the created order; *but suppresses the truth in unrighteousness.* (Romans 1)
- The **Moral Man** recognizes how things ought to be; *but falls short of God's goodness revealed via his own conscience and rationality.* (Romans 2)
- The **Religious Man** recognizes that God exists, and that God has expectations; *but succumbs to selfish pride, artificial authority, arrogance, and hypocrisy.* (Romans 3)
- The **Just Man** relies upon God's promise, lives by faith; *and receives the blessing of imputed righteousness.* (Romans 4)

NKJV

World-View – Common to all men everywhere always.

1. Origins (Where do we come from?)
2. Meaning (Why are we here?)
3. Morality (How should we live?)
4. Destiny (Where are we going?)

God's Problem and Man's Need (The Law of Sin and Death → Faith in God's Grace and Mercy)

1. Theology (Ultimate Reality)

Who or what is the ultimate source of existence?

Does God exist? If so, what is His nature (personal, impersonal, transcendent, immanent)?

How do divine revelation and human reason relate?

2. Metaphysics (Nature of Reality)

What is real? Is reality material, spiritual, or both?

What is the relationship between the physical and the metaphysical (seen/unseen)?

How does causality, order, and purpose operate in the world?

3. Anthropology (Nature of Man)

What does it mean to be human?

Are we primarily rational, spiritual, moral, or biological beings?

What is the human condition: fallen, progressing, neutral, perfectible?

4. Epistemology (Nature of Knowledge)

How do we know what we know?

Is truth absolute or relative?

What are the sources of knowledge — revelation, reason, experience, tradition?

5. Ethics (Nature of Good and Evil)

What is right and wrong, and on what grounds?

Are moral values absolute, situational, or constructed?

How do virtue, duty, and law shape human behavior?

6. Purpose / Teleology (Meaning of Life & History)

Why are we here?

Does life have a divinely given purpose, or do humans create their own meaning?

Is history linear (with a goal), cyclical, or chaotic?

7. Society & Culture (Relationships and Institutions)

What is the role of family, community, church, and state?

How should justice, freedom, and authority be understood?

How do worldview commitments shape culture, art, and politics?

8. Destiny (Eschatology / Future)

What happens after death?

Is there an afterlife, resurrection, reincarnation, or nothingness?

What is the ultimate end of the world — restoration, progress, extinction?

The Gospel Message

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

*“...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*

*“This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” Acts 4:11-12*

*“...For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through **faith**. For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ have **clothed yourselves** with Christ. **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female – for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the **promise**.” Galatians 3:26-29*

“Follow Me” not “study Me”

Reflecting on the way that God operates...

1. Thru 1 man, Adam, sin entered the World.
2. Thru 1 man, Noah, God resolved to renew this World and promised to overcome the effects of sin in it.
3. Thru 1 man, Abraham, God reached a family and promised to bless all families.
4. Thru 1 man, Moses, God reached a nation and promised to bless all nations.
5. Thru 1 man, Jesus, God reached the world and promises to be with each of us to the end of the World

Does God want a specific outcome from humanity...?

Perspective on why God operates the way that He has in human history...

Rom 3:21-24 But now apart from the law the **righteousness of God** (although it is attested by the law and the prophets) **has been disclosed – (22) namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe.** For there is no distinction, (23) **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** (24) But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

A famous line from *The Gulag Archipelago* is:

“The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.”

Sometimes it’s paraphrased as *“the line between good and evil runs through every human heart.”*

The first task of confronting evil is **self-examination**.

No ideology or revolution can “fix humanity,” because even if you topple oppressors, evil remains in the hearts of ordinary people.

True freedom and justice require **moral transformation from within**, not just political change.

Why It Resonates

This quote has endured because it challenges simplistic thinking:

It rejects **the idea that evil is only in “them”** (the enemy, the other side, the government).

It reminds us that the battle between good and evil is **internal and personal**.

“Follow Me...”

Christianity is a Total Commitment religion

UNLESS YOU...

“Unless you repent you will perish...” Luke 13:3,5

“Unless you love Me more than your father, mother, son or daughter you are not worthy of Me...” Mathew 10:37

“Unless you lose your life for My sake you will never see life...” Matthew 16:25

“Unless you take up your cross and follow after Me you are not worthy of Me...” Matthew 10:38

Christianity - Not a “Works Religion”, rather a “Total Commitment Religion”

What did Jesus say? “Follow Me” not “Study Me”

EXHIBIT A BELIEVING FAITH

For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NET)

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:30-31 (NKJV)

REPENT OF YOUR SINS

But unless you repent, you will all perish as well! Luke 13:3 (NET)

But the things God foretold long ago through all the prophets – that His Christ would suffer – He has fulfilled in this way. Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that He may send the Messiah appointed for you – that is, Jesus. Acts 3:18-20 (NET)

BE BAPTIZED

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned.” Mark 16:16 (NET)

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” Acts 2:38-39 (NET)

ENDURE TO THE END

But the person who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole inhabited earth as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:13 (NET)

And to the one who conquers and continues in my deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations... Revelation 2:26 (NET)

UNLESS YOU...

“Unless you repent you will perish...” Luke 13:3,5

“Unless you love Me more than your father, mother, son or daughter you are not worthy of Me...” Mathew 10:37

“Unless you lose your life for My sake you will never see life...” Matthew 16:25

“Unless you take up your cross and follow after Me you are not worthy of Me...” Matthew 10:38

It is the Gift of God

For by grace are you saved through faith (not of yourselves)

Even though we must believe and have faith in Jesus, **it's not our believing faith that saves.** *It's only by the shed **blood** of the Lamb of God, Jesus of Nazareth, that our sins will be forgiven.* **And yet, without faith no man will be saved.** (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Even though we must repent, that is turn from our sins, **it's not our repentance that saves us.** *It's only by the **blood** of God's only Son, shed at Golgotha, that our sins can be forgiven.* **And yet, if we do not repent, we will perish.** (Luke 13:3-5)

Even though we are commanded to be baptized, **it's not our baptism that saves us.** *It's only by the **blood** of the Messiah, who has defeated sin and death.* **And yet, without baptism no one will enter a Covenant Relationship with Jesus.** (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:1-14)

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; (9) it is not from works, so that no one can boast.

Luk 13:3-5 No, I tell you! But unless you repent, you will all perish as well! (4) Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them, do you think they were worse offenders than all the others who live in Jerusalem? (5) No, I tell you! But unless you repent you will all perish as well!"

Mar 16:16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved, but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1Pe 3:21 And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you – not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The Gospel centers on the restoration of relationship with God, accomplished through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

- **John 17:3** : "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

- **Defines eternal life as knowing God personally and relationally.**

- **John 14:16-17** : "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

- **Speaks of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence, a vital part of the believer's union with God.**

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-18** : "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

- **Highlights the transformative power of the Gospel, reconciling believers to God.**

The Spiritual Man – A New Creation

1 Cor. 2:6-16; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Galatians 5; Romans 8

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

- ***An Internal, Heart-Level Knowledge (Jer. 31:33)***
- ***A Personal Relationship mediated through Jesus Christ (John 14:6)***
- ***Obedience as a Sign of Knowledge; a Practical Test (1 John 2:3-6)***
- ***Love as the Outflow of Knowing God; a Practical Test (1 John 4:7-8)***
- ***The Witness of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12-17)***
- ***The Fruit of the Spirit; a Practical Test (Galatians 5:22-25)***
- ***The Mind of Christ; a World-View Test (1 Corinthians 2:16)***

When Paul lists the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22–23)—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—he’s describing the character and conduct that flow out of a life yielded to God’s Spirit. Although the explicit phrase “Holy Spirit” appears less frequently in the Old Testament, several psalms not only point to “living the good life” (i.e., walking in covenant faithfulness and blessing) but also reference or imply the work of God’s Spirit in shaping that life.

In **Jeremiah 31:31–34**, God promises a “new covenant” in which **His law will be written on people’s hearts**, and as a result, **“they shall all know me.”** This new covenant relationship implies an intimate, personal knowledge of God rather than a merely external or secondhand acquaintance. To understand how one can know they truly “know the LORD,” it’s helpful to consider several biblical principles that clarify the nature and evidence of this relationship.

1. An Internal, Heart-Level Knowledge:

Under the new covenant, God’s law is not just a set of external rules; it is internalized. This indicates that truly knowing the LORD involves a changed heart—a shift from merely following religious observances to experiencing a genuine inward transformation (**Jeremiah 31:33**). Thus, one sign of knowing the Lord is the deep, inner desire to love, honor, and please Him, not because of external pressure, but because one’s heart has been made new.

2. A Personal Relationship Through Christ:

The New Testament reveals that **Jesus Christ mediates this new covenant**. Through faith in Christ’s death and resurrection, believers enter into a restored relationship with God (Hebrews 8:6–12, John 14:6). Knowing the Lord, then, is inseparable from knowing Christ. If you have placed your trust in Jesus, believing His sacrifice for your sins, and have become His disciple, this faith relationship is a foundational indicator that you know God.

3. Obedience as a Sign of Knowledge:

First John gives practical tests for knowing God:

1 John 2:3–6: Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

4. Love as the Outflow of Knowing God:

Another test of knowing the Lord is found in love.

1 John 4:7–12: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one

has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

5. The Witness of the Holy Spirit:

Under the new covenant, God's Spirit dwells within believers:

Romans 8:12-17 : *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

How to Endure to the End?

What God wants of every believer. Colossians 3:1-17

Fellowship : God wants me to be a member of His family.

1 Peter 1:3-9; Eph. 2:19;

Discipleship : God wants me to be a model of His character.

1 Peter 2:21; 1 Timothy 4:12

Any individual strategy to obtain spiritual growth must consider Knowledge, Perspective, Conviction, Skill, and Character... these areas are the building blocks of spiritual maturity.

Why? (Romans 12:2; Galatians 5-6; Ephesians 3-6)

Col 3:1-17 Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, (3) for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him. (5) So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. (6) Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. (7) You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. (8) But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. (9) Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices (10) and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it. (11) Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all. (12) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. (14) And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. (15) Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace), and be thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Timothy 4:12 (One's maturity is not measured by one's learning or age, but rather by one's lifestyle.)

Worship helps people focus on God;

Fellowship helps people face life's problems;

Discipleship helps fortify people's faith;

Service helps people find their talents;

Evangelism helps people fulfill their mission

Rom 12:1-2 Therefore I exhort you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice – alive, holy, and pleasing to God – which is your reasonable service. (2) Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Gal 5:1-15 For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery. (2) Listen! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you at all! (3) And I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. (4) You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace! (5) For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait expectantly for the hope of righteousness. (6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight – the only thing that matters is faith working through love. (7) You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? (8) This persuasion does not come from the one who calls you! (9) A little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise! (10) I am confident in the Lord that you will accept no other view. But the one who is confusing you will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. (11) Now, brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. (12) I wish those agitators would go so far as to castrate themselves! (13) For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, ***"You must love your neighbor as yourself."*** (15) However, if you continually bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

Read Gal 6

Read Eph 3 – 6

Why did God plan it this way?

Reflect upon the way that God operates...

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:37-39 (Galatians 5)

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:18-20 (Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48)

Reflecting on the way that God operates...

1. Thru 1 man, Adam, sin entered the World.
2. Thru 1 man, Noah, God resolved to renew this World and promised to overcome the effects of sin in it.
3. Thru 1 man, Abraham, God reached a family and promised to bless all families.
4. Thru 1 man, Moses, God reached a nation and promised to bless all nations.
5. Thru 1 man, Jesus, God reached the world and promises to be with each of us to the end of the World

Does God want a specific outcome from humanity...?

God's Problem and Man's Need (The Law of Sin and Death → Faith in God's Grace and Mercy)