

Doctrina Christiana
(Conflict of Doctrines)

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Articles of Faith: The Apostle's Creed.

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"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," -John 8:32.

Disclaimer

This book is a careful comparison of the core Christian doctrine found in the Bible versus the form published and used by the Spanish in the Philippines starting in 1593. The author explicitly states this is not an act of malice against the Roman Catholic Church. Instead, it is an exposition of biblical truth intended to provide knowledge to the faithful, encouraging them to reconsider and potentially change traditional beliefs that may be contrary to scripture.

Chapter 1

Introduction

This book, titled *Doktrina Kristiana (Doctrine of Christianity)*, has one core mission: to **impart and spread the true Biblical Doctrine of Christianity** to every person on Earth.

We present this work as the **unveiling of a great mystery**—truths that the Holy Bible has finally revealed to people in these latter days. This is an essential read, founded on principles that were "sealed for generations" but are now being disclosed to the appointed people of this last generation for understanding, obedience, and ultimate salvation.

The Promise and The People

This book is intended to be a **lamp and a source of knowledge toward salvation** for anyone who is searching for spiritual truth. Its deep spiritual insights are valuable to **all races of men** and should be used by everyone, regardless of their political or current religious beliefs.

Clarifying a Key Historical Difference

It is crucial that our book is **not mistaken** for the historic Catholic text of the same name: *Doctrina Christiana*. That earlier book contained the Catholic Creed and was one of the very first books printed in the Philippines. We note its historical significance: it was written by **Fray Juan de Plasencia** and its printing and pricing were matters addressed by Governor Gomez Perez Dasmariñas in a letter to King Philip II of Spain on June 20, 1593.

The Necessity of Logic for Salvation

To navigate the truths presented here—and all teachings concerning salvation—you must employ **logical thinking and sound reasoning**.

The Bible commands us in **1 John 4:1** to "**Test every spirit if it is of God.**" This means you have a sacred duty to test every teaching to discern if it is right or wrong. Since the **salvation of your soul** is at stake, logic is absolutely critical. We must never approve the assertions of a church leader without first applying sound reasoning.

Logic is the science of sound reasoning, judgment, and common sense. When combined with **Philosophy** (defined here as your core attitude, beliefs, and way of life), the outcome is correct judgment and reasoning. In a time when many false prophets are promising salvation, being **wise and logical** is the only way to ensure you are on the right path toward everlasting life.

Chapter 1

Distinction Between Doctrina Chrisitana and the Biblical Doctrina Christiana

Distinction between the historical Catholic *Doctrina Christiana* and their concept of the *Biblical Doctrina Christiana*, primarily by challenging the traditional Catholic view on the founding of the Church.

1. The Catholic *Doctrina Christiana* (1593)

The author summarizes the historical facts about the Spanish catechism:

- It was one of the **first books** printed in the European tradition in the Philippines, dating to **1593**.
- It was an early Roman Catholic **catechism** written by **Fray Juan de Plasencia**.
- The text was written in **Spanish, Tagalog in Roman letters, and Tagalog in the ancient Baybayin script**.
- The only known existing copy is in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection at the Library of Congress.

2. The Founding of the Roman Catholic Church (Catholic View)

The author presents the traditional Catholic perspective on its founding:

- **Church Tradition:** The Church was established by Christ when he gave direction to the **Apostle Peter** as the head, making him the **first Pope**, based on **Matthew 16:18** ("...on this rock I will build my church...").
- **Historical Recognition:** The Roman Empire legally recognized Pauline Christianity in **313 C.E.**, and Roman Catholicism became the official religion of the Empire in **380 C.E.**
- **Continuation of Community:** The Catholic Church considers itself a **continuation of the early Christian community** established by the disciples, with its bishops as successors to the apostles and the **Pope** (Bishop of Rome) as the sole successor to **St. Peter**.

3. The Founding of the First Church (Author's View)

The author challenges the Catholic view, presenting an alternative interpretation of the Bible:

- **Rejection of Peter's Role:** The claim that Peter was appointed head of the Church and successor to Jesus is rejected. The author claims Peter was only assigned to preach to the **Jews in Israel**, not to the Gentiles in Rome.
- **Paul as Administrator:** The author asserts that **Apostle Paul** was the **successor and administrator** of the Church of God after Jesus ascended (**Colossians 1:24-25**). Peter himself acknowledged Paul's superiority and wisdom (**2 Peter 3:15-16**).
- **The Church in the Bible:** The Roman Catholic Church is **not written in the Bible**.
 - The first church mentioned is the **Church of the Firstborn** (**Hebrews 12:23**).
 - It is also called the **Church in the Wilderness** (**Acts 7:38**).
- **God as the Builder:** The Church must be built by **God**, not by mere men (**Psalms 127:1**). The author claims that churches built by men, including the Roman Catholic Church, result in **vain labor and worship** (**Mark 7:7**).
- **The True Church's Name:** The true church is the **Church of the living God** (**1 Timothy 3:15**) and the **Church of God**, which He "**purchased with his own blood**" (**Acts 20:28**). The author interprets **Matthew 16:18** as Jesus building the **Church of God** on the rock, with Paul as its appointed administrator.

4. Religion in the Bible

The author defines "religion" and its true purpose according to scripture:

- **Definition:** The author derives "religion" from the Greek words *re* (again) and *lego* (tie), meaning "**to tie again**," specifically to the teachings/laws of God for salvation.
- **Pure Religion:** **James 1:27** is quoted, stating that "**Pure religion and undefiled** before God... is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."
- **Dispensation:** During the Christian dispensation, the author acknowledges the existence of **Judaism**. The converts became **Christians**.
- **Rebuilding the Church:** The author concludes that Jesus Christ was sent to **rebuild the fallen "Church of the Firstborn"** upon the "rock" (referencing **Matthew 16:18** again), thereby saving the Israelites and the **Gentiles** (people born outside of Israel).

Jesus Christ: The True Foundation

The author contends that the "rock" mentioned in scripture is Jesus Christ himself, the legitimate head and cornerstone of the Church, not the Apostle Peter. This is supported

by Ephesians 2:20, which states that believers "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone."

The Vain Labor of Men

Citing Psalm 127:1, the author stresses that God must be the ultimate builder of the Church: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." Any organization established by men without God's direction is essentially "built in vain," or for nothing.

This authority makes Christ the only one sent by God to rebuild the original Church of God, which the author claims was lost after its first members—the faithful "firstborn church of Israel"—were persecuted, scattered, or fell into sin.

Identifying and Joining the True Church

The book teaches that the true congregation is always identified in the Bible as the Church of God (1Timothy 3:15 or 1Timothy 3:5, 2Cor 1:1, Gal 1:13).

The crucial question then becomes: How can people today become part of this original, lost, and rebuilt Church?

The answer, according to the author, is by "cleaving to that which is good" and obeying the doctrines of the biblical Church, as instructed in Romans 12:9.

The Sole Head of the Church

In this current age (dispensation), Jesus Christ must be the sole Head of the Church—the body of believers. Colossians 1:18 confirms this: "and he is the head of the body, the church... that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Therefore, the author concludes, no man can claim to be the head of the church; that position belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Official and True Name:** The text identifies the official name as the **Church of God** or the **Church of the living God** (1 Timothy 3:15).
 - **1 Timothy 3:15** refers to "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."
 - **1 Corinthians 1:2** is cited for "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth," proving the name's consistent use.
2. **Source of True Teachings:** Because the Church of God is the genuine church, its teachings are considered "**biblically true and infallible**," originating from the "**chosen people**" within that church. The author suggests that with so many churches

today, believers must check if the teachings are truly Christ's original doctrines, which are only sourced from the Church of God.

3. **Apostle Paul's Testimony: 1 Corinthians 15:9** ("For I am the least of the Apostles... because I persecuted the **Church of God**") is used as proof that the Church of God existed and was recognized even before Paul's conversion.
4. **Infallibility of Teachings:** The members of the true church are portrayed as those who speak only what they were "allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel," speaking "not as pleasing men, but God" (paraphrasing 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4, though the citation provided is incorrect: *1 Thessalonians 2:32-4* does not exist; the relevant verses are **1 Thessalonians 2:3-4**).

Remaining Questions

The passage concludes with two rhetorical questions that the rest of the book is expected to answer:

1. **Where is that church of God that the apostle Paul was part of?**
2. **Does it still exist and teach the same as it did thousands of years ago?**

The church of God still exists today, but you should be aware of the teachings to determine if it is the genuine teachings of Christ in the bible. There are many similar names of churches claiming to be the original church. To determine if the teachings are genuine, test if the teacher is teaching the infallible words, and if the teachings are really happening. Test the spirits if it is of God as commanded in I John 4:1, which says, "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*"

Are believers obliged to be part of the church of God? Yes. The bible instructs believers to be part of the church of God. This is testified in Romans 12:9, which reads, "*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*" Notice the underlined phrase. Cleave refers to joining or becoming part of that which teaches good, or the one that teaches the true teachings of God in the bible.

In other words, if you realize that you have been part of a false church that is not being taught in the bible, you are, of course, being taught to leave that church as commanded in the bible in 2Corinthians 6:14-17 which say, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*" Does your church have common

descriptions of the true church, or does it follow the ways of the world, where the teachings do not conform to the true teachings in the gospel? If you want to be part of the true church, cleave to that one that teaches good, and you will become God's people.

The Church of God

What was the name of the first Church of God? Where did the first Church originate?

The first church that God established for his people must have its name and origin. There are many churches today that appear, but we do not know if they are of God. It is a fact that different church denominations that appear today may be large or small. Some were built and established only sometime in the 4th century AD to the early 17th century AD, whereas the original Church that God established in the bible was built more than 2,000 years ago, according to the time of the Hebrews led by prophet Moses.

Biblically, when the Israelites under the leadership of Moses went out of the bondage from Egypt, they traveled in the wilderness at the foot of Mt. Sinai. In this mountain, he received the Ten Commandments of God. The Patriarchs of Israel were the firstborn who received the first teachings and commandments of God. They were the first people who served the living God. Eventually, the first church or congregation was formed in the wilderness and was called "Church of the Firstborn". This consisted of the patriarchs of Israel, who were called the firstborn of Israel. These firstborn were chosen and holy because they obeyed God's commandments given to Moses.

Let us read Hebrews 12:23. "To the general assembly and church of the firstborn which are written in heaven and to God that judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

History and the bible tell us that Israel was the chosen nation of God, and its people were called the firstborn. This is proven in Exodus 4:22," Then say to Pharaoh, this is what the Lord says; Israel is my firstborn son." In many events that took place in this nation, Israel went through many trials, sufferings, and struggles to stand as a great nation of God. Despite being the chosen people, many of them turned away from their faith and disobeyed God.

God got angry, but some remained obedient and faithful as they remained the chosen few. The chosen few traveled in the wilderness with God. Many times God's miracles were witnessed by these people, which signified that He was really with them, and yet some of them became stubborn and turned away. They became idolaters, backsliders, and unrepentant. But some of them scattered because of persecution. Eventually, they spread out and they grouped according to their beliefs and ways.

They scattered the earth. They were lost and isolated from the genuine and original congregation of the firstborn. Let us read Romans 10, which reads," For they being ignorant

of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto righteousness of God." This verse is a testimony for people who fall apart from the righteousness of God, not to mention those who remained with God but were persecuted. In the days of Lord Jesus Christ, the Church of God was restored.

He preached to all nations, to Samaria, Judea, and Galilee. He wanted to gather the lost flock of Israel. Jesus gathered His first disciples and preached the gospel of salvation. On this occasion, the lost Church of God (of the firstborn was restored. Paul, the apostle, became the administrator of the church of God in different towns and cities in Israel.

The testimony of the bible that the church in which the disciples and apostles of Christ is the Church of God that can be read in 1Corinthians 4:2, " Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours;"

Another verse proving that the church is the church of God is in Acts 20:28, " Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." And other churches of God were established throughout Israel. Acts 9:31. " Then, had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

This church of God which was established in different parts of Israel in the past was lost because of persecution and scattered abroad until its revival in these last days in which its members would only cleave to be part of the church, as what the bible instructs in Roman 12:9. ' to cleave with which is good" All the members of the church of God should join the church, and obey the laws and teachings that are written in it.

Men are not expected to found their own churches; otherwise, they are false, but the instruction is to cleave to the Church of God, which is good. Notice that many different churches bear different names other than the Church of God today. Remember, there is only one Church of God that serves and worships God according to the bible today. This is the church that is appointed to teach the gospel of salvation in the last days.

The church of God is the church that opened up the mystery of the sealed book (bible) in these days when the end time comes. (Daniel 12:4) The bible teaches us the existence of the Church of God as the church that Christ and the Apostle Paul taught in the bible to be the official name of the church. We can read the name of the church of God in 1Corinthians 1:1-2 that says," Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brethren Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,". There are other verses in the bible that assert that the church of God is the name of the church where present-day Christians should cleave.

Inclusions of the Doctrina Christiana of the Roman Catholic

Contents of the 1593 *Doctrina Christiana*

Based on your information, the book included the following categories:

Category	Specific Content Included
Basic Prayers	The Lord's Prayer (<i>Pater Noster</i>), Hail Mary (<i>Ave Maria</i>), and Salve Regina.
Articles of Faith	The Apostle's Creed.
Moral Code	The Ten Commandments and the Commandments of the Holy Church.
Spiritual Life	Sacraments of the Holy Church, Seven Mortal Sins, and Fourteen Works of Charity.
Instruction	Basic Christian Confession and Catechism (instructional Q&A format).
Format	Spanish text translated into Old Tagalog and included the native Baybayin script.

Author's Critique and Biblical Argument

The text then shifts to the author's critical perspective on the inclusion of the Ten Commandments:

1. **Limited Biblical Content:** The author notes that among the items listed, only the Ten Commandments are explicitly found in the Bible.
2. **Law Specific to Jews:** The author argues that the Ten Commandments were part of the Old Testament Law of Moses, which was given by God exclusively to the Jewish people (Israel) and is still embraced by them through the religion of Judaism.
3. **Superseded Law:** The central critique is that the Law of Moses is obsolete because it has been superseded by the Law of Christ.
4. **Biblical Justification:** This is supported by Hebrews 7:12, which states: "For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well." The author interprets this to mean the arrival of Christ (a change in the priesthood) necessitated a change in the law, meaning Christ's law is the only one people must now obey.

Critique of the Ten Commandments in *Doctrina Christiana*

The author's central claim is that the inclusion of the Ten Commandments in the Catholic catechism is flawed because the Mosaic Law was intended for a specific group and has since been superseded.

1. The Law of Moses Was for Sinners, Not Gentiles

The author asserts that the Law of Moses was not intended for the Gentiles (non-Jews) or for righteous people. Citing 1 Timothy 1:8-9, the text states the Law was intended for:

- Sinners: Specifically "lawless and rebellious," "ungodly and sinful," those who "defile what is holy," and murderers.
- Conclusion: Since the *Doctrina Christiana* was introduced to the Philippines (Gentiles) and included the Ten Commandments, it is seen as inconsistent and not the correct law for Christians and Catholics to follow.

2. The Law of Christ Supersedes the Law of Moses

The author argues that the Ten Commandments are now "consummated" (fulfilled and absorbed) within the Law of Christ, which is more comprehensive.

- The Identity Test: If a person strictly adheres to the Mosaic tenets, the author concludes they are Jewish, not Christian nor Catholic.
- Source for Christ's Law: The author directs the reader to another book for a detailed look at the Law of Christ.

3. Catholic Inclusions Are Man-Made

All other elements included in the Catholic *Doctrina Christiana* (such as the Sacraments, Seven Mortal Sins, etc.) are dismissed as "man-made" and not founded on the Bible.

4. Salvation is Found Only in Christ

Finally, the author reinforces the theological point that the Old Law cannot save anyone, whereas the Law of Christ can. Citing Acts 13:38-39, the text concludes:

"Everyone who believes is justified through him from everything that you could not be justified from through the law of Moses."

The message is that forgiveness and justification are available only through belief in Christ, making the Law of Moses irrelevant for salvation today.

Significance of Baptism

Catholic Belief on Infant Baptism and Curse

The text outlines the Catholic practice and the theological fear that supposedly motivates it:

- **Practice:** Some Catholics baptize infants in water to welcome them into the Christian world and to **cleanse them from inherited sin**.
- **Motivation (The Fear):** This practice is supposedly driven by the fear of a generational curse, often cited in the Old Testament, such as in **Numbers 14:18** ("punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation").

This curse, associated with the **old covenant** broken by the Jews, is what present-day believers fear their children will inherit.

Author's Counterargument: Infant Sinlessness and the Christian Dispensation

The author counters the need for infant baptism by arguing that the **Law of Christ** has superseded the old covenant's curse and that infants are inherently pure:

1. The Old Curse is Obsolete

The author argues that believers are now living under the **Christian dispensation** (the Law of Christ). Therefore, the only way to escape the fear of the curse from the past covenant is to "**cleave to the teaching of Jesus**" and believe in the doctrine taught in the **Church of God**.

2. Infants are Sinless and Belong to Heaven

The author asserts that infants should **not be baptized** because they are "**sinless and unblemished**" in this world. This is supported by **Matthew 19:14** (not 16:14, though the intent is clear in the quote): "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the **kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these**.'" This means children are already pure and belong to God's kingdom, negating the need for baptism to "cleanse" them of sin.

1. Infants Need "Milk," Not "Meat" (Spiritual Readiness)

The author uses a metaphor from **Hebrews 5:12–13** to argue that infants and young children are not spiritually mature enough for the commitment of baptism:

- **Milk (Elementary Truths):** Infants and children are only ready for the basic, "elementary truths of God's word."
- **Solid Food (Righteousness):** Baptism is considered a "teaching about righteousness" (solid food) that is only suitable for those who have grown past the "infant" stage and can understand complex doctrine.

2. Baptism is for Conscious Adults (Washing Away Personal Sin)

Baptism is presented as a conscious, adult decision that requires the ability to choose to repent and commit to God:

- **Requirement:** Only **adults** who "can perceive right and wrong" are the ones who need baptism to "wash away their sins and renew their spirit to be saved."

- **Purpose:** Citing **1 Peter 3:21**, baptism is defined as a "**pledge of a clear conscience toward God**," emphasizing the commitment of the individual, not just the physical act of washing.

3. Sin is Not Inherited (Dispelling the Curse Fear)

The author directly refutes the belief that sin is passed down through generations:

- **Individual Accountability:** Citing **Ezekiel 18:20**, the text establishes the principle of **individual accountability** before God: "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son."
- **Conclusion:** Therefore, the belief that the curse or sin can be "inherited or passed on to the next generation is **untrue**," and only the **Word of God in the Bible** can free people from such "false beliefs."

The Biblical Claim of Authenticity

The author asserts that the Bible's own words provide the definitive answer to questions about its authenticity. The argument is based on two core premises:

1. The Divine Mandate to Write Scripture

The word of God was not written on the initiative of man but was "**ordered to be written by the people of God**." This establishes the writing process as a divine mandate rather than a mere human or historical endeavor.

2. Christ's Direct Command to Disciples

The text specifically states that **Christ ordered his disciples to write the Bible**. To support this, the author quotes the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 14:37**:

"If anyone thinks they are a prophet or otherwise gifted by the Spirit, let them acknowledge that **what I am writing to you is the Lord's command**."

- **Interpretation:** The author uses this verse, where Paul claims his instructions are a "**Lord's command**," to demonstrate that the apostolic writings themselves carry the highest authority. By extension, this is presented as evidence that the *entire* collection of writings by Christ's appointed followers (the disciples and apostles) constitutes the divinely commanded and authentic Word of God. This interpretation posits that the very act of writing the Bible was commissioned by Christ for the purpose of communicating His will.

The Roman Catholic Catechism

Catechism and Core Catholic Beliefs

The text first defines a **catechism** as a structured text for understanding fundamental Christian truths. It notes the existence of "major" and "minor" catechisms, citing the historical success of Canon Henry Taylor Cafferata's 1897 English catechism and the commission established by Pope John Paul II (led by Cardinal Ratzinger) to draft a modern one.

The author summarizes elements of the Catholic faith:

- **Christ's Headship:** They acknowledge Christ as "**the head of the body, the Church,**" and the principle of creation and redemption (**Colossians 1:18**).
- **God's Nature:** They affirm belief in **one God**—the Father, Creator, and Giver of order—who made all things through "his Word and by his Wisdom."

Critique of Prayer Practices

The author then launches a two-pronged biblical critique against specific Catholic practices:

1. Prayer to Mary

The author challenges the Catholic devotion to Mary, which includes the belief, "We can pray with and to her. The prayer of Mary sustains the prayer of the Church."

- **Biblical Counterpoint:** The author argues that **nowhere in the Bible** does it show the brethren praying to Mary.
- **Apostolic Example:** The text cites **Acts 14:15**, where Paul and Barnabas forbade the people of Lystra from worshipping them because they were **human beings, not divine**. The author reasons that Mary, as a human being, is no different; if she were alive, she would similarly forbid prayers directed to her. The conclusion is that she prayed **with** the Brethren **to God**, not as an object of prayer.

2. Repetitive and Public Prayer

The author criticizes the practice of loud or repetitive prayers, viewing them as contrary to Christ's teachings:

- **Repetitive Prayer is Vain:** Citing **Matthew 6:7-8**, the text warns against using "**vain repetitions, as the heathen do,**" who think they will be heard for their "much speaking." The author notes that God already knows what we need before we ask Him.
- **Public Prayer is Hypocritical:** The author also warns against praying in public simply "to be seen by men" (like the Pharisees), which is a characteristic of **hypocrites** (**Matthew 6:5**). Such behavior only reaps the praise of people, not the favor of God.

Chapter 2

The Obsolescence of the Old Covenant

The author establishes the decay of the Mosaic Law using a powerful scriptural reference from the book of Hebrews.

- **The Vanishing Law:** The argument is rooted in the declaration of Hebrews 8:13, which states, "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." According to this interpretation, the mere existence of the New Covenant instantly rendered the former one archaic and destined for removal. This theological stance explains why many Christian denominations no longer strictly adhere to specific commandments of the Old Law, such as the mandatory observance of the Sabbath day. The old code is seen as decaying and no longer a binding legal framework for believers.

The Christian Law: An Elevated Standard

The Christian Law is not just a replacement; the author stresses that it is an expanded and heightened moral code that goes beyond the original Ten Commandments, making the spiritual requirements for followers of Christ "more than ten."

- **Expansion of Duty:** The Old Commandment on respect was specifically focused on familial duty: honoring one's father and mother. Jesus Christ, however, expanded this narrow obligation to encompass a universal moral responsibility toward all of humanity.
- **Universal Respect:** The New Covenant mandates that respect be shown to all people. This is explicitly stated in 1 Peter 2:17: "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God, Honor the king." This extension—from respecting two individuals to respecting the entire community—is presented as one of the added commandments under Christ's superior law, requiring a deeper and broader application of righteousness.

The Higher Standard: From Deed to Thought

The author demonstrates the heightened spiritual requirement of the New Law by examining the commandment against murder:

- **Old Law (Physical Act):** Under the Mosaic Law, the commandment was a simple, explicit prohibition: "Do not kill." The focus was on preventing the physical act of murder.

- **New Law (Spiritual Intent):** Christ's teaching drastically escalated the severity of this command. The prohibition moved beyond the action to the internal state of the heart. The New Testament standard asserts that to "harbor hatred" in one's heart against another person is "tantamount to killing them." This makes the Christian Law significantly stricter, demanding purification of the believer's inner thoughts and feelings, not just their external conduct.

The Shift in Worship: The End of the Sabbath

The text highlights the change from the Jewish Sabbath observance to Christian worship on Sunday, using Christ's actions and the disciples' practices as justification:

- **Old Observance:** Early Jews maintained a rigid adherence to the Sabbath (the seventh day of the week), refraining from all work to respect its sanctity.
- **Abolition by Action:** The author argues that Jesus himself "broke the Sabbath" by performing acts of healing and helping the sick. This compassionate "Samaritan work" was deemed a transgression by the religious leaders of the time, leading them to seek his death (John 5:18). Christ's example showed that strict observance is not absolute when it conflicts with rendering service to God or others.
- **Apostolic Practice:** In the Christian era, the emphasis shifted. The text cites Acts 20:7 to show the disciples establishing a new tradition: gathering to break bread and worship on the "first day of the week" (Sunday), effectively signaling the end of the Sabbath's binding authority for Christians.

Introduction to the Change in Dietary Law

Finally, the text introduces the highly restrictive Old Testament dietary laws as another example of a superseded mandate:

- The author references Leviticus 11:2–7, detailing the complex rules that permitted the eating of only certain cloven-footed, cud-chewing animals, and forbidding many others, such as the camel, as "unclean." The context implies that this intricate set of "added laws" is also considered obsolete under the superior, spiritual freedom of the New Covenant.

1. The Abolishment of Dietary Laws

The author uses both Jesus's teachings and the Apostle Peter's vision to confirm the end of the Old Testament dietary restrictions:

- **Old Law Restriction:** The Mosaic Law forbade the early Israelites from eating many cloven-footed and non-cloven-footed animals, such as **swine (pigs)**, **rabbits (coney)**, and **hares**, due to their status as **unclean** (as detailed in Leviticus 11:2-7).

- **Christ's Law of Cleansing:** The author argues that Christ's law has **cleansed** these meats. Citing **Mark 7:19**, the text states that food "entereth not his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out... purging all meats." This means that the spiritual danger lies in what enters the heart, not what enters the stomach.
- **Peter's Vision:** The account in **Acts 10:10-16** is used as irrefutable proof. Peter saw a vessel containing all types of previously **unclean beasts** and was commanded by a voice to "**Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.**" When Peter objected, the voice declared: "**What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.**"

2. Change in Giving (Tithing)

The text addresses the change from the mandatory Old Testament tithing system to the New Testament's principle of giving:

- **Old Law (Tithing):** The requirement to collect a **tenth** of income was part of the **Levitical priesthood's** law for the Hebrews (Malachi 3:6-11; Hebrews 7:5).
- **Change of Law and Priesthood:** The author reminds the reader of the principle from **Hebrews 7:12**: "For when there is a **change of the priesthood**, there must also be a **change of the law.**"
- **Christian Law (Cheerful Giving):** The New Covenant replaces the mandatory tithe with a law based on internal motivation. **2 Corinthians 9:7** commands: "**Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**" This prioritizes the giver's heart over a strict percentage.

3. Added Christian Laws and Obligations

The author highlights several key commandments and prohibitions unique to the Christian Law:

Category	Christian Law/Commandment	Scriptural Justification/Principle
Adultery	Adultery is committed when a man stares with lust and sexual desire at a woman (internal sin).	This is a spiritual expansion, stricter than the physical act described in the Ten Commandments.
Baptism	Baptism in water is a commandment for all Christians that they are obliged to fulfill.	It is considered a "significant law of Christ today" and part of fulfilling the "law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).
Prohibited Acts	Prohibitions include usurious interest (excessive lending interest) and illegal works such as gambling, selling illegal drugs,	These are considered "Christian laws" that constitute crimes.

Category	Christian Law/Commandment	Scriptural Justification/Principle
	pornography, smuggling, graft, and corruption.	
Idol Food	Believers must not eat food prepared for idols (e.g., during fiestas or moon festivals).	1 Corinthians 10:20 warns that sacrifices made by Gentiles are "to devils, and not to God, " and believers should not have "fellowship with the devils."

The Sin of Idol Worship and Graven Images

The author definitely states that the practice of worshiping idols is a sin against the Holy Spirit. These idols are defined as the objects men "worship, pray, and kneel before."

The text condemns this practice using a descriptive passage from the Old Testament:

- **Idols as Worthless Objects:** Citing a passage similar to Psalm 115:4-7 (not Proverbs), the text describes idols as mere objects crafted by human hands, made of "silver and gold." They are useless and non-divine because:

"They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not; they have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they walk not; neither speak they through their throat."

The conclusion is that worshiping these inanimate objects is a continuation of a sin that plagued humanity "in the past."

Permitted Foods and the Subsisting Prohibition of Blood

The author then addresses the question of what foods believers *should* eat without sinning, using a commandment from the early covenant that is argued to still be in effect today.

- **Permitted Foods:** The original broad permission to eat animal and plant life is cited from Genesis 9:3: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." This establishes that all life, save for the exception below, is permissible food.
- **The Continuing Prohibition (Blood):** The exception from the original command is still "subsisting today," according to the author. This exception is the consumption of blood:

"but flesh with life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat" (Genesis 9:4). The text explicitly notes that God forbade His people from eating blood, and this commandment remains valid under the New Covenant.

The Sequence of Afterlife and Judgment

The core of the warning rests on the author's detailed view of eschatology:

1. **Death and Rest:** When a person dies, the body literally "returns to dust," while the spirit "goes back to the Maker." The period between death and judgment is presented as a "lengthy slumber"—a rest from the turbulent world.
2. **The Resurrections:** The judgment is not immediate. Man is destined to die once, and *after that* the judgment.
 - **First Resurrection:** This occurs when Christ returns. Only the dead in Christ will rise first.
 - **Millennial Reign:** Christ will then reign for a thousand years, offering a final chance for those who have not yet accepted Him or ceased their evil works.
 - **Second Resurrection:** After the millennium, the remaining dead will rise to face judgment.
3. **The Great White Throne Judgment:** Every person, living and dead, will face God's judgment, where fate is sealed according to the "record in the book of life."

The Reality of Eternal Punishment

The author provides a vivid and literal interpretation of hell to underscore the urgency of spiritual reform:

- **The Second Death:** This is not extinction but a spiritual death that results in physical suffering. The condemned will be "revived in the flesh as if they were in the natural world" to experience the punishment.
- **Eternal Torment:** Their fate is "eternal torment" in the "lake of burning sulfur and brimstone," where they will suffer "day and night," without end or rest.

The ultimate message is clear: the only way to escape this excruciating destiny and achieve everlasting life is to abandon false doctrines and cleave to the true Law and Church of God.

Earth: A Testing Ground for Eternity

The author stresses that discussions of spiritual issues and religion are fundamentally about the salvation of the soul and eternal destiny after death. It is crucial to realize that everything visible on Earth, every material thing we focus on, is temporal and fleeting. The Earth itself is merely a "testing ground for mankind."

- **The Unseen Reality:** While we focus on what we see, the greater "unseen things that are coming" are directly tied to our faith. Our activities on Earth are not lost; they are

all being meticulously recorded in each person's "own book in heaven," which will be used for judgment.

The Upholding Power of Biblical Truth

It is therefore "very crucial" that while we are still alive, our spiritual and religious beliefs are solidly "guided by the truth in the bible," which is the authoritative Word of God. This truth is not new; it is the original, genuine message taught by Jesus Christ and his disciples, which remains constant "then and now."

Modern Technology and Prophecy Fulfilled

The author concludes with a reflection on the current era, noting that the Word of God has now "reached many nations" due to modern technology. This widespread dissemination of the Gospel is seen as the fulfillment of a major biblical prophecy, affirming that the book's message is timely and divinely purposed.

1. The Mystery of the Sealed Book (The Restoration)

The author justifies the revelation of their book's teachings by citing a prophecy about the Bible's historical obscurity:

- The Prophecy: The text quotes Daniel 12:4 ("But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end").
- The Interpretation: This is interpreted to mean that the Bible's "mystery"—its true, original meaning—was "sealed for many centuries," even though many groups read the pages. The original teachings of Christ and the disciples are now asserted to be "restored and found" in this "present Christian dispensation."

2. Exclusive Understanding (The Appointed Ones)

The author claims that the ability to correctly interpret and "prophecy the words" is not universally available, but is a divine gift reserved for the "people of God in this end-time generation."

- The Secret to the Chosen: Citing Mark 4:11, the text states: "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables."
- The Consequence: Groups that have not received this mystery will only be able to read the Bible "plainly or literally." True understanding requires them to "cleave to which is right and good in the bible" (i.e., obey the law and doctrine of Christ) and be baptized.

3. Salvation as a Process, Not a Declaration

The author directly challenges the common evangelical belief that salvation is immediate upon accepting Christ:

- **Basis of Salvation:** The foundation for salvation is the "teachings of God and Lord Jesus Christ in the bible," which is described as "the power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16).
- **Rejection of Instant Salvation:** Salvation is not achieved by an "instant pronouncement" or by declaring that one receives Christ as their "personal Lord and Savior."
- **The Conclusion:** Salvation is emphatically declared to be "a process," meaning it requires sustained obedience and adherence to the true doctrines.

The Warning Against Blind Leadership

The author emphasizes that church leaders carry the heaviest responsibility for the salvation of their followers. The danger of following false doctrine is severe, affecting both the teacher and the student:

Shared Condemnation: Citing Matthew 15:14, the author warns: "Let them alone; they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

This means that if a leader teaches wrong doctrine, both the leader and the follower are in danger of being condemned to the lake of fire on Judgment Day.

The Command to "Come Out of Her"

Given the shared condemnation, the author stresses the absolute urgency for individuals to leave any church or faith found to be wrong. This command is based on a specific passage from the book of Revelation:

The Divine Exhortation: Citing Revelation 18:4, the text issues the command: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Identification: The pronoun "her" is explained as referring to the church, which is metaphorically called "Babylon" or a congregation of persons in the Book of Revelation.

Avoiding Punishment: The central message is that people must "come out of her" while there is still time to avoid being stained by the false church's guilt and sharing its future punishment.

The True Path and False Beliefs

To find the true path, the author reiterates the command to "cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9) to know the truth and partake in God's blessings.

The passage concludes by briefly contrasting this urgent warning with common, but incorrect, beliefs about the afterlife:

False Assumption: Many wrongly believe that "after dying, everything is over."

Incorrect Destinations: Others believe the soul goes to an instant reward in heaven, instant punishment in hell, or a cleansing period in purgatory. (The preceding sections of the book would have refuted these points by detailing the doctrine of the two resurrections and the Judgment Day.)

The Peril of False Beliefs

The author begins by contrasting two types of common false beliefs about the afterlife with the stakes of eternal salvation:

1. **Reincarnation:** The belief that a man will be reincarnated into another form of creature (animal, plant, or object) is acknowledged as a false teaching.
2. **Instant Destiny:** The author implicitly challenges fundamentalists who, despite reading the Bible, still face uncertainty about their final destination (eternal life vs. hell).

The core warning is delivered: "Remember that your soul and salvation are at stake when you cleave to a particular religious belief." Entrusting one's soul to wrong beliefs makes redemption impossible after death.

The Call to Leave and Cleave

The author issues a strong command for immediate action upon discovering the truth:

- **Action Required:** When the true teachings are found, the reader must "leave the wrong teachings and cleave to that which is good" to be saved on the Last Day.
- **Apostolic Example:** The text uses the example of the Apostle Paul, who left his former belief in Judaism and "cleaved to the teachings of Christ in the Church of God."

Finding the True Church Amidst Confusion

The passage acknowledges the central problem for the modern seeker: the confusing existence of "many churches of God today" and numerous false teachers confessing Christ.

- **The Search Protocol:** The Bible itself provides the assurance for finding the true church. The reader is given the mandate from 1 John 4:1: "test every spirit if it is of God."

- Empowerment: The reader is "free to search for the truth." They must actively hear, study, and consult the Bible to determine who is telling the truth. The Lord God, the author promises, "will guide you to the real one."

The Final Reality

The passage ends by bringing the discussion back to the ultimate stakes, reinforcing the necessity of the entire book's argument:

- Eternal Life vs. Hell: Everyone on Earth must realize that life does not end here, but a time will come when everyone will "rise to life everlasting, and others to hell." The entire book, therefore, is a guide to help the reader choose the correct destination.

1. The Urgent Command: Act Now and Be Baptized

The author demands immediate action once the reader believes the teachings are "true and good":

- Don't Delay: The command is "do not hesitate, do not delay."
- The Key Action: The crucial step is to "be baptized" as commanded by Christ in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
- The Risk: Delay is fatal: "when you lose it you lose your chance of being saved."

2. Personal Responsibility for Salvation

The text stresses that salvation is an individual effort; no one can be saved by proxy:

- Self-Rescue: The reader is commanded to "Save yourself... in the last day."
- No Intercessors: Citing Ezekiel 14:20 (though the quote's focus is slightly shifted), the text confirms that even the righteousness of figures like Noah, Daniel, or Job cannot save another person. When judgment comes, "You alone will be the one to save yourself."

3. The Absolute Standard: The Bible Alone

The author issues a strong warning against false teaching and establishes the Bible as the only authoritative source:

- Warning Against False Prophets: Readers must "Beware of the teachers of faith" and ensure they are not misled by the many "false prophets or spiritual teachers nowadays."
- Scriptural Proof is Mandatory: Every single spiritual statement must be "founded in the bible or supported by scriptural verses" and must be truly "existing and

happening." Statements that fail this test are denounced as "fallacious pronouncements that should be accursed!"

- The Curse for False Doctrine: The ultimate warning is given using Galatians 1:8: any person or even an angel who preaches a gospel "different from the doctrine of Christ" is declared "accursed."

4. Salvation is Found in Obedience to Christ's Teachings

The final point reiterates that salvation is a process dependent on knowing and obeying Christ's instructions, not just a verbal declaration:

- Teachings are the Key: Salvation is based on the "teachings of Christ," and not by merely accepting Him as Lord and Savior.
- The Gospel as the Rule: The author asks, "How can you be saved if you don't know his instructions and teachings?" This is underscored by 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, which states believers are saved "if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain."

The Necessity of God's Law for Salvation

The author delivers a crucial final realization based on the principle of impartial judgment:

1. **Condemnation for Disobedience:** The fundamental warning is that those who "do not want the Word (law) or teachings" will be condemned on the Last Day.
2. **Impartial Judgment:** This is supported by Romans 2:11-12, which states:
 - No Respect of Persons: "For there is no respect of persons with God."
 - Judgment Without Law: "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law."
 - Judgment By Law: "And as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law."
3. **Conclusion:** The text interprets this to mean that everyone will be judged based on the divine standard they were given or could have known. Therefore, the only way to navigate this judgment successfully is by "knowing the true teachings in the bible," as this knowledge is the prerequisite for achieving salvation.

This passage provides detailed instructions on the discipline of prayer, covering the proper physical positions, gender-specific head coverings, the appropriate location, and the right disposition (whole-heartedness and thanksgiving).

Here is a structured breakdown of the author's points on "**Discipline when Praying**":

1. Positions of the Body when Praying

The author describes the acceptable physical posture for prayer, moving from general comfort to the specific biblical example of Christ:

- **Standard Positions:** Most people pray sitting or kneeling with bowed heads.
- **Exception for Comfort:** Christians with physical problems are permitted to position themselves comfortably, as "God knows your situation."
- **The Biblical Form:** The ideal, most solemn, and "normal and biblical form" of prayer is to be flat on the floor, face towards the ground.
 - **Justification:** Jesus prayed in this exact position in the Garden of Gethsemane, weeping and groaning solemnly.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Matthew 26:39 is cited: "And he went a little further, and fell on his face and prayed..."

2. Head Covering Instructions (Gender-Specific Respect)

The text outlines specific, gender-based rules for head coverings during prayer, which the author frames as an observance of "due respect":

Person	Instruction	Scriptural Proof (1 Corinthians 11:4-5)
Man	Should remove and avoid any head covering when praying or prophesying.	"Every man praying or prophesying having his head covered, dishonoreth his head..."
Woman	Must have a covering on their head when praying.	"...every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoreth her head..."

- **Personal Judgment:** The author encourages the reader to "judge for yourselves" (1 Corinthians 11:13).

3. The Appropriate Place for Prayer

The author reiterates Christ's instruction to avoid public displays of prayer:

- **Designated Place:** Everyone is asked to pray in designated places, specifically "inside the room."
- **Warning Against Hypocrisy:** The author warns against the hypocrisy of praying in open places or in public with loud prayers to be seen by others.
- **Scriptural Proof:** Matthew 6:6 instructs: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret..."

4. The Righteous Disposition of Prayer

Prayer must be characterized by sincerity, earnestness, and gratitude:

- **Whole-Heartedness:** Righteous praying should be whole-hearted and may involve crying, as this is "biblical."
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Hebrews 5:7 describes Christ offering "prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears."
- **Thanksgiving:** Prayer must always be associated with thanksgiving, as this is both pleasing to God and a form of worship.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Philippians 4:6 says, "...but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."
- **Priority:** The author concludes that a "Prayer of Thanksgiving is the most important part when praying."

Prayers Heard and Prayers Not Heard by God

I. Prerequisites for Heard Prayer (The Petitioner's Condition)

The text argues that the success of prayer depends heavily on the petitioner's righteous standing before God:

- **Forgiveness is Mandatory:** Before all else, if one has been sinned against, it is necessary to ask God to forgive the trespassers. Crucially, the petitioner must not harbor hatred or animosity, for if they do not forgive others, God will not forgive them.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Matthew 6:14-15 is cited: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
- **Sinners' Prayers are Blocked: The prayers of a person living in sin cannot reach God.**
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Lamentations 3:44 says, "Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through."
 - **The Righteous are Heard:** Conversely, God only hears the prayers of a righteous man and a genuine worshipper who does His will.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Proverbs 28:9 states that turning the ear from hearing the law makes the prayer an "abomination," and John 9:31 affirms, "Now we know that

God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him heareth."

II. Prohibition Against Vain Repetition

The author explicitly states that God rejects repetitive prayer:

- Vain Repetition Forbidden: God will not hear prayers that use "vain repetitions," a practice associated with the "heathen" who believe they are heard for their "much speaking."
- Divine Foreknowledge: Repetition is unnecessary because God "knoweth what things ye need of, before ye ask him" (Matthew 6:7).

III. The Mandate for Constant Prayer and Thanksgiving

Despite the rejection of repetition, the text mandates continuous prayer characterized by gratitude:

- Pray Always: Christians are instructed to "always pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1), where "faint" means to not neglect prayer.
- Assurance of Answer: The author assures that when we pray in this righteous state, we know God hears and grants our requests (1 John 5:15).
- Priority of Gratitude: The first and foremost act in prayer must be giving thanks to the Lord, a practice exemplified by the Apostle Paul.

The question of *how often* to pray is left open, but the implied answer is "always," day and night.

The author interprets the biblical instruction to "pray without ceasing" as not literal (meaning you don't have to pray every single second). Instead, the phrase is limited in scope, meaning prayer should be continuous throughout the active periods of the day: "in the nighttime and daytime only."

In essence, the author is defining "without ceasing" as "regularly, every day and every night," rather than a perpetual state of prayer.

1. The Lord's Prayer as a Model

The text introduces the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) as the manner in which Christians *should* pray:

- Focus on God's Glory: (Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done)
- Request for Provision: (Give us this day our daily bread)

- Request for Forgiveness: (And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors)
- Request for Protection: (Deliver us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil)
- Declaration of Sovereignty: (For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.)

2. Prayer is Dependent on Circumstances

The author argues that while the Lord's Prayer is the model, actual prayer is not limited to rote repetition and must adapt to the immediate situation:

- Example 1 (Traffic): When stuck in a traffic jam with an urgent meeting, the petitioner will not recite the Lord's Prayer, but will instead ask God to arrive at the office on time.
- Example 2 (Earthquake): During a sudden, panic-inducing earthquake, the petitioner would utter an immediate, simple plea for help, such as, "God save us from this earthquake!" or "God, please stop the earthquake!"
- Conclusion: Prayer depends upon the demand of the circumstances and the given situation, as God knows and understands the petitioner's needs.

3. The Essential Element of Thanksgiving

Regardless of the circumstance or the specific request, the text mandates one constant element: Thanksgiving.

- Mandate: The petitioner must always give thanks to the Lord.
- Reason: This is "very necessary" so that the believer may "always be blessed."
- Scriptural Proof: Philippians 4:6 is cited: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Serving and Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth

Worship is defined as an act performed in spirit and truth (John 4:24), encompassing both internal sincerity and external actions.

1. Worship in Spirit (Internal)

To worship God in spirit means presenting oneself with a clean spirit. This requires:

- Asking forgiveness for transgressions.
- Being sincere and repentant of shortcomings, as God searches and knows the heart.

2. Serving and Worshipping in Truth (Physical Actions)

In the physical world, serving and worshipping God involves leading a clean life that is pleasing to Him through specific actions:

- Devotional Acts: Singing praises and hymns and uttering phrases with thanksgiving.
- Moral Discipline: Submitting to God's will and keeping oneself away from lusts and sins (Romans 6:12).
- Righteous Deeds: Yielding our body parts as "instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13), meaning using them to perform good acts that benefit others.
- Sincere Work: Performing work sincerely for an employer, contractor, or any authority is considered an act of serving and worshipping God.
- Charity: Extending and giving alms to the poor and needy, especially disaster victims, is a direct way of serving God. The text notes that "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD" (Proverbs 19:17).

The Prohibition of Idols and Images

The author states unequivocally that God abhors idol worshipers and commands against the creation and worship of graven images.

1. The Old Covenant Command

In the Old Testament, God issued an absolute prohibition to the Israelites against idol worship:

- No Other Gods: "You shall have no other gods before me."
- No Graven Images: "You shall not make for yourself an an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath..."
- No Bowing/Worship: "You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation..." (Exodus 20:3-5).

2. The Final Judgment

Idol worshipers are explicitly listed among those who will be condemned on Judgment Day:

- Idolaters, alongside the cowardly, unbelieving, murderers, and liars, "shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

3. The Vanity of Images

The author argues that idols are useless and vain objects made by men, underscoring the absurdity of praying to them:

- Idols are inanimate; they "have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not" (Psalm 115:6).

Chapter 3

The Existence and Types of "Gods"

The author affirms the existence of "many gods" in the biblical narrative, contrasting the three supernaturally powerful beings (God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, implicitly) with other created beings or objects given the title "god."

1. The Supreme God

God is the Supreme God of all and the "overall authority and judge among other gods," as attested in Psalm 82:1: "God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods."

2. False Gods (Idols and Self-Worship)

These "gods" are external and internal entities or concepts that draw worship away from the Supreme God:

- Selfish Desire: The "god" of false ministers is their "belly" (Philippians 3:19). These alleged servants of God enrich themselves at the expense of their followers, engaging in self-serving gain and deceiving the simple with "good words and fair speeches" (Romans 16:18).
- Satan: Satan is explicitly called the "god of this world" in 2 Corinthians 4:4, who "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not."

3. Human Beings Called "Gods"

The author argues that human beings are granted the title "gods" under specific divine conditions, though they possess no supernatural power:

- Children of God: Men who are "born of God" or are "children of the Most High" are called gods (Psalm 82:6). This title is reserved for those who obey the laws of God, have received Christ's teachings, and are "walking in the Spirit of God."
- Christ's Affirmation: Jesus confirmed this when he quoted the Law (John 10:34-35): "Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods... and the Scripture cannot be broken."
- Moses' Example: God personally appointed Moses as a "god" to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:1): "See I have made thee a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet."

Warning Against False Prophets

The text includes a strong warning against "self-professed preachers and false prophets" whose sole motivation is personal gain (Isaiah 56:11). These individuals are described as "greedy dogs which can never have enough" and "shepherds that cannot understand."

To avoid being misled, the reader is instructed to:

- **Challenge Teachers:** "Ask now the priests concerning the law" (Haggai 2:11). The "law" here is defined as the teachings of Christ.
- **Doubt When Unanswered:** If a preacher cannot answer questions about the written Word, the reader should doubt that they are a true servant of Christ and monitor their lifestyle and manners.

Critique of the Seven Deadly Sins

The author argues that the seven named sins are not inherently "deadly" but fall into two distinct categories:

1. **Behavioral Flaws:** Primarily, these are seen as issues requiring "behavioral discipline and proper human adjustment."
2. **Spiritual Afflictions:** If these negative traits "persist up to the point of tormenting" the person, they are then viewed as "spirits that dwell in him," necessitating fervent prayers for deliverance.

The core assertion is that the term "deadly" is inappropriate because the Bible teaches that these sins "can be forgiven."

The Nature of Forgiveness and the Unforgivable Sin

The text uses multiple New Testament verses to establish that God offers comprehensive forgiveness, with one explicit exception:

- **Universal Forgiveness:** Citing Matthew 12:31-32, the author emphasizes Jesus' statement that "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men," including speaking against the Son of Man.
- **The Single Exception:** The only sin that "shall not be forgiven"—neither in this world nor the world to come—is "the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost."
- **Divine Mercy:** The author reinforces the breadth of God's forgiveness by citing:
 - Hebrews 8:12: "For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and their sins and their lawless deeds will I remember no more."
 - Colossians 1:13-14: Salvation delivers us from darkness and provides "redemption through his blood, even the **forgiveness of sins.**"

The Limitation on Repetitive Sin

The passage concludes with a counter-point, suggesting that forgiveness is not automatic if sinning becomes habitual:

- **The Warning:** The author interprets Hebrews 10:18 to mean that if a person "keeps repeating the same acts of sinning, God will not forgive him at all."
- **The Justification:** The verse states, "And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary," implying that a continued pattern of sin demonstrates a lack of repentance that invalidates the sacrificial work of Christ.

The Catholic Practice of Confession

The author first outlines the Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession/Penance), which involves:

1. Individuals confessing their sins to a priest.
2. Receiving absolution (forgiveness).
3. Performing a penance assigned by the priest.

Sins that must be confessed include blasphemy, bringing dishonor to the community, calumny (telling lies about another), presumption (sinning while assuming God must forgive it), and the standard list of the Seven Deadly **Sins**.

The Argument Against Confession to a Priest

The author's primary contention is that confession must be made directly to God, not to another human being:

- **God Alone Forgives:** The text cites 1 John 1:9 as the key passage for a Christian: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." This verse implies that forgiveness is granted by God upon direct confession.
- **Priests Lack Authority:** Priests are dismissed as "mere human beings who have no authority to forgive sins." They are subject to sin themselves and, like everyone else, must ask for forgiveness from God.

Addressing the Scripture Used to Support Priestly Authority

The text also addresses John 20:23, where Jesus tells his disciples, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of any, they are retained." The author does not fully interpret or engage with this verse, but simply includes it, immediately returning to the theme that humility is the core requirement for the forgiveness of sins.

The provided text discusses the origin of sin, the concept of free will, the proper method for confession and forgiveness, and the dire spiritual fate of "Back Sliders" (apostates).

The Origin of Sin and Free Will

The author clarifies the nature of the first transgression in the Garden of Eden:

- **Disobedience as the First Sin:** The original sin was the act of disobedience against God's direct command.
 - **The Fruit's Nature:** The sin was not about eating a physical apple (which was common food at the time). Instead, Adam and Eve sinned because they chose to commit the "fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," which was the result of their choice to commit sin.
 - **Free Will:** By giving this choice, God established that humanity has free will to choose between good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Choosing evil leads to destruction, while choosing good leads to an enlightened path and a bright future.
- Confession and Forgiveness

The text acknowledges that sin is an "inevitable act," but outlines the process for forgiveness:

- **Confession to God Alone:** A Christian must acknowledge and confess their sins only unto the Lord, but "to no man."
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Psalm 32:5 is cited: "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."
 - **Repetitive Sin:** For Christians, intentionally repeating the same sins is described as spiritually fatal, meaning the person "would not be saved and forgiven anymore." However, sin committed "without any intention of committing it" may be forgiven.
- The Sins of Back Sliders (Apostates)

"Back Sliders" are defined as former believers who turn away from their faith and return to the "works as the world of unbelievers." Their turning away is attributed to reasons like the devil's calling, weak faith, inability to bear tests, not truly receiving the Holy Spirit, or being stumbled by other believers.

- **Impossibility of Repentance:** The author cites Hebrews 6:4-6 to warn that it is "impossible" to renew to repentance those who were once enlightened, tasted the heavenly gift, and partook of the Holy Ghost, but subsequently "fall away."

- **The Severity of Apostasy:** By turning away, backsliders are said to "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame."
- **Worse Than the Beginning:** Their spiritual state becomes worse than before they became Christians (2 Peter 2:20), like a dog returning to its vomit.
- **Rebuke and Rejection:** The faithful are instructed to rebuke a heretic or backslider one or two times. If the person does not listen, the believer should reject or abandon him/her (Titus 3:10), thereby not being held responsible for the backslider's infirmity.

The Two Kinds of Sins

Mortal Sin

This is the kind of sin that sinful men cannot be forgiven anymore, and literally in the end, sinners will be bound to damnation. We believe that if we sin and pray for forgiveness, we are forgiven, as the bible says; however, we should realize that there are sins that cannot be forgiven. Mortal sin is a fatal type of sin that, even if somebody else prays for that sinner, he can no longer be saved. This is a very critical issue that believers should contemplate profoundly. Christians in the Church of God, the chosen Church, know about this sin, but some do not know this mortal sin, particularly those outside of the Church.

The sin against the Holy Spirit is the type of sin that cannot be forgiven. Our Lord Jesus Christ may forgive those sins against Him, but the sin against the Holy Ghost literally cannot be forgiven. In the book of Mark, 3:24 says, "but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation." In one scenario, in the book of Matthew, Jesus cast devils from the possessed, blind and dumb person but was mocked by the Pharisees which said that he cast out devils but, by Beelzeebub, the prince of the devils, however, Jesus rebuked them in Matthew 12:30-31 which read, "He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathereth not with me scattered abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men. But the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."

Jesus himself said, Sin against the Holy Ghost is not forgiven. Therefore, it is very clear that sin against the Holy Ghost is literally unforgiven, and no amount of prayers shall work to save the one who has sinned. The sins that believers keep on doing or repeating can no longer be forgiven. This is testified in Hebrews 10:26: "If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice is left." So if a believer keeps repeating the same sins, there will be no more sacrifice or no way to be forgiven, even if somebody prays for him or if he repents for his sins, because chances have been forfeited or lost.

Immortal sin

Immortal sin is the sin that can be forgiven by God, even if we sin against the Son of God; He is ready to forgive us. If a man sins against the Lord Jesus Christ, he can still be forgiven if he wholeheartedly asks for forgiveness. Matthew 12:32 says, "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; neither in this world, neither in the world to come." Even if the Son of man was mocked when he was on the cross, the mocker could be forgiven. The bible tells how the Son of man was mocked. Matthew 27:42 says, "He save others, himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

These are the words of one of the thieves who cast insulting words against the Son of Man. What do you think he was forgiven for? The bible says, you may be forgiven if you sin against the Son of Man.

To Whom Shall We Confess Our Sins?

The author asserts a two-part approach to confession based on the nature of the transgression:

1. Confession to God (For all Sins and Iniquities)

For sins and iniquities committed against God, confession must be **made directly to the Lord** alone. This is the means by which a person acknowledges their guilt and receives divine forgiveness.

- **Scriptural Proof: Psalm 32:5** is cited: "I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid, I said, I will **confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**"
- **Universal Need:** Christians must confess **all** their sins, even those they may not know they committed, as denying sin is **self-deception**. **1 John 1:8-9** affirms that God is faithful to **forgive us our sins** and "cleanse us from all unrighteousness" upon confession.

2. Confession to Brethren (For Faults Against Others)

When a sin is committed against another person (a "fault"), it requires mutual confession and prayer among believers.

- **Scriptural Proof: James 5:16** is cited: "**Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.**" This is a communal act for reconciliation and healing within the church.

Self-Harm is Not Penance

The text strongly condemns the practice of seeking forgiveness or cleansing through **physical punishment or self-harm**, such as whipping the body or walking on one's knees.

- **Unchristian Practice:** Such acts are dismissed as "**unchristian**" and a form of "**vain things**" that the author believes are actually **sinful**.
- **Will Worship:** Citing **Colossians 2:23**, the author argues that these practices, which may have a "show of wisdom in **will worship**, and humility, and neglecting of the body," do not honor God and are **not the way** to repent, compensate for sin, or satisfy the requirement for forgiveness. True repentance and forgiveness rely solely on acknowledging and confessing sins to God.

The text analyzes three specific parts of the human body—the **eyes and hands**, the **heart**, and the **tongue**—arguing that they are the primary physical sources that incite men to sin and hinder their spiritual lives. It emphasizes that while these parts are literal, the biblical admonitions regarding them are **spiritual calls for discipline**.

1. The Eyes and Hands: Literal Sources of Temptation

The author addresses the external parts of the body that lead to sinful action:

- **The Warning:** The text cites **Matthew 5:29-30**, where Christ uses hyperbole: "If thy right eye offend thee, **pluck it out...** and if thy right hand offend thee, **cut it off.**" The consequence of failing to control these members is the **whole body being "cast into hell."**
- **The Interpretation (Not Literal):** The author firmly states these verses **should not be taken literally**, as physically mutilating oneself would lead to an inability to live a normal, decent life and spiritually renew oneself.
- **The Spiritual Discipline:** The true meaning is a call to **radical discipline**: Christians must **control their eyes** from temptation and **hold their hands** back from "filthy activities." It is a daily, spiritual struggle to live a Christian-like life.

2. The Heart: The Unseen Source of Wickedness

The heart is described as the hidden, primary source of all evil thoughts and plots, remaining invisible to others but not to God:

- **Deceitful Nature:** The heart is "**deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked**" (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Since God "search[es] the heart," nothing can be hidden from Him.
- **Source of Defilement:** The heart is the "**habitat of all evil thoughts**" and wicked plans against others. **Matthew 15:19** attests: "**For out of the heart proceed evil**

thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

- **The Lesson from the Flood:** God's punishment of the Great Flood was triggered because He saw that **"the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** (**Genesis 6:5**). The severity of this judgment led God to promise never to use a flood again (symbolized by the rainbow), though mankind will be destroyed by **blazing fire** at the end of time (Revelation).

3. The Tongue: The Untamable Fire

The tongue is highlighted as the third, small, yet incredibly powerful member capable of destroying the whole person:

- **A Small Fire:** The tongue is described as **"a fire, a world of iniquity,"** capable of defiling the whole body and setting the "course of nature" on fire with its malice (**James 3:6**). It can boast great things and **"kindle[s] a great matter"** despite its size (**James 3:5**).
- **Wicked and Poisonous:** Though man can tame beasts and serpents, **no one can tame the tongue** because it is "untruly evil, full of deadly poison" (**James 3:7**). It can perform the contradictory acts of **blessing and cursing** simultaneously (**James 3:10**).
- **Controlling the Tongue:** The tongue can be made **useful and kept upright** by the wise who use knowledge correctly (**Proverbs 15:1**). Conversely, an evil tongue creates **maligning words and filthy gossip**, destroying one's neighbor (**Proverbs 11:9**).

The Solution: The Word of God

The final solution for controlling the body parts that lead to sin is presented as adherence to the Scriptures:

- The **only way to stop the evil tongue** and clean the body's members is to **stay pure and clean in the sight of the Lord** by **reading and obeying the Word of God**.
- The Word cleanses: **"Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you"** (**John 15:3**), cleansing the believer from all iniquities and filthiness.

The Nature of Biblical Speaking in Tongues

The author defines the tongues spoken by the Apostles at Pentecost as the miraculous ability to speak and understand **actual foreign languages**:

- **Known Languages:** The tongues were not "unknown" babbling, but the **languages of many nations** (Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc.).
- **Proof from Acts:** **Acts 2:4-6** is cited, where the Apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke in "**other tongues**," and the devout Jews from every nation were "confounded because that **every man heard them speak in his language**."
- **Rejection of Modern Practice:** The author explicitly rejects the "**unknown tongues that just come out from the mouths of the present-day performers**," contrasting them with the verifiable foreign languages spoken at Pentecost (Acts 2:7-11).

The Regulation and Cessation of Tongues

The author interprets various New Testament verses to conclude that the practice of tongues is obsolete:

- **Orderly Worship:** The use of tongues in the church requires strict order. **1 Corinthians 14:27-28** mandates that if tongues are spoken, it must be by **two or at most three people, in turn, and there must be an interpreter**. If no interpreter is present, the speaker must "**keep silence in the church**" and speak only "to himself and God." This regulation highlights the need for peace and order, as "**God is not the author of confusion but of peace**" (1 Corinthians 14:33).
- **Superseding the Practice:** Speaking in tongues is characterized as an "elementary teaching" or part of the "law that was changed." The author asserts that believers must "**leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity**" (**Hebrews 6:1-3**).
- **Change of Law:** The principle that a "**change of the priesthood**" necessitates a "**change of the law**" (**Hebrews 7:12**) is used to conclude that the original instructions for tongues, healing, and casting out spirits are now obsolete.

The Proper Christian Response to Sickness and Spirits

Instead of performing dramatic spiritual exercises like casting out spirits, the proper response in the current dispensation is **fervent prayer and adherence to the Word**:

- **God Works:** God "**worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure**" (**Philippians 2:13**). Servants should not perform "spiritism" but allow God to work through righteous prayer.
- **The Healing Protocol:** When someone is sick, the biblical command is specific (**James 5:14-16**):
 1. Call the **elders of the church**.

2. The elders should **pray over him** and **anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord** (interpreted here as teaching the sick with the Word of God).
 3. The sick person should **confess sins to each other** so they may be healed.
- **The Key to Effectiveness:** The prayer must be "**offered in faith**," and the elder praying must be a "**righteous man**," as the prayer of a righteous person is "**powerful and effective**."

Chapter 4

Sin Is Not Inheritable or Transferable

The author firmly rebuts the idea—attributed to "superstitious and non-bible reading people"—that sin is inherited from Adam and Eve.

- **Children are Sinless:** An infant or newborn child cannot commit sin because they are innocent and do not yet know anything of the world.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Christ said the "kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (little children), implying children are sinless and assured of salvation (Matthew 19:14).
 - **Infants Lack Discernment:** Children are described as those who "live in milk, being an infant is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness" (Hebrews 5:13). Sin is only committed by persons who can already discern what is right and wrong.
- **Individual Accountability:** Guilt for sin is not shared between generations.
 - **Scriptural Proof:** Ezekiel 18:20 states clearly: "The souls who sin are the ones who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son." Each person is responsible for their own actions.
- **What is Inherited:** The text notes that "Houses and wealth are inherited from parents," but sin is not (Proverbs 19:14).

The Definition and Source of Sin

Sin is explicitly defined as a transgression of law, originating from the individual's choice:

- **Definition:** Sin is "lawlessness," as 1 John 3:4 says: "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."
- **Source:** Men create their own sins by choosing their course of action. Proverbs 16:9 states: "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
- **Sin of Omission:** Sin is committed not only by doing wrong but by failing to do right. James 4:17 states: "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

The Change in the Law on Generational Punishment

The author addresses the Old Testament law that seems to contradict individual accountability:

- The Old Law: Exodus 20:5 states that God punishes "the children of the third and fourth generations because of the sins of their father."
- The Argument for Obscurity: The author asserts that this command was primarily for the people of Israel, not the Gentiles. Crucially, this law "has been changed" in the New Covenant.
- Scriptural Justification for Change: The change is necessary because "when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law" (Hebrews 7:12). This principle nullifies the Old Testament law of generational punishment for Christians.

Note: The laws and teachings presented are stated as being specifically applicable to Christian members of "the Church of God."

The text asserts that even the most revered biblical figures, the Apostles and Prophets, sinned because they were human beings endowed with free will, making them susceptible to error, disobedience, and fear. The only individuals exempted from this universal sinfulness are Jesus Christ and infants.

I. Sinfulness of Old Testament Prophets

The author provides concrete examples of major Old Testament figures who sinned, underscoring that spiritual office does not negate human frailty:

- Aaron and Miriam: These leaders sinned by speaking against Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman (Numbers 12:1-2). Their transgression involved criticizing God's chosen leader, which God heard and punished.
- Moses: The great deliverer sinned through disobedience to God, which carried the severe consequence of forbidding him entry into the Promised Land (Numbers 14:30).
- Abraham (Abram): He sinned by disobeying God's implicit command and not waiting for His promise of a son. He listened to his wife Sarai and had a child (Ishmael) with their servant, Hagar (Genesis 16:1-4). This act demonstrated a lack of faith and reliance on human effort over divine timing.

II. Failings of New Testament Apostles and Disciples

The disciples of Christ were not immune to error, frequently sinning through ignorance, fear, and hypocrisy:

- The Disciples (Collectively):
 - Ignorance of Scripture: After Christ's death, they sinned by going home instead of waiting. The reason given is that "they knew not the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead" (John 20:9-10), showing a failure to grasp Christ's core teaching.
 - Denial of the Lord: They all sinned by denying Christ out of fear, particularly after Peter's emphatic vow (Matthew 26:34-35).
- Apostle Peter:
 - Disobedience to Vision: Peter initially sinned by refusing to eat the various animals shown in a vision, saying he had "never eaten anything common or unclean," thereby disobeying God's declaration that "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (Acts 10:9-16).
 - Hypocrisy: Peter committed a grave error in Antioch by withdrawing and separating himself from the Gentiles when Jewish believers arrived, fearing "them which were of the circumcision." This act was deemed hypocrisy by Paul, who publicly rebuked him for not walking "uprightly according to the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 2:11-14).
- Apostle Philip: Philip sinned by demonstrating ignorance of Christ's teaching when he asked, "Lord, show us the Father" (John 14:8). This was a faulty request because:
 - God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and cannot be seen physically.
 - No man can see God's face and live (Exodus 33:20), making the request impossible and "impertinent."

III. Conclusion: Universal Sinfulness and the Exceptions

The evidence from the lives of these spiritual leaders leads to a definitive conclusion about the human condition:

- Universal Sin: The text confirms the universal truth articulated in the New Testament: "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Every man on earth is guilty of sin.
- The Exceptions: The only two individuals explicitly exempted from this universal sinfulness are our Lord Jesus Christ and infants (who lack the knowledge and capacity to commit lawlessness).

The Transgressions of Angels

The text identifies two primary transgressions committed by a group of angels in the past:

1. **Crossing Divine Boundaries (Fornication):** Angels sinned by "crossed-bred with human beings" which led to the birth of "abnormally grown siblings (giants)."
 - Scriptural Proof: Genesis 6:4 is cited, describing how the "sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." This act is characterized as sowing wickedness and indulging in the "work of the flesh."
 - Interpretation: The author uses Galatians 3:3 ("Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?") to suggest that these angels, created perfect in spirit, sought to become "perfect in flesh" by committing this physical act.
2. **Abandoning Their Post (Disobedience):** Angels transgressed by leaving their assigned "habitation or post."
 - Scriptural Proof: Jude 1:6 is cited: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." This shows they were punished for failing to maintain their original, perfect status.

Angels' Continued Capacity to Sin

The author argues that angels can sin again because the final judgment has not yet occurred.

- **Evidence of Temptation:** The text points to the Apostle John's encounter with an angel in Revelation: when John fell down to worship the angel, the angel immediately corrected him, saying, "See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant... worship God" (Revelation 22:8-9).
- **Conclusion:** This scenario proves that angels are "like human beings"—they are fellow servants of God and are susceptible to being worshipped, indicating their remaining moral vulnerability. Since they are "waiting for the last day of judgment," they, like humans, are still capable of sin and will ultimately be subjected to being judged.

The provided text makes two primary assertions: first, that Christians will judge the sinning angels on the Day of Judgment; and second, that the soul is mortal and dies with the body. The text concludes with an urgent warning about false teachings and the need for self-examination in dangerous times.

I. Christians Will Judge the Sinning Angels

The author argues the surprising concept that Saints (Christians) will participate in judging celestial beings:

- **Scriptural Proof:** 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 is cited: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?... Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"
- **Reason for Judgment:** Angels are given free will to choose right or wrong, making them accountable for their actions. Those who sinned were "cast down to hell" and are now held in chains of darkness "to be reserved unto judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).
- **Limited Trust and Knowledge:** The text suggests God does not trust all angels with divine mystery, citing Job 4:18 ("Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly"). Furthermore, angels were not told about Jesus' Sonship (Hebrews 1:5), confirming their subordinate status to Christ.

II. The Mortality of the Soul

The author defines the soul as a mortal, physical being that dies with the person, refuting the concept of an immortal soul.

- **The Soul Dies:** The text states, "The soul that is sinning—it itself will die" (Ezekiel 18:4). The soul is seen as equivalent to the person's life and being.
 - This is supported by examples of prophets like Elijah and Jonah asking that their "soul might die."
- **The Composition of Man:** Man is composed of three elements: the spirit, the soul, and the body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- **Spirit is Life:** The spirit is the "inner man" and the life or breath in our nostrils. When a widow's son was resurrected, the "soul of the child came back within him and he came to life" (1 Kings 17:22), meaning the spirit (life) returned.
- **Spiritual Renewal:** The "old inner man (spirit) is renewed or replaced with a new inner man" upon baptism and reception of Christ's doctrine.

III. Final Warning and Call to Self-Examination

The text concludes with a sharp warning about the spiritual dangers of the current era:

- **False Teachers:** Christians must beware of "false prophets" and disguised servants of the Lord who serve "their own appetites" and use "smooth talk and flattery" to deceive people (Romans 16:18).

- **Self-Examination:** Given the prevalence of false teaching, individuals must "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5). This is a command to "test ourselves" to ensure we have not been "repudiated by Christ."
- **Dangerous Times:** The world is now living in a "dangerous time" characterized by wickedness, mercilessness, and rampant criminality (due to drugs, poverty, etc.), underscoring the urgency of being on the correct spiritual path.

Reconciling "No One Righteous" with Righteous Individuals

The author reconciles the sweeping statement in Romans 3:10 with examples of righteous individuals by suggesting that the statement applies only to a particular place or group being referenced, and not to all people universally.

- **The General Rule (Romans 3:10):** The text acknowledges the scriptural assertion: "As it is written: 'There is no one righteous, not even one.'" This statement reflects the general sinfulness and unrighteousness of humanity.
- **The Specific Exception (Job 1:1):** The text immediately counterbalances this by citing the example of Job: "In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil."
- **Conclusion:** The presence of men like Job proves that while "no one was found righteous" in the context Paul was addressing, the Bible "reveals there are places also where righteous men dwelt."

In essence, the text interprets the biblical statements on righteousness as being context-dependent, allowing for truly faithful and upright individuals to exist even if the majority of humanity is considered unrighteous.

The text contrasts the Catholic Church's permissiveness regarding food with the strict prohibitions observed by "the church of God," arguing that abstaining from certain foods (offered to idols, blood, and strangled meat) remains a valid, enduring command for Christians. It also equates certain sins with idolatry.

Forbidden Foods and Enduring Laws

The author contrasts the practices of the Roman Catholic Church, which generally does not forbid foods (unless for health reasons), with those of "the church of God" members, who are limited by specific biblical laws.

1. The Prohibited Meats

The text identifies three categories of food that believers are forbidden from consuming:

1. Meats offered to idols.

2. Blood or food with blood of any animals.
 3. Meat of strangled animals (i.e., not killed by draining the blood).
- New Testament Mandate: The text points to Acts 15:29 as the key New Testament law confirming these prohibitions: "that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well, fare ye well."
 - Old Testament Precedent (Strangled/Dead Animals): The author cites Deuteronomy 14:21, which instructed the Israelites not to eat anything that "dieth of itself," but to give or sell it to a stranger or alien. The author argues that this is an enduring law that keeps God's people "out of danger of sinning."
 - Enduring Application: The author confirms that these laws from the past are "still existing and being applied nowadays" to present-day Christians, distinguishing them from other Old Testament laws that are no longer applicable.

2. The Significance of Blood

The prohibition against consuming blood is given a direct theological justification:

- Symbol of Salvation: Blood is forbidden because it is a "symbol of our salvation and redemption from our sins."
- Atonement: Leviticus 17:10-11 is cited, stating: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."
- Remission of Sins: The significance of blood is confirmed by Hebrews 9:22, which states, "without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]."**Idolatry and Its Spiritual Forms**

The author expands the definition of idolatry beyond the worship of physical images:

1. Physical Idolatry

- Prevalence: The worship of idols or graven images (mere stones, wood, plastic, or resin) still exists today due to false teachings.
- Vanity of Idols: Such images are nothing and cannot do any harm or good; they are just like a palm tree that "speak[s] not" and "cannot go" (Jeremiah 10:5).
- Divine Command: God is a jealous God who forbids the worship of idols or any of His creations. True worship must be "in spirit and truth" because "God is a spirit" (John 4:23-24).

2. Spiritual Idolatry

The author identifies specific vices that constitute idolatry, which will result in condemnation on the Last Day:

- The List: Colossians 3:5 is cited to list covetousness as idolatry, along with: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, and evil concupiscence.
- Consequence: For these sins, the "wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience" (Colossians 3:6). Those who turn away from these "despicable ways" and realize the truth will be forgiven and freed from the bondage of sin.

Chapter 5

I. Defining Spiritual Adultery

The author defines the grave sin of "Adultery in the spirit" as:

- Fellowship with Unbelieving Practices: When believers who have received God's doctrine engage in the religious practices of the Gentiles (unbelievers).
- The Severity: This act is deemed a "worse sin" that "cannot be forgiven," equating it to a sin against the Holy Ghost (though the specific connection to the unforgivable sin is asserted, not textually proven here).

II. The Command to Separate and Flee

The author uses multiple verses to establish the necessity of spiritual separation and purity, likening the mixture of Christian and Gentile practices to impurity:

- The Body Belongs to Christ: The body of a believer is a "member of Christ," and it is an offense to God to join these members to anything impure, which the text figuratively calls a "harlot" (1 Corinthians 6:15).
- Flee Fornication: The command is to "Flee fornication" (sexual sin), which is used as an analogy for spiritual impurity. Every sin is "without the body," but fornication "sinneth against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18), emphasizing the self-defiling nature of the spiritual association being warned against.
- Do Not Be Unequally Yoked: The most comprehensive warning is to "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18), using a series of rhetorical questions to show the impossibility of true communion:
 - What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?
 - What communion hath light with darkness?
 - What concord hath Christ with Belial (Devil)?
 - What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?
- The Command for Separation: Because believers are the "temple of the living God," they are commanded to "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing." God promises to receive those who separate themselves.

III. Clarifying Association vs. Practice

The text clarifies that the command for separation does not prohibit general association:

- **Befriending is Allowed:** Believers are not forbidden to befriend and associate with unbelievers.
- **The Prohibition:** The prohibition is against participating in the religious practices of the unbelievers or doing things that the believer knows will cause them to sin, thus avoiding spiritual adultery.
- **Final Warning:** The author reiterates that committing these "forbidden rituals of the unbelievers" will result in the ultimate consequence: "they will not be forgiven."

The provided text outlines a specific set of beliefs about life after death, contrasting them with the Catholic traditions of praying for the dead. It emphasizes the biblical view of the dead being in an unconscious state until the resurrection.

Beliefs About Life After Death

The author presents a distinct view of the dead's immediate state and the events of the Second Coming and final judgment, directly contrasting them with what are called Catholic and popular fables.

I. The State of the Dead

The author rejects the idea that the dead are immediately conscious in heaven or hell, or that they can return to visit the living.

- **Body Returns to Dust:** The body of the dead returns "to the earth as it was."
- **Spirit Returns to God:** The spirit returns "unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). This is explicitly cited and understood.
- **The Dead Do Not Return:** The dead are not conscious and do not return to visit the living. This belief is rejected as "fiction" and "profane and old wives' fables" (1 Timothy 1:4).
- **Scriptural Proof:** Job 7:9-10 (NLT) is used to affirm the finality of death: "those who die will not come back. They are gone forever from their home— never to be seen again."

II. The Return of Christ and Resurrection

The true hope for the dead is not an immediate afterlife, but the future return of Christ and the resurrection.

- **The First Resurrection:** The Lord Jesus Christ will descend from heaven with a loud command, and the "dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

- The Transformation: At the last trumpet, the living believers ("we will not all sleep") will be "changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye" to receive heavenly bodies (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
- Meeting in the Air: Both the resurrected dead and the transformed living will "meet Him in the air."

III. The Millennial Reign and Final Judgment

The text outlines the events following the resurrection:

- The Millennium: Those who share in the first resurrection are "blessed and holy." The second death has no power over them, and they will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:5-6). During this time, the faithful will rule the earth and preach the gospel to those left behind.
- Hardships on Earth: On Earth, there will be gnashing of teeth, hardships, and unbearable sufferings for the remaining inhabitants, who will seek death but never find it.
- Final Destruction: After the thousand years, the Lord and the faithful will go to heaven, and the earth and its remaining inhabitants who rejected Christ will be annihilated (destroyed by fire, referencing an earlier discussion).
- The Final Judgment: Judgment will ensue, where "the dead, great and small," will stand before the throne. They will be judged according to their works as recorded in the books, with the Book of Life being the basis for everyone's ultimate salvation (Revelation 20:12).

The Structure and Composition of the Bible

The Holy Bible is presented as the definitive Word of God, composed of two main sections:

- Writers: The Bible was written by more than 40 chosen people of God, including prophets and disciples, across the Old and New Testaments.
- Old Testament (OT): The first part, the OT, contains 39 books.
- New Testament (NT): The second part, the NT, contains 27 books.
- Total: The complete Holy Bible consists of 66 books.

The Bible's Authority and the Danger of False Teachings

The author places immense weight on the Bible as the only authoritative guide for Christian faith and practice.

- **Basis for Salvation:** The source for salvation and all Christian assertions must be derived exclusively from the Holy Bible, and not from "men's own conceived ideas and ideology."
- **Rejection of Human Authority:** The text cautions against those who disregard the Scriptures in their preaching. A preacher who is "no bookies" (i.e., someone who doesn't base their teachings on the book) should prompt immediate questioning about the source of their pronouncements.
- **The Warning:** Relying on human creations ("man's intellectual creations") for spiritual foundation, while neglecting the Bible, is a dangerous path. The author warns that salvation is not a joke and that the truth must never be distorted.
- **Curse on Distorters:** The strongest warning is against those who "distort, change and add anything in the word," with the Bible itself instructing believers to curse such individuals. This is a final admonition to "watch out" for professing prophets or messengers who are "fooling around," as following them places one's material and spiritual losses at hand.

The Holy Bible's origin is fundamentally divine, a truth affirmed by its internal consistency and transcendent wisdom. It was not conceived by the "private interpretation" or "own will" of ordinary men, but was penned by individuals "moved by the Holy Ghost" as they recorded the Word of God. This makes the Bible the sole, infallible source of truth and the foundation for Christian life and salvation.

The Divine Source and Human Instruments

The Bible's authority rests on its unique process of creation, termed divine inspiration:

- **Inspired by God:** All Scripture is "given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). It contains wisdom, prophecy, and law that surpasses the "conceived ideas and ideology" of any human mind.
- **Writers as Holy Vessels:** God selected specific individuals—prophets, apostles, and disciples—to be the instruments of His word. These "holy men of God" spoke and wrote only as they were "moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- **God's Scrutiny:** Although the writers were human and prone to sin, God had chosen them and "searches all hearts" to ensure their spiritual readiness and obedience to His commands.

Purpose and Authority

The Bible is an organized compilation that details the entire narrative of God's plan, from the beginning (Genesis) to the end (Revelation). Its purpose is comprehensive and life-altering:

- **Foundation for Salvation:** The written Word is the only basis for salvation. It makes men "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15) and is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."
- **Call for Purity:** Since the Bible is the sole standard, the text warns strongly against leaders who preach from "man's intellectual creations" instead of Scripture. Distorting, changing, or adding to the Word is condemned, placing the spiritual welfare of followers at risk.
- **Seeking Wisdom:** Recognizing that God is the source of all truth, those who lack wisdom are encouraged to ask God directly through prayer, as He "giveth to all men liberally" (James 1:5).
- **Guarantee That The Bible Is The Authentic Word Of God**
- Let us read Proverbs 8:8, "*All the words of my mouth are in righteousness, there is nothing forward or perverse in them*". God Himself is the one confirming that His Word is Righteousness. There is nothing forward and perverse in them. There is no doubt that everything written in the bible is authentic, as attested by the said verse that answered the question. What is some knowledge that man never knew until revealed by the bible? Another proof that the bible is the original and authentic Word of God is the mystery of men's innocence about the facts that have happened or are happening on earth, which the bible reveals and has been known to men.
- For example, in the past, people believed that the earth was flat; however, an astronomer named Galileo Galeli found out that it is round. Galileo revealed his findings and became one of the controversial figures in Italian history. Another one is the disputable theory of Charles Darwin of the evolution of life, in which it was stated that men transformed from the so-called Apemen. The Java men and Cro-Magno men transferred to natural men, accordingly. It was believed that the so-called Apemen were the transformatory origin of natural men.
- Logically, if Darwin asserted this theory and belief, that would be a disputable issue nowadays, because if man transformed from the ape to Java man, then to Cro Magno man, and gradually to natural man, it would happen the same thing all over again, that man would transform again from gorillas or apes nowadays. It may become a continuous life cycle, because according to the theory, it is the evolution and origin of man. In the 20th century, the first men made a historic landing on the moon.

- They took photographs of the Earth while on the space capsule. It showed the beautifully rounded figure of the earth. Would you believe that had it not been for the first men on the moon who took photos of the Earth, it would not have been proven that the Earth is round in the 20th century? This fact is already proven and told in the bible thousands of years ago, which came ahead of modern technology of modern men. The prophet Isaiah attested the fact in Isaiah 40:22, "*It is that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them to put as a tent to dwell in.*" This assertion of the prophet Isaiah proves that thousands of years ago, the earth was confirmed to be round (circular as stated in the verse), which the succeeding generations had never known until the 20th century. This became a dispute for many generations among scientists, philosophers, and mathematicians as well in olden times. These stated facts also confirm that the bible is also a scientific book.

The text presents a detailed theological argument asserting that the true "Church of God," which Christ redeemed with His blood, is prophesied to emerge in the final days from a Gentile nation in the East, which the author interprets to be the Philippines. This interpretation is used to invalidate the universality of the Catholic Church.

I. Critique of the Catholic Church and Definition of God's People

The author begins by dismissing the Roman Catholic Church's claim to be the universal (ubiquitous) Church of God, arguing that global reach is insufficient proof of divine favor.

- **Spiritual Deficiency:** The Catholic Church is said to have "spiritual deficiencies" and therefore cannot be the true people of God unless its members "hear and do the will of God and cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).
- **The True Church:** The only institution identified as the true body is the "church of God," which Christ "bought with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). The author rhetorically asserts that no other church on earth was redeemed by Christ's blood.

II. Prophecy of the Church from the East

The core of the argument rests on interpreting Old Testament prophecies as applying to the end-time emergence of a Christian Gentile nation in the Far East.

A. The East and West Gathering

- **Zechariah's Prophecy:** The text cites Zechariah 8:7 as a prophecy: "I will save my people from the east country, and from the west country." This is interpreted to mean that the last-day people of God will emerge from the Gentile nations of the East and West, not primarily from Israel (which had been God's people in the past).

- **The Gentiles Obtain Mercy:** The author supports this by citing 1 Peter 2:10, stating the Gentiles "were not a people, but are now the people of God," who have "obtained mercy."

B. Identification of the "Isles of the Sea"

- **Isaiah's Prophecy:** The specific location in the East is found in Isaiah 24:14-15, where those who glorify the Lord are heard "from the sea" and in the "isles of the sea." This phrase is definitively interpreted as referring to a country composed of many islands (an archipelago).
- **Pinpointing the Philippines:** By examining Christian demographics and geography in East Asia (Japan, China, Indonesia, etc.), the author concludes the Philippines is the only country that fulfills the criteria:
 1. It is an "isles of the sea" (comprising a thousand islands).
 2. It has Christianity as the most dominant religion, a trait absent in its Buddhist or Islamic-majority neighbors.

III. The End-Time Role and Standard of the True Church

The people emerging from the Philippines are assigned the final task of evangelism and are held to a specific spiritual standard.

- **Evangelism to the West:** These newly chosen people of God ("wise men") will be instrumental in spreading the gospel of salvation to the "west country," where many will also be saved.
- **Standard for Genuineness:** Acknowledging that multiple groups, including several called "Church of God," exist in the Philippines, the author sets the standard for the true church:
 1. It must "cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).
 2. It must not be founded by men.
 3. Its authenticity is measured by the teachings and whether its administration is sent by God.
- **Prophecy Fulfilled:** The ultimate test is whether this church fulfills the biblical standard, thereby proving itself to be the end-time people destined to receive God's promise of salvation on the last day.

The passage contends that the true Church of God is found in a group of believers—the "wise people of the East"—who are divinely appointed in the end times to receive and preach the full, previously "sealed" understanding of the Bible.

The End-Time Revelation and Its Preachers

The text focuses on the emergence of a specific group of Gentiles designated to receive the final light of salvation:

- **Understanding the Sealed Books:** The "wise people of the East" are key because they will be the ones given the insight to understand and preach the "sealed books of the bible." The author emphasizes that the Bible has not been fully understood since the time of Christ and the Apostles.
- **Global Proclamation:** As they preach this complete gospel understanding in the last days, many people will be purified and cleansed, becoming part of the Church of God and thus obtaining salvation.
- **Divine Selection:** This group's church was not founded by men, but its members "cleaved to that which is good and commanded in the bible." **Timing and Justification for Delayed Truth**

The author offers a theological explanation for why this complete understanding has been withheld until the present era:

- **Emergence in the Last Days:** This group, which "in time past were not a people" (1 Peter 2:10), is a Gentile fulfillment of prophecy, emerging in the "20th century or in the end time" as foretold in Zechariah.
- **The Problem of False Teachers:** The delay in revelation is attributed to the period after the Apostles, during which "many false prophets, false churches, and false Christs" emerged.
- **Spiritual Unworthiness:** These false teachers built their churches with "filthy hearts and intentions," seeking personal gain. Because of this superficiality and wickedness, they were "not bound to receive the understanding of the sealed Word," preventing the full truth from being revealed to the world until the chosen people of the East emerged.

Prophecy of the Sealed Book

The author establishes the prophetic sealing of the biblical understanding, which was intended to last for centuries:

- The Command to Seal: The prophet Daniel was commanded to "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end" (Daniel 12:4 and 12:9). The book was closed and "sealed till the time of the end."
- The Restoration: The author claims that the Church of God, built by Christ, has been restored in the last days, and consequently, the Bible has been "opened and unsealed" by the "wise men" appointed in this end time.

Indicators of the End Time

The unsealing of the Bible occurs concurrently with specific global events prophesied in Daniel. The author asserts that these events are all happening today, proving we are in the "prophetic generation."

1. Increased Knowledge

The prophecy states that in the time of the end, "knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4).

- Modern Evidence: The text points to a rapid and unprecedented explosion of knowledge in the present era, manifested through:
 - Modern Inventions and Technology: Discoveries, amazing explorations (underwater and space), modern technologies, robotics, and computers.
 - Financial Innovations: The introduction of modern financial methods like e-cards, credit cards, and ATMs, which facilitate fast and easy transactions.
 - The author concludes that such comprehensive advancement did not happen in the past and is unique to the present time.

2. Other Prophetic Events

The opening of the sealed book is tied to four other concurrent occurrences (Daniel 12:10):

- Many Shall Run to and Fro: (Implies rapid travel and global movement).
- Many Shall Be Purified: (Implies a spiritual cleansing or conversion among the believers).
- The Wicked Shall Do Wickedly: (Implies a surge in evil deeds).
- The Wise Shall Understand: (The key event, proving the unsealing of the Bible).

The author urges the reader to "observe and notice" that all these events are happening today, confirming that we are living in the last days before the coming of Christ.

The text continues its interpretation of the prophecy in Daniel 12:4 and 12:10, providing specific modern-day examples to argue that the four key indicators of the End Time are currently being fulfilled, coinciding with the restoration of the Church of God in the East and the unsealing of the Bible's mysteries.

Prophetic Indicators of the Last Days

The author ties specific global and societal phenomena to the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy, asserting that our time is the "prophetic generation."

1. Increase in Knowledge (Daniel 12:4)

The rapid acceleration of technology and discovery is presented as irrefutable proof of this prophecy:

- **Medical Advances:** The use of laser machines in surgery to remove gallstones and perform eye cataract removal.
- **Technological Sophistication:** The production of robots in manufacturing, the development of modern vehicles for rapid travel, and the replacement of physical currency with e-cards and credit cards for fast, safe transactions.
- **Destructive Capabilities:** The advancement of knowledge has also led to the manufacturing of fatal weapons for mass destruction, including chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons—a stark contrast to the swords and spears of past centuries.

2. Many Shall Be Purified (Daniel 12:10)

This refers to a spiritual awakening and cleansing among believers:

- **Gospel Effectiveness:** When people believe the gospel of salvation preached by the "wise people of God" (the end-time preachers), they get baptized and "turn away from their wicked ways," such as fornication, idolatry, stealing, and other forms of filthiness.
- **The Persistence of Truth:** Despite the proliferation of false churches and false prophets, the true teachings of the wise men will "persist and save many."

3. The Wicked Shall Do Wickedly (Daniel 12:10)

This describes the concurrent moral decay alongside spiritual purification:

- **Worse Wickedness:** The current era is characterized by an increase in wickedness that is "much worse than in the past."
- **Modern Aggravation:** This wickedness is often aggravated by the use of drugs.

- Visible Evidence: The daily news—via TV, print, and radio—is saturated with accounts of brutal killings, murders, massacres, robbery, arson, and cruelty.

4. The Wise Shall Understand (Daniel 12:10)

This is the central spiritual event of the End Time, signifying the unsealing of the Bible:

- Restoration of the Church: The original Church of God, which was "lost in the past," has been restored.
- Revelation of Mystery: No churches in past generations since the Apostles had the ability to "open up and understood the words" of the sealed book.
- The End-Time Agent: This revelation has occurred "in this era, when the end is at the threshold," through the "wise men and people of God in the east" who have cleaved to the true Church of God. The author concludes that this event marks the fulfillment of prophecy and proves the existence of "the church of God in the east" as the one church that has opened the sealed book of mystery.

Chapter 6

The text provides a brief history of the preservation and transmission of the Holy Bible's manuscripts, focusing on the original writing material, the persecution faced by early translators, and a major archaeological discovery.

I. Origin and Preservation of Manuscripts

The original writings of the New Testament apostles were physically documented on ancient materials and preserved through the efforts of dedicated groups.

- **Original Medium:** Approximately two thousand years ago, the first Apostles, including Apostle Paul (who wrote the most books in the Bible), recorded the teachings of Jesus Christ on animal skin, known as scrolls.
- **Early Preservation:** These scrolls were preserved and kept by "church-people" from generation to generation.
- **The Essenes:** A key Jewish group in Israel called the Essenes took custody of these writings, caring for them until they were eventually transferred to Bible scholars.
- **Translation Process:** Scholars translated the original Hebrew manuscripts into Greek and finally into the English language.

II. Persecution and Early English Translation

The process of translating the Bible into English faced severe opposition and persecution.

- **William Tyndale:** In 17th-century England, a priest named William Tyndale translated the Bible into an English version.
- **The Inquisition:** This era was marked by severe persecution of true believers and disciples of Christ. The reigning King banned the reading of the gospel and Christian gatherings.
- **Heretics and Burning:** Those who defied the order were branded as heretics, prosecuted in the Inquisition (the court of trial in the Dark Ages of Europe), and often burned alive if found guilty.

III. Modern Discovery of Scrolls

A significant modern discovery provided physical evidence supporting the antiquity of the biblical texts.

- **The Dead Sea Scrolls:** In the 19th century in Palestine, near the Dead Sea, a shepherd boy found earthen jars in a cave.
- **Contents and Analysis:** These jars contained scrolls with Aramaic writings. Bible scholars analyzed these fragments in Italy and concluded they were likely part of the original writings penned by the Apostles during Jesus Christ's time.

The text warns that the emergence of false prophets and teachers is a sign of the End Times, leading to global confusion and deception. It instructs believers to be cautious, using the Bible and the teacher's conduct as the sole criteria for verifying truth.

Identifying the True Messenger of God

To navigate the misinformation and avoid being misled by those with "different motives and interests," the text provides clear standards for identifying a true messenger of God:

1. **Scriptural Authority:** The true messenger must teach the Word that "no other teachers can defy, nor can it be denied based on the facts in the bible." The basis of their message must be undeniable biblical truth.
2. **Righteous Conduct:** The messenger must be "justified and tested by the way he lives," ensuring his life is "in adherence to what the bible is teaching about the true teacher of faith."

The Fate of False Prophets

The text highlights that many who appear righteous, even performing miracles, will be rejected by Christ because of their wicked hearts and perverse teachings:

- **Wicked Hearts:** Many preachers will be driven away by the Lord because they "do and teach things that are not founded in the bible" and preach the Word "perversely." The Lord searches their hearts and finds them wicked.
- **The Rejection:** Jesus warns that not all who call on Him will be saved. Many will claim, "they drove out evils in the Name of the Lord," but the Lord will say, "Away from me, evil doers, I do not know you!" This shows that even apparent miraculous works do not guarantee salvation if the heart and teaching are corrupt.

The Call to Self-Examination

To avoid deception, the ultimate responsibility falls on the believer to examine their own faith:

- **Test Yourself:** Believers are commanded to "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

- **The Test:** The key question is: "Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless, of course, you fail the test?" This ensures that the believer's spiritual foundation is sound, protecting them from the "deceivers" and their false teachings.

The text delivers a detailed argument emphasizing that salvation is a continuous, lifelong process requiring constant self-examination and adherence to Christ's teachings, directly challenging the notion of instant or passive assurance of eternal security.

Salvation: A Rigorous, Lifelong Process

The author stresses that the claim of being "already saved" upon conversion is premature and dangerous, as salvation is conditional upon persistent obedience and spiritual maturity.

The Error of Claiming Instant Salvation

The text strongly rebukes self-professed believers who "believe that they are still in Christ and yet are doing what is against the will of the Lord."

- **Acceptance is Not Assurance:** Merely accepting Christ as one's personal Lord and Savior is not enough to guarantee salvation on Judgment Day.
- **The Consequence of Disobedience:** If believers continue "doing wrong and keeping yourselves away from the teachings of Christ," there is "no way to be saved." Christ will ultimately deny those who are not on the "right track of the instructions of the gospel."

The Test of Fire

The life of a Christian is likened to a lengthy trial or process that must be completed:

- **Spiritual Maturity:** Believers may start as "babes in faith, being fed with milk," but they must mature to "eating meat or having been elders in the Word."
- **A Necessary Trial:** One cannot claim to be saved until they have passed "the test of fire," which is necessary to polish and reveal the "authenticity" of their faith, much like gold.
- **Finishing the Race:** The notion of being saved "until the last day" is wrong. Salvation requires finishing the race, a certainty only expressed by the Apostle Paul when he was old and nearing death, having completed his mission. The believer must "pass through the eye of a needle"—a metaphor for rigorous testing—before they can claim salvation.

Upholding Doctrinal Purity

In an environment where "many false prophets are gone out into the world," the believer is commanded to maintain spiritual vigilance and discernment.

- **Self-Examination is Commandment:** Believers must "examine and test ourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5) to ensure they are "still following the teachings of Christ."
- **Trying the Spirits:** The faithful must "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1). It is not only permissible but necessary to "compare one teaching with another" to "test the doctrine" and let the truth prevail (Ecclesiastes 7:27).

The Model of Apostle Paul: Spiritual Warfare

Paul's life exemplifies the rigorous and dangerous nature of Christian discipleship, which requires perpetual spiritual readiness.

- **Paul's Mission:** Paul was the only apostle to whom certain divine "mysteries were revealed." His life was an "adventurous journey... full of struggle," where he often "imperiled his life" to propagate the gospel.
- **The True Enemy:** Paul's battle was fundamentally spiritual, not physical. Believers "wrestle not against the flesh and blood," but against "principalities, against power, against the ruler of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).
- **The Whole Armor:** To withstand the spiritual enemy, believers must utilize the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:13-17):
 - Truth (girding the loins).
 - Righteousness (breastplate).
 - Gospel of Peace (shodding the feet).
 - Faith (shield, to quench the fiery darts).
 - Salvation (helmet).
 - Word of God (the Sword of the Spirit).

This armor was Paul's method for protecting himself and confronting the spiritual enemies of the Lord in their own jurisdiction.

The text focuses on two primary Christian duties: obedience to established human authority based on God's sovereignty, and the need to defend Christian teachings through peaceful debate, drawing heavily on the examples and teachings of the Apostle Paul.

I. Obedience to the Will of God in Authority

The author establishes that Christian obedience to governing authorities is mandatory because all authority is ultimately instituted by God.

A. Submission to Civil Law

- **Divine Mandate:** Believers must "submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake" (1 Peter 2:13). This submission is required whether the authority is a king (supreme) or a governor (sent by him).
- **God's Sovereignty:** Even if a believer dislikes the current authority, they are compelled to obey because their rise to power is ultimately the "will of the Supreme authority, that is, God." God is in control of who is installed and who is removed at the right time.
- **Purpose of Authority:** Governing officials are sent "for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of them that do well" (1 Peter 2:14).

B. Rendering Dues and Treating Others Wisely

- **Duty to Honor:** Believers must "Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom wisdom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor" (Romans 13:7). This is done respectfully and for the sake of Christ.
- **Interacting with Unbelievers:** Believers must mingle with unbelievers wisely, being "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). They should not cause trouble but treat others gently and wisely.
- **Love for Enemies:** Genuine Christians must manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit by loving their enemies and blessing those who curse them (Matthew 5:42-44), serving as a light to unbelievers.

II. Debating and Defending the Teachings of Christ

The text asserts that it is not only permissible but necessary to debate with adversaries to defend the gospel, while maintaining ethical standards.

A. Paul's Exclusive Wisdom

The Apostle Paul is highlighted as a unique figure who received unparalleled revelation:

- He was the only apostle who experienced heavenly learning when his spirit was taken to the "third heaven" (2 Corinthians 12:2), receiving secret knowledge that was not given to other apostles, prophets, or even angels.

B. The Biblical Precedent for Debate

- Legitimacy of Disputation: It is not unbiblical or unethical to debate non-believers and religious fanatics about the true teachings of Christ.
- Examples of Apostles:
 - Stephen disputed with various Jewish sects (Libertines, Cyrenians, etc.) who "were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake" (Acts 6:9).
 - Paul (Saul) "increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ" (Acts 9:22).
- Conditions for Debate: Disputing one's faith is appropriate only if it is peaceful, non-violent, observes sportsmanship, and is done for the purpose of declaring the real teachings of Christ. Believers should avoid engaging with adversaries who are violent or malicious.

C. Warnings Against False Doctrines

The text concludes with a final warning regarding the source of false teachings:

- Characteristics of False Teachers: Anyone who teaches contrary to the "wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ," is described as proud, ignorant, and prone to "doting about questions and strife of words," leading to envy and strife (1 Timothy 6:3-4).
- Danger of Deceit: Believers must "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

CHAPTER 7

Distinction Of The Creators

Distinction Between God and the Son

Christ being "**One in Being.**" The author asserts that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are **separate, distinct Beings** who differ in **authority and lordship**. The core argument is based on a non-literal interpretation of verses claiming "Oneness."

The Distinction Between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The author argues that a failure to distinguish the three persons leads to the "wrong notion" of the Trinity, which the text explicitly states is "**no such thing... in the bible.**"

- **Supreme Authority:** The **Father (God-head)** is the "**most powerful and Supreme God.**"
- **The Sent God:** The **Son (Jesus Christ)** is the God "**who was sent by the Father to save mankind on earth.**"
- **Separate Beings:** The text concludes that the Father and the Son are "**separate Beings and distinctive from each other,**" arguing that they are not "one in being."

Reinterpreting "We Are One" (John 10:30)

The author strongly rejects the literal interpretation of **John 10:30** ("I and my Father are one") as meaning they are the same person. Instead, "Oneness" is defined as unity of purpose, not identity of being.

- **Analogy of Marriage:** The Oneness of the Father and Son is compared to the Oneness of a husband and wife, who become "one flesh" (**Matthew 19:5-6**). The husband does not become the wife, nor does the wife become the husband; their unity is in **purpose, relationship, and destiny** (e.g., "one in their obligations as couples, one in family bearing").
- **Analogy of the Body:** Similarly, the body of Christ has "many members," but all are "one body" (**1 Corinthians 12:12**), signifying organic unity and purpose, not singular identity.
- **Unity of Purpose (Caretakers):** The true Oneness of the Father and Son is found in their **shared role as caretakers** or **Good Shepherds** of the flock. Both are equally invested in the eternal life and security of believers, ensuring that "**no man can pluck them out**" of their hands (**John 10:28-29**).

Proof of Separate Beings and Degrees of Authority

The text provides scriptural evidence to assert that the Father and the Son operate as distinct entities with a clear hierarchy.

- **Jesus Calling the Father:** While on the cross, Jesus "**lifted his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come**" (John 17:1). If the Son and the Father were "One in Being," Jesus would not have needed to look up to heaven and call out to another Being; He would have simply called for Himself.
- **The Father is Greater:** Jesus explicitly stated the hierarchy: "**I go unto the Father, for my Father is greater than I**" (John 14:28).
- **Servant is Not Greater Than Sender:** Jesus also affirmed the distinction between the one who sends and the one who is sent: "**the servant is not greater than His Lord; neither He that is Sent greater than He that sent Him**" (John 13:16). This confirms the Son's subordinate role to the Supreme Father who sent Him as Savior.

Oneness is in Purpose, Not Identity

The author reinforces the distinction between the Father and the Son by comparing their unity to the unity believers are commanded to share.

- **Unity in the Church:** Believers are meant to be "**one with one another in the spirit and faith,**" specifically by "**stand[ing] fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel**" (Philippians 1:27). This Oneness is in their shared doctrine and purpose, not their physical being.
- **Unity of Father and Son:** Christ's prayer that His saved people "**may be one, as we are one**" (John 17:11) refers to a unity of "**common belief and doctrine**" and shared "**work and purpose for the salvation of men.**"
- **Conclusion:** This unity in purpose confirms that the Father and the Son are **separate and distinct beings**, not "**oneness in being.**"

The Supreme Nature of God the Father

The text transitions to establishing the uncreated, eternal nature of **God the Father** as the Supreme Being.

- **God Has No Origin:** The question of whether God the Father has a Father is definitively answered by **Isaiah 43:10**: "**before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.**"
- **Eternal Being:** God is a **Supreme Being and Creator** who is not created and has "**no beginning and no end.**"

- **Limitation of Human Thought:** The author warns that believers should not attempt to "**fathom and think about God's origin,**" as doing so is an **offense** that casts doubt and violates the principle of thinking "**soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith**" (**Romans 12:3**). God's thoughts and ways are beyond human comprehension (**Isaiah 55:8**).

Distinction Between Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

The author assigns authority based on the principle that the Sender is greater than the Sent, placing Jesus Christ in a superior position to the Holy Spirit.

Christ's Authority Over the Holy Spirit

- **The Son as Sender:** The text asserts that **Jesus Christ is greater than the Holy Spirit (Ghost)** because Christ is shown to send the Spirit. **John 15:26** states: "**But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth... he shall testify of me.**"
- **The Father's Role:** While the Father sends the Holy Spirit *in Christ's name* to act as a Comforter and Teacher (**John 14:26**), Christ's ability to send the Spirit directly from the Father proves the Son's higher authority.

The Hierarchy of the God-head

Based on the previous and current arguments, a clear hierarchy is established:

1. **God the Father:** The **Supreme Being** and **Most High God**.
2. **Jesus Christ, the Son:** The **second-highest in authority**, sent by the Father and greater than the Holy Spirit.
3. **The Holy Spirit:** The third in authority, sent by both the Father and the Son.

Unity, Creation, and Subjection

The author confirms that these three distinct beings are united in their work, despite the difference in authority.

One in Creation (The Three Creators)

- The three beings are referred to as "**Creators**" because they were together in the act of creation.
- **Genesis 1:26** ("**Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...**") is cited to prove that **God was not alone** but was accompanied by the Son and the Holy Spirit at the beginning.

- **Note:** The text reiterates that the term "**Trinity**" is **not found in the Bible** and is rejected as a doctrine.

The Ultimate Subjection to the Most High God

Despite their shared creative role, the hierarchy is confirmed to be eternal, with all beings eventually subjected to the Father.

- **Christ's Subjection:** **1 Corinthians 15:27-28** states that after Christ has put all things under His feet, the **Son also himself shall be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**
- **Single Supreme God:** The Father is the "**only one Supreme and Most High God,**" while Jesus Christ is also God (born of God) but will remain subject to the Father.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is affirmed as an active part of the God-head with specific functions crucial to believers:

- **Function as Guide:** When the **Spirit of Truth** comes, "he will **guide you into all truth...** and he will **show you things to come**" (**John 16:13**). The Spirit speaks not of Himself, but only what He hears from the Father.
- **Function as Intercessor:** The Spirit also "**helpeth our infirmities**" and "**maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered**" when believers do not know how to pray (**Romans 8:26**).

Jesus Christ as God

Yes, the text asserts that Jesus Christ is God. While acknowledging that some non-Christian and even some Christian groups view Him as only a man or a prophet, the author uses several biblical passages to argue for Christ's divinity, focusing on His pre-existence and divine origin.

Biblical Proof of Christ's Divinity

The author uses a chain of reasoning based on John's Gospel and Paul's writing to establish that Jesus is God incarnate.

1. The Word Was God

The core argument traces Jesus back to His pre-existence:

- John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

- John 1:14: This Word was "made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jesus Christ), possessing the "glory of the only begotten of the Father."

2. God Manifested in the Flesh

The New Testament clearly identifies Jesus as the embodiment of divinity:

- 1 Timothy 3:16: "God was manifest in the flesh..." The author confirms this refers to Jesus Christ, who was "sent by God on earth and born of flesh to save the world."

3. Conclusive Declaration of Deity

The text explicitly cites a verse that identifies Jesus as God:

- 1 John 5:20: "He is the true God and eternal life."
- Conclusion: The author argues that since Jesus is the Son of the living God, and "whatever is born of God is God," He must be God.

Reconciling the Human and Divine Natures

The text addresses the apparent contradiction that Jesus was called a "man."

The Dual Nature

- Pre-existence: Jesus was a Spirit when He was with God in heaven. He was "born of the Father God in the spirit" before being sent to Earth.
- Incarnation: He was sent to Earth "in the form of flesh" (born of the Virgin Mary) in order to live with human beings.
- Acknowledging Humanity: The verse John 8:40 ("But now ye seek to kill me, a man, that hath told you the truth...") is acknowledged as referring to Christ's physical status on Earth—He was "physically in the flesh and blood." However, this does not negate His divine origin.
- Coming from God: Jesus Himself clarifies His origin, stating, "I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me" (John 8:42).

The Meaning of "Eating Flesh"

The text also interprets the metaphorical language of Christ's teachings:

- John 6:51-54: Jesus referred to the bread He would give as "my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world," stating that those who eat His flesh have "eternal life."
- Interpretation: This is not literal (men should not eat human flesh). The "flesh" being referred to is the Word of God—the teachings of Christ that must be obeyed to gain eternal life.

The text argues that God the Father "begat" His Son, Jesus Christ, in the beginning, making Jesus God because "the one that is begotten of God is God." This begetting is presented as a singular, pre-creation event conceived by God's mind, distinct from human understanding of conception.

Connecting to the "Origin of God"

Your initial statement suggests applying this framework to the philosophical/theological question of the origin of God:

"asking the origin of God is absurd and should not be conceived in anyone's mind..."

While the verses themselves do not explicitly mention the "origin of God," one could argue that:

- The Concept of God: Traditionally, God is defined as the uncreated and eternal source of all existence. To ask for God's "origin" implies that God is a created being who began at a certain point, which contradicts the fundamental theological definition of God as the First Cause (uncaused cause).
- The Application of **Romans 12:3**: A mind that attempts to subject the uncreated God to the rules of created existence (like having an origin) could be seen as "**thinking more highly than he ought to think**"—specifically, attempting to place human logic above divine nature—rather than thinking with a "sober judgment" informed by faith.
- The Application of Romans 12:2: To accept the mystery and the eternal nature of God requires the "renewal of your mind" to a truth (God's uncreated nature) that is often counter-intuitive to the natural human experience of a created world.

In summary, you're using these verses to suggest that the *presumption* of human reason to fully comprehend or define God's ultimate nature, especially by applying concepts like "origin" that are reserved for created things, is a form of intellectual hubris that the Bible cautions against.

Would you like to explore other biblical passages that address God's eternal nature or the limits of human understanding?

The Begetting of Jesus Christ

The author addresses the concept of God begetting His Son by first challenging the traditional view that only the female can conceive, offering the seahorse as a biological example of male conception.

God's Conception of the Son

Scriptural Proof:

Hebrews 1:5 is cited: "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?"

Proverbs 8:22 places the Son's origin "in the beginning of his way, before his works of old," where the Lord "possessed" the Son.

Christ's Pre-existence and Divinity

Because the Son was "begotten from the beginning" by God, Jesus Christ "is God"—the principle being that "the one that is begotten of God is God."

Proverbs 8:24-32 further details the Son's existence prior to creation (before the depths, mountains, hills, and earth were made). The Son was present "by him, as one brought up with him" as God prepared the heavens and established the foundations of the earth.

God's Location During Creation

The text briefly touches on the location of God the Father when the Son was begotten and creation began:

- God was in "His habitable part of his earth" (Proverbs 8:31). This is described as "no ordinary earth" like the one currently inhabited by man, but God's own original dwelling place.

The text addresses the identity of the Supreme Savior, arguing that while both the Father and the Son are Saviors, God the Father is ultimately the Supreme Savior and the Living God, thereby confirming the distinct hierarchy previously established.

I. God the Father as the Supreme Savior

The author uses a key New Testament verse to identify the ultimate source of salvation.

- 1 Timothy 4:10 is cited: "We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially to those that believe."
- Identity of the Living God: The text asserts that this Living God is "no other than God the Father, who is the Savior of all men." This refers to God's work of salvation across all generations, from creation to the last man.
- Peter's Confession: The distinction is confirmed by Matthew 16:16-17, where Peter identifies Christ as "the Son of the living God." Jesus confirms that this truth was revealed to Peter by "my Father which is in Heaven." Therefore, the Living God is identified as God, the Father of our Lord **Jesus Christ**.

II. The Plurality of Gods and the Hierarchy

Reiterating the previous arguments, the author clarifies the relationship between the Father and the Son.

- **Many Gods, One Supreme:** The author states that there are "many Gods," but "only one most powerful God, and that is God the Father."
- **The Son's Role:** The Son Jesus Christ is the "next God," who is also a powerful God and Savior of mankind. Both the Father and the Son are currently in heaven.

III. Warning Against False Christs

The text concludes with a warning about the danger of false teachers, linking spiritual safety to knowing the genuine teachings of Christ.

- **Danger of Deception:** Believers are warned that there will be "many false prophets that will come out of this world, saying they are the Christ and will mislead many."
- **Salvation Through Knowledge:** To avoid being misled, Christians must know the Word and teachings of the genuine Jesus Christ in the Bible. Accepting Christ without knowing His commandments endangers one's salvation in the last day.

I. The Spirit's Role in Creation and Divine Hierarchy

The Holy Spirit (or Spirit of God) is identified as one of the "Creators," a co-participant with the Father and the Son, yet within a defined structure of authority.

- **Co-Creator Status:** The plural pronouns in Genesis 1:26 ("Let us make man in our image") confirm the Holy Spirit's role alongside the other Gods. Genesis 1:1-2 specifies the "Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," and Psalm 104:30 attributes the renewal and shaping of the earth to the Spirit.
- **Locating God:** The text advises against speculating on the Father's location during creation ("His created earth"), adhering only to what is "written in the bible" (1 Corinthians 4:6).

II. The Spirit's End-Time Mission and Guidance

After Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit was sent as the crucial guide for believers and the source of spiritual truth.

- **The Comforter:** Christ promised to ask the Father to send "another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17).
- **Functions for Believers:** The Spirit's role is to:

- Teach and Remind: Teach "all things, and bring all things to your remembrance" (John 14:26).
- Guide and Reveal: "Guide you into all truth" and "show you things to come" (John 16:13), operating not by human will but by relaying messages from heaven (2 Peter 1:21).
- Intercede and Testify: It "helpeth our infirmities" in prayer (Romans 8:26) and "beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

III. Spiritual Life, Conflict, and False Practices

The presence of the Spirit transforms a person, enabling them to overcome sin, but believers must distinguish true guidance from false manifestations.

- New Creation: A person in Christ becomes a "new creation" and is called to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:16). This spiritual walk is in contrast to the "lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:17).
- Fruits of the Spirit: The authenticity of the Spirit is shown through moral and spiritual qualities: "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith" (Galatians 5:22).
- Rejection of Unscriptural Acts: The practice of being "slain in the spirit" (falling during a laying on of hands) is condemned as being "nowhere in the pages of the bible."
- The Seven Spirits and Evil Spirits: God possesses "seven Spirits" (wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord - Isaiah 11:2). The Bible also confirms that God may send "evil spirits" (as happened to Saul - 1 Samuel 16:14-15) for the discipline of men, though He promises to pour out good spirits on the obedient (Proverbs 1:23).

IV. Prophecy, Knowledge, and Modern Science

The document closes by affirming Christ's eternal consistency while interpreting modern technological feats as the fulfillment of ancient prophecy.

- Modernity Foretold: The End Time is confirmed by Daniel 12:4, which predicted two key modern phenomena:
 1. "Knowledge shall be increased": Manifested through current technological wonders like advanced medical science, robotics, and the discovery of iron and metals for human progress.

2. "Many shall run to and fro": Manifested through modern transportation (vehicles, aircraft, seacraft), enabling people to travel globally.
- Technology is Not Evil: These advancements are the product of man's increasing knowledge and are instrumental for man's welfare and good. Believers are cautioned not to be misled by those who preach that advanced technology is the "work of the devil."

I. The Immutability of God Versus the Mutability of Law

The author establishes a distinction between God's essence (which is fixed) and His requirements for humanity (which can be modified).

- God's Eternal Nature: God is consistently described as "the same yesterday, today, and forever." His capacity to perform wonders and miracles is continuous, with the daily safety of people ("going to and fro") being cited as evidence of His ongoing miraculous power.
- Necessity of Legal Change: Despite God's immutability, the law has been subject to change. This change was necessitated by the shift in religious authority, as "the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law" (Hebrews 7:12).

II. Advancing Beyond Elementary Doctrines

The change in law means that believers must abandon the foundational teachings of the past and pursue spiritual maturity.

- The Command to Advance: Believers are commanded to "leav[e] the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection" (Hebrews 6:1). This means not reverting to foundational lessons but striving toward spiritual completeness.
- The Practices to Be Abandoned: The author interprets the "principles of the doctrine of Christ" as elementary teachings that should be disregarded in the present day. These include:
 - Repentance from dead works.
 - Faith toward God.
 - The doctrine of baptisms.
 - The doctrine of laying on of hands (specifically for the sick).
 - The resurrection of the dead.
 - Eternal judgment.

- **Focus on Current Teachings:** The core instruction is to adhere to and follow the teachings of Christ today, recognizing that the old works are "commanded to be abandoned" and "shall not affect today" because the law governing those practices has changed.

CHAPTER 8

The Christ Of The Bible

The Identity and Role of Christ According to the Bible

Christ: The Anointed Son of God

The central affirmation regarding Jesus is that he is the Christ, which means the "Anointed One." This title signifies his fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.

- Peter's Confession (Matthew 16:16): The core declaration of Christ's identity comes from Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Divine Revelation (Matthew 16:17): Jesus' response to Peter confirmed that this recognition was a truth divinely revealed by God the Father, not a conclusion drawn by human wisdom: "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." This emphasized the unique, non-human source of this essential knowledge.

Christ as Mediator and Savior

The Bible clearly establishes Jesus Christ as the Savior of mankind, but also carefully defines his relationship to God the Father and his ultimate role.

- The Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5): Scripture clarifies Christ's vital role as the link between the divine and the human: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." He bridges the gap between God and humanity.
- A Sent Savior: While Jesus Christ is undeniably the Savior of mankind, he was sent by the living God (the Father) to die for us and save us. The ultimate authority and origin of salvation rests with the Father.
- Ultimate Hope and Overall Savior (1 Timothy 4:10): The Apostle Paul stated that our hope is put in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially those who believe. This points to God the Father as the overarching, ultimate Savior, who commissioned Christ's saving work.

The Sovereignty of God the Father

Your analysis highlights the belief that God the Father is the supreme authority in the plan of salvation:

- **Source of Salvation:** While the Son executes the saving work, credit is ultimately due to the living God, the Father of Jesus Christ, who is the overall Savior who sent Him.
- **Future Submission:** The ultimate goal is that after saving humanity, Christ will deliver them to God the Father, under whose authority all, including the Son, will eventually be.

Conclusion: Why Know These Facts?

Knowing these facts from the Bible is crucial because salvation involves more than just a literal acceptance of Jesus Christ. It requires a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) and an understanding of the relationship between God the Father and God the Son, which informs the law to be obeyed and deepens our relationship with Him.

Life is What We Maketh

Life: A Choice, Not a Decree

The belief that our entire future is predetermined—or "destined by God"—is fundamentally mistaken. Instead, man is the driver of his own future, with God serving as a guide. Our existence is shaped by our efforts and choices, a sentiment captured by the accurate Shakespearean insight: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." We make our own destiny by surviving the rigors of life on earth.

The only certainty in human life is death. Hebrews 9:27 confirms this boundary: "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." Beyond this singular, fixed fate, however, we are not predetermined. God desires a good future for us and places the burden of choice squarely on our shoulders. Deuteronomy 30:19 mandates this agency: "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life..." This command ensures we reap the fruits of our labor. If we choose to exert effort and act for good, we succeed; if we make bad choices or refuse to work, we face impoverishment and failure.

This principle of choice explains the existence of the rich and the poor. While Proverbs 22:2 notes that "The Lord is the Maker of them all," the resulting disparity is the consequence of individual actions, diligence, and choices made under the system of free will. Everyone has a purpose to serve one another, and both the wealthy and the poor must struggle—one to preserve wealth, the other to improve status.

Furthermore, even the certainty of death is subject to God's ultimate authority. The story of King Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:1-7) proves that God can change His own decrees. When the King was told he would die, his fervent prayer moved God to grant him an additional fifteen years of life. God has the sole authority to change things as He wills, demonstrating that destiny is not a rigid law but a matter of divine grace and human devotion (Proverbs 10:27).

This model of free will applies to most of humanity. Only a select few, such as the prophets Jeremiah and the Apostle Paul, were pre-destined or chosen by God before birth for specific, singular missions (Jeremiah 1:5, Galatians 1:13-15). For the rest of us, free will dictates the kind of life we live. Our future is uncertain and constantly changing, meaning our path is shaped daily by the choices we freely make.

Divine Integrity and the Warning Against Deception

The reliability of human freedom and divine promise is founded on the unchangeable character of God. While Matthew 19:26 states, "With God all things are possible," there is one crucial exception rooted in His perfection: God cannot lie. As Titus 1:2 confirms, God "does not lie," and Romans 3:4 declares, "Let God be true, and every man a liar." Unlike flawed humanity, Christ Himself "did not sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:21-22).

This divine integrity necessitates vigilance. The liar is the servant of the devil (John 8:44), and false teachers who "preach any other gospel" are condemned (Galatians 1:8). These deceivers are rampant, often transforming themselves into the "apostles of Christ" or even acting like an "angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:13).

Therefore, we are commanded to exercise careful discernment. 1 John 4:1 instructs us to "try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." You can know whether a teaching is of God if the speaker seeks the glory of the one who sent him, rather than speaking of himself to seek his own glory (John 7:17-18). When the topic is the soul's salvation, we must test every statement against the verified teachings of Christ in the Bible, lest we are deceived and led to spiritual death.

Divine Sovereignty and Human Agency (Concise)

Human life is defined by the tension between **God's absolute sovereignty** and the **agency of mankind**. Our destiny is not rigidly predetermined; instead, God acts as a guide, while man drives his own future through continuous choice.

The Primacy of Human Choice

Our future is a summation of decisions, not fixed fate. God places the responsibility of outcome directly on us, commanding us to choose between life and death, blessings and curses (**Deuteronomy 30:19**). This choice dictates our earthly success or failure, explaining the existence of rich and poor.

While death remains the single fixed point for every person (**Hebrews 9:27**), even this ultimate certainty can be bent by divine grace, as King Hezekiah's fifteen-year life extension demonstrates (**Isaiah 38:1-7**). This model of choice applies to the vast majority;

only a select few are **pre-destined** for specific missions (like the prophets), leaving the rest of humanity to shape a fluid future through free will.

The Foundation of Divine Integrity

Human freedom is dependable because it rests upon an absolute truth: God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**). This contrasts with humanity, as **Romans 3:4** declares all men liars. Because the devil is the source of deceit (**John 8:44**), we must be highly vigilant against false prophets and teachers who operate under disguise (**2 Corinthians 11:13**). We are commanded to **“try the spirits whether they are of God”** (**1 John 4:1**), testing every spiritual statement against the verified teachings of Christ to safeguard our salvation.

The Purpose of Affliction: Manifesting Divine Power

The existence of crippled, ill-starred, or deformed individuals is not necessarily punishment for sin. Instead, the scriptures state these conditions may exist **“that the works of God should be made manifest”** in the afflicted person (**John 9:3**). We, as the created, cannot question the Maker. **Romans 9:20** reminds us that the pot cannot question the potter: “Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?” God claims authorship over all human physical conditions—making “the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind”—to attest to His **unchallengeable will and omnipotent creative power** (**Exodus 4:11**).

Conclusion

Our highest calling is to live within this paradox: wisely employing the **freedom of choice**, maintaining **vigilance against deception**, and submitting with humility to the magnificent, all-powerful will of the Creator.

What Happens as a Result of Integrity (Spiritual Life)

The essay stresses the danger of **deception** because the outcome is eternal:

- **Deception Leads to Perdition:** If you are convinced by false teachings or follow a false prophet (who speaks of self, not Christ), you have entrusted your soul to deceit. The ultimate consequence is that both the false prophet and the follower would “plunge to the pit of the burning lake of fire on the last day.”
- **Vigilance Leads to Salvation:** If you wisely employ **vigilance** (trying the spirits and testing every statement against the Bible), you safeguard your soul by following the true teachings of Christ.

What Happens at the End (The Fixed Point)

Regardless of earthly status or spiritual path, one event is certain for everyone:

- **Death and Judgment:** **Death** is the single fixed point in destiny (**Hebrews 9:27**). After dying once, every person is destined "to face judgment."

The essay argues that the only thing that can change a specific time of death is direct, divine intervention, such as when King Hezekiah's life was extended through prayer.

Which of these consequences—the earthly, the spiritual, or the eternal—would you like to discuss in more detail?

CHAPTER 9

Knowledge of Salvation

What are the ways to be saved before the last day comes? As mentioned earlier, we must continue in the Word of God, for the Bible is the source of knowledge that teaches us what to do and how to obey Him.

Let us read **1 Corinthians 15:1–2**:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

In this passage, Paul reminds the believers that the gospel he preached must be kept in their hearts and minds, for through it we are saved. He further emphasizes in **Romans 1:16**:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

From these verses, we understand that the gospel is one of the essential ways to salvation.

As the end draws near, many events will unfold. We have already discussed the signs of the times, and another sign is that *many will be cleansed and purified*. This means that many will seek the truth in the Bible to gain understanding. However, the wicked—those whose hearts are not right before God—will never truly comprehend it, no matter how much they read.

In **Daniel 12:4**, it is written:

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

This prophecy points to our present age, where travel and knowledge have greatly increased through modern advancements. Yet, despite this growth in worldly knowledge, spiritual understanding remains granted only to those who truly seek God.

As baptized Christians, we are called to *walk by faith* in a new path—one that leads to righteousness and eternal life. We must remain steadfast, for those who follow Christ will surely face tribulation. But through perseverance and faith, we maintain our salvation and draw nearer to the promise of everlasting life.

he Trials and Perseverance of a True Christian

As followers of Christ, we must expect to face sufferings and trials in our Christian journey. The Bible clearly foretells this in **Matthew 24:9**:

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.”

A true disciple of Christ must understand that tests and persecutions are part of the Christian life. Do not be surprised when the world turns against you, for this has already been declared by the Lord. In **Matthew 10:22**, Jesus said:

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake; but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

Indeed, those who endure to the end, despite hatred and affliction, shall receive the reward of **salvation**.

Even more painful, perhaps, is that opposition may come from one’s own family. Jesus said in **Matthew 10:36**:

“And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”

Yet amid all tribulations, the Lord has given His assurance of peace and victory. As He said in **John 16:33**:

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

Being a Christian is not easy—especially for those who are newly baptized. Every believer must pass through the **test of fire**, a refining process that purifies the heart and strengthens faith, just as gold is purified through fire.

Can salvation be forfeited or lost? Yes, it can. It is not true that once a person becomes a believer, they are saved forever. Salvation is a **lifelong process** that must be guarded and nurtured. As the Apostle Paul admonishes in **2 Corinthians 13:5**:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

Therefore, Christians must be diligent in preserving the gift of salvation. It is dangerous to neglect it or to live carelessly, thinking that faith alone without obedience is enough. We must **keep God’s commandments**, live righteously, and continually strive to do good. Though it may be difficult, obedience to His Word is the key to salvation. Those who persevere in faith and righteousness will be saved on the last day.

Brethren, while there is still time, **seek the Lord** and discover His will so that you may be counted among the saved when that great day comes. The Lord Himself has instructed us to inquire of those who teach His Word, as written in **Haggai 2:11**:

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying...”

It is essential to study the Scriptures and to discern whether our spiritual leaders are teaching the truth of God. By doing so, we protect ourselves from deception, for false prophets abound in these perilous times.

Finally, as Paul exhorts in **Philippians 2:12**:

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Let us, therefore, live our faith with reverence and vigilance. Let us endure hardships, hold firmly to the truth, and continue to work out our salvation until the end—trusting that the Lord who has overcome the world will grant us eternal life.

Path to Salvation

In 2 Timothy 2:22, the apostle Paul instructs:

“Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

A pure heart is essential to receiving salvation. If we continue to harbor iniquity and impurity within, we distance ourselves from the grace of God. The prophet Isaiah warns of this truth in Isaiah 59:11:

“We look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.”

Indeed, salvation cannot be found by those whose hearts remain defiled and unrepentant.

In 1 Thessalonians 4:1–5, Paul exhorts the believers to live lives pleasing to God:

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God.”

To walk in the path of salvation, one must live a holy and sanctified life, aligned with God's will as revealed in His Word. Jesus Himself laid down this condition for discipleship in Luke 9:23:

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

A life that pleases God requires self-denial, daily discipline, and perseverance. No one can claim to be without sin, for as it is written in Romans 3:23, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Yet the Lord offers forgiveness and cleansing to all who humbly confess their sins.

1 John 1:8–9 teaches:

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Therefore, forgiveness begins with confession and repentance. When we acknowledge our sins before God, He is merciful to forgive and restore us. As Psalm 32:5 declares:

“I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”

However, genuine repentance means turning away from sin and not returning to it. We must not take God’s grace for granted by continuing to sin willfully. The Scripture warns in Hebrews 10:26:

“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”

Thus, the path to salvation is a continual journey of faith, repentance, and obedience. It is a life of holiness, guided by God’s Word and sustained by His grace. We must flee from sin, walk in righteousness, and seek to please the Lord daily—until the day we receive the full reward of eternal life.

Forfeiture of Salvation of Christians

Some Christian leaders today teach that once a person becomes a believer, he or she is **saved forever**, regardless of how they live afterward. This teaching, commonly known as “**once saved, always saved**,” is popular in some Western churches that now operate globally. However, such a belief contradicts the clear teachings of Scripture, which warn that **salvation can be lost** if it is neglected.

In **2 Corinthians 13:5**, the Apostle Paul exhorts believers:

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

Paul’s words remind us that we must constantly evaluate our faith and conduct. A Christian who turns away from belief, who neglects the teachings of Christ, and who no longer walks in obedience may ultimately find himself rejected by the Lord.

Salvation is **not merely the act of accepting Jesus Christ**, but it also involves **obeying His teachings and living according to His commandments**. True acceptance of Christ means embracing His Word, His example, and His Spirit. As Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 15:1–2**:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

This passage makes it clear that salvation is **conditional**—we are saved *if we hold firmly* to the gospel we have received. Neglecting or forgetting the teachings of Christ leads to spiritual downfall.

The book of Hebrews gives a solemn warning about this danger. **Hebrews 6:4–6** states:

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

This means that those who have once received salvation—who have experienced God’s grace and the power of His Spirit—but later **turn away** from the faith, commit a grave sin. In abandoning the truth, they dishonor Christ and, as the Scripture says, “crucify Him afresh.”

Therefore, Christians must **guard their faith** diligently. Salvation is a gift, but it requires continuous obedience, faithfulness, and perseverance. It is not something to be taken for granted or assumed to be permanent without spiritual effort.

Let every believer remember: to **neglect the Word**, to **abandon righteousness**, or to **return to sinful ways** is to risk losing the salvation that was once received. As Christ Himself taught, only those who **endure to the end** shall be saved.

Can Those Who Are Saved Be Always Saved?

How then can we say that those who are saved are *always* saved? This belief cannot be justified, especially when it is used to excuse **repeated and willful sin**. Some claim that because they once became children of God, they are forever secure regardless of their actions. But this is not what the Scriptures teach.

A true Christian who sins **unintentionally** may still receive forgiveness through repentance. However, those who **persist in sin willfully**—knowing the truth yet choosing to disobey it—will not be forgiven. The Bible warns of this spiritual danger.

In **James 1:14–15**, we read:

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

When a person allows temptation to dominate his heart, lust produces sin, and sin ultimately leads to **death**—not just physical death, but eternal separation from God.

The book of **Hebrews 10:26–27** gives a grave warning:

“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

This means that those who deliberately and continually sin after knowing the truth reject the very sacrifice of Christ. For them, there remains no further offering for forgiveness—only the fearful expectation of judgment.

Some Christians, however, misinterpret **Ephesians 2:8–9**, which says:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

They conclude from this that salvation requires **faith alone** and that **good works** are unnecessary. But this is a misunderstanding of Paul’s teaching. While it is true that salvation is a **gift of grace**, faith must be accompanied by **obedience and righteous living**. Without works, faith is empty.

As the Apostle Paul exhorts in **Philippians 2:12**:

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

This verse makes it clear that salvation requires continuous effort, humility, and reverence before God. It is not something that happens once and is forever guaranteed; it is a **lifelong commitment** to walk in faithfulness and obedience.

In **Ephesians 2:8–9**, Paul is not dismissing works of righteousness but contrasting two different laws—the **Law of Moses** and the **Law of Faith in Christ**. Under the old covenant, people sought justification through the works of the Mosaic Law, such as sacrifices and ritual observances. But under the new covenant, justification comes through **faith in Christ**, which must still be expressed through righteous living and obedience.

As Paul explains in **Romans 3:28**:

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”

And in **Acts 13:39**:

“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Therefore, in this Christian era, we are justified not by the old works of the Mosaic Law but by **faith in Christ that produces good works**. Salvation, then, is not earned by deeds alone, nor is it secured by faith alone—it is a **living faith** demonstrated through obedience, holiness, and perseverance.

To claim that “once saved, always saved” is to ignore the biblical call to **daily repentance, faithfulness, and self-examination**. True salvation is maintained by abiding in Christ and walking in His Word until the very end.

Living by Faith with Works in Christ

As Christians, we are called to **live and be saved by faith that is accompanied by works**—not by our own deeds or rituals, but by the works that are the fruit of genuine faith in **Christ Jesus**. The phrase in **Ephesians 2:9**, *“so that no one could boast,”* refers to human works done in self-righteousness, works that attempt to earn salvation apart from God’s grace. True salvation is not something man can achieve by his own strength; it is the result of **God’s grace working through a life of faithful obedience**.

The Bible outlines the kind of spiritual works that believers must cultivate in **2 Peter 1:3–9**:

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In this passage, Peter reveals the **progressive nature of Christian growth**—faith is the foundation, but it must be built upon with moral excellence (virtue), understanding (knowledge), self-control (temperance), perseverance (patience), reverence (godliness), compassion (brotherly kindness), and above all, **love (charity)**.

These qualities represent the **works of faith** that demonstrate spiritual maturity and ensure fruitfulness in the knowledge of Christ. A believer who diligently practices these virtues will not fall away but will remain steadfast in salvation.

We must remember that in **Ephesians 2:8–9**, Paul contrasts two different systems of justification—the **Law of Moses** and the **Law of Faith in Christ**. Under the Mosaic Law, people sought righteousness through ceremonial works and sacrifices. But under the **Law of Faith**, believers are justified through their **trust in Christ**, which naturally produces good works as evidence of a transformed heart.

Thus, while salvation is a **gift of grace**, it calls us into a life of **active obedience**. Faith without works is dead, as James wrote (James 2:26). Therefore, our faith must be living, fruitful, and continually expressed through righteous deeds, godly character, and love toward others.

The **Law of Faith in Christ** now governs all Christians—it is a law of grace, obedience, and sanctification. Those who live according to it will not only be justified but will also partake of the **divine nature**, escaping the corruption of the world and walking in the light of eternal life.

Testing All the Spirits to Determine the Truth

When a person lives apart from God, he follows his own desires and walks in his own way. Without divine guidance, no one truly knows what the future holds—whether it brings joy, sorrow, or even death. Many people continue in their worldly routines—**eating, drinking, marrying, buying, and selling**—without ever seeking the will of God.

The book of **James 4:13–14** reminds us of the frailty of life:

“Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Life is short and uncertain, yet many live as if this world will last forever. Even though they have heard the gospel of Christ, they choose to ignore it and continue following their own paths. Such people neglect the spiritual things of God for the temporary pleasures of this world.

In **Ephesians 4:20–22**, the Apostle Paul teaches believers to put away their old, sinful nature:

“But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.”

True followers of Christ must live in accordance with the truth found in Jesus. This includes being **discerning**—especially when it comes to spiritual teachings and preachers.

The Bible gives a clear warning in **1 John 4:1**:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

This command is vital today, as countless preachers and self-proclaimed prophets roam the world claiming to speak in the name of Christ. Not all who preach about Jesus are truly of God. Many distort the gospel for personal gain or to deceive others. Therefore, every Christian must be **careful, watchful, and discerning**.

To **test the spirits** means to examine every teaching and doctrine in the light of **God's Word**. The Scriptures must be the ultimate standard by which truth is measured. As **Acts 17:11** commends the Bereans, they were “more noble” because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify the truth of what they heard.

Before accepting any teaching, believers should:

1. **Pray for wisdom and discernment**—ask God to guide your heart and mind.
2. **Compare teachings with Scripture**—truth never contradicts the Word of God.
3. **Observe the fruit**—Jesus said, “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).
4. **Stay rooted in the gospel**—remain steadfast in the teachings of Christ and the apostles.

In these perilous times, false prophets and deceitful doctrines abound. Many are being led astray into spiritual destruction. Therefore, let us be vigilant, prayerful, and faithful to God's Word, that we may discern truth from error and not be misled into the **pit of death**, but rather continue in the **path of eternal life**.

The Renewal of the Inner Man

A man may grow weary after a long day's labor—his body aching and his strength spent. Yet when a person is in Christ, there is a constant renewal that happens within. The mind is transformed, for the former things of this world—the selfish thoughts, vain pursuits, and sinful desires—begin to fade away. A renewed mind turns its thoughts toward what is worthy, pure, and righteous.

The body naturally follows the dictates of the mind, just as **Christ is the head of the Church**, and we, His people, are members of His body. When the Head directs, the body obeys. Likewise, when our thoughts are fixed on Christ, our actions follow in obedience. Even when the flesh grows tired, the believer finds renewed strength, for **Christ Himself becomes the source of endurance and vitality**. As the Apostle Paul declares in **Philippians 4:13**, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

There is something marvelous and mysterious within us—something that does not age, even as our bodies grow old. It is the **inner being**, the **spirit** that God has placed within man. This inner self does not wither or decay with time. While our physical form weakens, the spirit remains alive and steadfast, sustained by God's power.

Paul spoke of this truth in **2 Corinthians 4:16**, saying:

“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.”

Every day, the inward man is strengthened and renewed by the Spirit of God. This divine renewal gives believers courage to face life's challenges and trials, for the source of their vitality is not flesh and blood but the indwelling presence of the Lord.

When we come to understand the reality of our **inner man**, we also recognize the eternal nature of our existence. The spirit within us came from God and will return to Him when our earthly life ends. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** affirms this truth: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

This understanding leads to a deeper reverence for the One who holds our life in His hands. We must not fear those who can harm the body, for their power ends with death. Rather, we should fear **God**, who alone has authority over both body and soul. As **Matthew 10:28** declares:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Therefore, let every believer take heart. Though the outward body weakens with age and toil, the **inner spirit is renewed each day** by the grace and power of Christ. In Him, we find not only strength for today but also the assurance of eternal life in the presence of the Life-Giver Himself.

Now Is the Time of Salvation

When you have come to hear, understand, and believe that you have found the true faith in Christ, do not delay or hesitate to follow it wholeheartedly. Faith that is genuine must be pursued with diligence and perseverance. Continue to **read, listen to, and meditate upon the Word of God**, for in doing so you strengthen your faith and walk in righteousness.

Remember, **salvation is personal**—it cannot be entrusted to anyone else, not even to the ministers or elders of the church. Each person must "*work out his own salvation with fear and trembling*" (Philippians 2:12). The responsibility rests upon every believer to heed the call of God while there is still time.

There will come a day when it will be too late to call upon Him. The book of **Proverbs 1:24–30** warns of the danger of rejecting God's call:

"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof; I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall

not find me:
For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.”

These verses reveal the **tragic end of those who turn away from God’s Word**. When He called through the preaching of the Gospel, they ignored Him. When He stretched out His hand in mercy, they refused. Therefore, when calamity comes, their cries will no longer be heard. It is a solemn warning that the opportunity for repentance is limited by time and circumstance.

Men should realize that **those who persist in sin and reject the truth will never see the light**, for their ways are detestable before the Lord. As **Proverbs 15:9** declares:

“The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord; but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.”

Thus, the message is clear: **Do not delay your obedience to God**. The wrath of the Lord will come in due time upon those who continue in unbelief. Now is the appointed moment to seek His mercy and walk in His truth.

The Apostle Paul emphasizes this urgency in **2 Corinthians 6:2**:

“(For he saith) I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Today—not tomorrow—is the day to listen, repent, and be baptized in obedience to Christ. Tomorrow is uncertain; but **today**, the invitation of salvation is open to all who hear His voice and believe.

Salvation Belongs to God

If salvation is truly the work of the living God, then we must ask: **How does God save mankind?** Does He, who dwells in heaven, personally descend to the earth to save men? Does He speak directly to every man for salvation?

The answer is revealed in the Scriptures. **Hebrews 1:1–2** says:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

In the past, God spoke through His prophets—His chosen messengers—to reveal His will and guide His people. But in these last days, **He has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ**, the final and perfect revelation of God’s plan for salvation.

Throughout history, God used men as **instruments of deliverance**, calling and sending them to carry out His divine purpose. One example is Moses. The book of **Acts 7:35** declares:

“This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.”

Here, Moses—though once rejected by his people—was chosen and sent by God to deliver Israel from bondage. In the same way, **Jesus Christ was sent by the Father** as the ultimate Deliverer, not from physical slavery, but from the **bondage of sin and death**.

This truth shows that **salvation originates from God**, not from man. It is **God’s plan, God’s work**, and **God’s power** that bring it to pass. Yet, He accomplishes this through His appointed messengers—first through the prophets, and finally, through His Son, who now speaks through His church.

Therefore, if salvation belongs to God, then **we must seek it according to His way**, not according to man’s own understanding or traditions. We must listen to the One whom He sent—**Jesus Christ**, the Savior of all who believe and obey His Word.

As it is written in **Jonah 2:9**:

“Salvation is of the Lord.”

It is not earned by human effort alone, nor given by any institution of man. It is the gracious gift of God through Christ, revealed by His Word, and received by faith that works through obedience.

Moses, chosen by God, led the Israelites out of Egypt and performed great wonders and miraculous signs—both in Egypt and in the wilderness. Through him, God parted the Red Sea and sustained His people for forty years in the desert. It was also Moses who declared to the Israelites that, one day, **God would raise up a prophet like him from among their own brethren**—a prophecy pointing to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate Deliverer.

As written in **Acts 7:36–37**:

“He brought them out, after that he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years. This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.”

From this, we understand that **God the Father did not personally come down from heaven** to save men. Rather, He appointed and sent His chosen servants—prophets, rulers,

and judges—to carry out His divine will for the salvation of His people. Moses was one of these instruments.

To sum up the works of salvation, **we must never bypass the authority of God the Father**, for He is the ultimate source of all deliverance. Every act of salvation—whether through Moses, the prophets, or through Jesus Christ—is a manifestation of His sovereign plan.

The Lord Jesus Christ, being the fulfillment of God's promise, **accomplished the greatest work of salvation** through His death and resurrection. Yet the story of redemption does not end there. The **promised return of Christ** at the end of days is the final chapter in God's plan to save those who remain faithful.

Throughout history, **God used men as instruments of His salvation**—each one serving a role in His unfolding purpose. Moses, the prophets, the apostles, and ultimately Christ Himself were all part of this divine mission to bring humanity back to God.

But what about those who never heard the gospel? Are they excluded from salvation?

The apostle Paul answers this question in **Romans 2:11–15**:

“For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law... For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law... these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves... their conscience also bearing witness.”

This passage reveals that **God is just and impartial**. Those who have never heard the gospel of Christ will be judged according to the light they have received—the law written in their hearts and the testimony of their conscience. Those who have the law of God will be judged by it.

Therefore, **those who have never heard the gospel** but live by a sincere conscience, doing what is right according to their understanding, may find mercy before God. But those who have heard the truth and **willfully reject or neglect it** are in grave danger of losing salvation.

The book of **Proverbs 1:24–26** warns:

“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded... I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh.”

Those who ignore God's call—refusing to listen or pretending not to hear—will face the consequences of their choice. When distress comes, their cries will not be heard because they despised the knowledge of God.

As for those **outside the true Church of God**, the Scriptures declare in **1 Corinthians 5:13**:

“But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

In other words, **God Himself will judge those who are outside His true Church**, including those who have not known or accepted the gospel of Christ. On the final day, every man will stand before God and be judged according to his deeds.

As **1 Peter 1:17** reminds us:

“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.”

Therefore, let every believer **live in reverent obedience**, seeking to understand and follow the truth of God’s Word while there is still time. Salvation truly belongs to God—but He grants it only to those who believe, obey, and endure in faith until the end.

CHAPTER 10

The Law Of Christ

The Law on Orderly Worship, Gifts of Tongues, and Prophecies

In this present Christian era, many worshippers engage in practices that they believe are spiritual expressions—such as speaking in tongues, loud chanting, and spontaneous shouting during worship. Yet, what often results is **confusion, disorder, and mere noise** within the congregation. These displays, instead of uplifting the church, frequently distract from true worship and create misunderstanding among believers.

Some churches continue to practice **speaking in tongues** or **prophecy** in the middle of their gatherings, where everyone speaks simultaneously in unknown languages without interpretation. As a result, no one understands what is being said, and the service becomes chaotic rather than edifying.

The Apostle Paul warned against such disorderly conduct in worship. In **1 Corinthians 14:33**, he said:

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”

Paul further instructed that **if anyone speaks in tongues**, there must be **an interpreter** so that the message may benefit all who are present. Otherwise, the one speaking should remain silent in the church and speak to himself and to God (1 Corinthians 14:27–28).

Unfortunately, some have taken these spiritual gifts out of context, mistaking noise for the movement of the Spirit. True worship should be **reverent, intelligible, and edifying**, not a display of emotionalism or fanaticism.

In certain places, extreme practices have even led to **dangerous rituals**, such as snake-handling, where some believe that faith alone will protect them from harm. Yet, as witnessed in tragic incidents, such presumptuous acts have cost lives—including pastors who attempted to prove their faith through such means. These misguided practices reveal a misunderstanding of Scripture and a lack of discernment.

True Christianity is **not a religion of spectacle** but of understanding and obedience to the Word of God. Worship must be conducted with reverence, peace, and order—glorifying God, not the emotions of men.

As for **prophecy**, many worshippers today misunderstand its true biblical meaning. They think of prophecy only as **predicting future events**, but in Scripture, to **prophecy** also means to **teach, proclaim, or expound the Word of God**.

In the early times, God spoke through prophets who foretold events and delivered divine messages. These prophecies were later fulfilled and recorded in the Scriptures—from the Old Testament to the coming of Christ. Today, the **complete Word of prophecy is already written in the Bible**, and the role of the preacher or teacher is to **declare and interpret what has already been revealed**, not to invent new revelations.

The Apostle Peter affirmed this truth in **2 Peter 1:19–21**:

“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed... Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

Therefore, all prophecies we need to know about have already been recorded in the Bible—such as the coming of Christ, the rise of false prophets, wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, persecution, and other significant events.

Everything that is happening in the world today—earthquakes, violent storms, volcanic eruptions, wars, and moral decline—are **fulfillments of what has long been prophesied** in the Word of God.

True prophecy, then, is not about predicting something new, but **teaching what God has already revealed**. And true worship is not about outward displays of emotion, but **orderly and sincere devotion that glorifies God in spirit and in truth** (John 4:23–24).

Prophecies and the Order of Worship in the Church

Prophecies and predictions were written and foretold by the early prophets in the Old Testament, such as **Isaiah, Samuel, Ezekiel, Daniel**, and many others whom God chose to reveal His will to His people. These men were not speaking from their own understanding but were **moved by the Spirit of God** to declare His words. Beyond what has already been written by these prophets, all other so-called prophecies must be **tested and examined carefully** to determine whether they truly align with the Word of God.

The Bible itself defines the role and purpose of prophecy. In **1 Corinthians 14:5**, Paul said:

“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

And again, in **1 Corinthians 14:3**, he wrote:

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”

In these passages, the Apostle Paul clarifies that **speaking in tongues** is not to be the focus of worship unless there is an **interpreter** who can translate what is spoken so that others may understand. Without understanding, the act serves no purpose for the congregation. Therefore, **Paul encouraged prophesying—or teaching—over speaking in tongues**, since prophecy brings instruction, encouragement, and comfort to the body of Christ.

He further emphasized this truth in **1 Corinthians 14:6**:

“Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?”

Thus, speaking in tongues without interpretation does not build up the faith of others, but **teaching and preaching God’s Word** edifies and strengthens the entire church.

Many, however, have misunderstood the meaning of **prophesying**, believing it to mean simply **predicting future events**—similar to the practice of fortune-telling. Yet, the Bible makes a clear distinction: while biblical prophecy is the **divinely inspired declaration of God’s truth**, fortune-telling or astrology is **condemned** as the work of the devil.

In Deuteronomy 18:10–12, God warns His people:

“There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...”

Therefore, **fortune tellers, soothsayers, and astrologers** are not prophets of God but deceivers whose practices are condemned in Scripture. Their predictions are uncertain, deceitful, and often inspired by the devil himself.

The **true prophecy** of God does not contradict His written Word, nor does it rely on speculation. It is founded upon the Scriptures and serves to **build up the faith** of believers.

The Apostle Paul also gave specific instructions about how believers should conduct themselves when they gather for worship. In **1 Corinthians 14:26**, he said:

“How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

This verse teaches us that every part of worship—whether singing hymns, sharing a teaching, or interpreting a message—must be done for the **edification of the church**. The focus must always be on **understanding, unity, and reverence**, not on confusion or display.

The Law of Christ on Tithing

Is **tithing ten percent** still a commandment for Christians today? Will a man **rob God** if he does not pay ten percent of his income? To understand this clearly, we must distinguish between the **Law of Moses** and the **Law of Christ**, because the two operate under **different covenants**.

The word **tithe** means “*a tenth part*.” Under the **Old Testament**, tithing was a **command given by God to the nation of Israel** for the maintenance of the **Levitical priesthood** and the **temple service**. The tribe of **Levi** had no inheritance of land, for their portion was the service of the Lord; therefore, God provided for them through the tithes of the other tribes.

In **Leviticus 27:30–34**, it is written:

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s; it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord... These are the commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses for the children of Israel in Mount Sinai.”

This law of tithing was **specific to Israel** and **commanded under the Law of Moses**. It was **not given to the Gentiles**, nor was it included in the **Law of Christ** that governs Christians today.

Many churches, both Christian and non-Christian, still preach the **tithing of ten percent** as a requirement, often using **Malachi 3:8–10** as their basis:

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house...”

However, notice carefully that the verse refers to “**this whole nation**” — meaning **Israel** — the people under the **Mosaic covenant**. The tithing system was part of their **religious, agricultural, and national law**, which ceased to be in force when Christ established a **new and better covenant** (Hebrews 8:6–13).

Under the **Law of Christ**, the principle of **giving** has changed. It is no longer based on a fixed percentage but on **willingness, sincerity, and cheerfulness of the heart**. In **2 Corinthians 9:7**, the Apostle Paul said:

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

Therefore, Christians today are **not bound by the law of tithing**, but are called to **give freely** according to their ability and conviction. The offering of believers must come from **love, faith, and gratitude**, not from **obligation or fear of a curse**.

In the **early Church**, the believers gave **voluntarily** to support the work of the ministry and the needs of others. Acts 2:44–45 tells us:

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.”

This shows that the **Christian giving** was not measured by a tenth, but by **the abundance of the heart and the willingness to help**.

The **law of tithing** under Moses was a **shadow of the things to come** (Hebrews 10:1), and its purpose was fulfilled in Christ. Now, under the **Law of Faith and Grace**, giving is a **spiritual act of worship**, not a legal requirement.

In summary:

- **Tithing** was a command under the **Law of Moses**, for the maintenance of the **Levitical priesthood**.
- **Christians today** are under the **Law of Christ**, not the Mosaic Law.
- **Giving** in the New Testament is **voluntary**, from the heart, and done with **cheerfulness and sincerity**.
- God looks not at the **amount**, but at the **intention and love** behind the offering.

As Jesus said in **Luke 6:38**:

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom.”

Thus, in Christ, **giving is not a duty of debt—but a fruit of grace**.

Clarification on Malachi and the Law of Tithing

Malachi 4:4 says, “*Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.*” Many modern churches use this verse to justify the continued practice of tithing ten percent. However, the verse itself specifies **for whom** the law was given — “*for all Israel.*”

Christians today are **not Israelites by race or covenant**. We belong to the **Christian era**, under the **Law of Christ**, not the **Law of Moses**. The people of God in the Old Testament were the physical nation of Israel, but in the New Testament, salvation is extended to the **Gentiles** — all nations outside Israel — through faith in Christ.

As written in **Ephesians 3:6**:

“Through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”

Therefore, the laws given to Israel — including tithing — were not commanded for Gentile Christians. This is further confirmed in **Acts 13:39**:

“And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

This verse makes it clear that believers are now justified **through Christ**, not by the **Law of Moses**. Hence, the Old Testament command of tithing was specific to Israel and does not apply to Christians today.

Some may still use **Malachi 3:8–10** to insist on tithing, where God says, “*Will a man rob God?... In tithes and offerings.*” Yet, even here, the text refers to “**this whole nation**” — again, meaning **Israel**. The “storehouse” mentioned was the **temple in Jerusalem**, where tithes of crops and livestock were stored for the Levites and the poor — not monetary income for Christian churches.

In short:

- The **law of tithing** was for **Israel**, not the Christian Church.
- Christians are now under the **Law of Christ**, not the **Law of Moses**.
- Giving today must be **voluntary and from the heart**, as God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Thus, the verses in Malachi are often **misapplied** when used to compel Christians to give ten percent. True Christian giving is not based on **percentage or compulsion**, but on **faith, gratitude, and love**.

You should not feel guilty if you do not practice tithing because this command was given specifically to the Israelites and the Levites during the time of Moses—not to present-day Christians.

In **Matthew 23:23**, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for focusing on tithing while neglecting *“the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.”* When He said, *“You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former,”* He was speaking to Jews still under the Mosaic Law, not to Christians. His point was that **justice, mercy, and faithfulness** are far more important than the ritual act of tithing.

Furthermore, **Hebrews 7:5,12** explains that the command to collect tithes applied only to the **descendants of Levi**, and that when the **priesthood changed**, so did the law:

“When there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.”

Since Christ established a new covenant, the old law—including tithing—was replaced. The new law for Christians is found in **2 Corinthians 9:7**:

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Thus, Christian giving is not based on a fixed percentage but on **freewill, love, and sincerity**. Jesus Himself commended those who gave willingly from the heart, not those who calculated a tenth.

In **Mark 12:41**, we read that *“many rich people threw in large amounts”* into the temple treasury. This scene shows that their giving was not limited to an exact ten percent. The act was spontaneous and voluntary—there was **no indication of strict accounting** for tithes.

The difference between **Pharisees** and **Christians** is clear: the Pharisees were bound by the Mosaic Law, which required tithes, while Christians give freely from the heart. The new covenant teaches giving not by compulsion, but by **love and willingness**, as **2 Corinthians 9:7** reminds us—*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give.”*

Although Jesus commanded that those who preach the gospel should live by it (**1 Corinthians 9:14**), this does not mean ministers should enrich themselves from the church’s offerings. The apostle **Paul** is a perfect example. Despite his right to receive support, he worked with his own hands as a **tentmaker** so as not to burden the brethren. He testified,

“Even unto this present hour we both hunger and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place.” (1 Corinthians 4:11)

Paul’s example teaches humility and sacrifice in ministry. True service to God is not about wealth or comfort, but about **faithfulness, endurance, and devotion**—even in the face of

hardship and persecution. As the Bible says, believers will face tribulations in this world, but those who endure faithfully to the end will be saved.

The **Law of God on Believers' Manners and Conduct** teaches that the Bible is not merely a historical book but a divine guide containing laws that lead believers toward righteousness and salvation. From the early church up to today, God's people are called to **live modestly and decently**, especially in their conduct and appearance when gathered for worship.

In **1 Timothy 2:9**, believers are reminded:

“Women should adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety, not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.”

This command emphasizes humility and modesty rather than outward display. Sadly, many modern churchgoers neglect this principle. Some wear extravagant or revealing clothes, drawing attention rather than showing reverence. Scripture warns that such practices can lead others into temptation and sin.

The **Law of Moses** also forbade the exchange of garments between men and women:

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.” (Deuteronomy 22:5)

Today, this command is often ignored—men grow long hair while women cut theirs short, contrary to nature. The apostle Paul clearly explains in **1 Corinthians 11:14–15**:

“Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given her for a covering.”

These teachings remind believers that **modesty and distinction between the sexes** are part of God's natural and moral order. When people reject these boundaries, immorality increases. As **2 Peter 2:14** warns, there are those with “*eyes full of adultery, that cannot cease from sin.*”

Persistent disobedience to God's moral laws leads to deeper corruption. Paul wrote in **Romans 1:26–27** that when people abandoned natural affections, God “gave them up to vile passions.” This passage shows how sin distorts what God designed to be pure and honorable.

Thus, believers today must uphold **godly conduct and modesty**, reflecting holiness in their dress, actions, and thoughts. True worship is not only in words or songs but also in living a life that honors the Creator's order and purity.

While men and women turned away from natural affection, **men began seeking men, and women sought women**, abandoning the natural order established by God. In today's time, this behavior is reflected in the rise of men adopting feminine traits—often called “*swards*”—and women acting in masculine ways or living as *lesbians*. These practices go against the divine design of gender and affection as ordained by God.

Moreover, **the laws of Christ also caution women against vanity and excess**, especially through wearing costly jewelry, ornaments, or showy attire. Such practices contradict the humility and modesty that should characterize a believer's life.

In **Isaiah 3:16, 20, 25**, the prophet describes the pride and vanity of the women of Zion:

“Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet; ... the bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, the rings, and nose jewels, the changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, the glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.”

These verses reveal how the women of Zion—consumed with vanity and pride—brought moral decay upon their nation. Their excessive adornment and seductive manner led to the weakening and downfall of men.

In the same way, **modern believers are warned** not to follow such worldly patterns. Pride, immodesty, and sensuality invite destruction and drive people away from spiritual purity. A true Christian woman is called to **modesty, humility, and inner beauty**, as emphasized in **1 Peter 3:3–4**:

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

Thus, the lesson is clear: **God values inner holiness over outward adornment**. When believers—both men and women—walk in humility, purity, and obedience, they reflect the true beauty of Christ within.

The Law of Christ on Socializing with Unbelievers

Are you living with unbelievers? Do you have friends, relatives, or even a spouse who does not share your faith? For many believers, this can be one of the greatest challenges in Christian living. It is not easy to live a godly life surrounded by those who may not understand or respect your convictions. Yet, the Word of God gives clear instruction and encouragement for such situations.

While it is true that being a Christian is a blessing, **living out a true Christian life requires patience, humility, and wisdom.** If you have an unbelieving husband or wife, the Bible teaches not to abandon them, but to live in peace and godliness. Religious differences can create tension, but believers are called to practice love, faith, and endurance rather than to separate or harbor resentment.

In **1 Corinthians 7:13–14**, it is written:

“And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean, but now are they holy.”

This verse shows that **the believing partner becomes a channel of blessing and sanctification** within the household. The presence of a true Christian can influence the family toward holiness and faith in God. Therefore, believers are encouraged to live as examples—showing patience, love, and gentleness even in times of disagreement.

However, the Bible also warns believers to be cautious in forming **close associations or deep bonds with unbelievers** that may compromise their faith. As **2 Corinthians 6:14** teaches:

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

This means that while Christians must show kindness and respect to everyone, they must also guard their spiritual integrity. Deep relationships or alliances that lead one away from God’s truth should be avoided.

In summary, the law of Christ teaches believers to:

- **Stay faithful** even when surrounded by unbelievers.
- **Live peaceably** and be an example of godly character.
- **Avoid spiritual compromise** or close fellowship that leads to sin.
- **Trust that God can use your faithfulness** to bring light and salvation to those around you.

By doing so, a believer becomes a living testimony of God’s grace and love—even in the most challenging circumstances.

The Believing and Non-Believing Couples

The Bible gives clear and compassionate instruction for couples who differ in faith. When one partner is a believer and the other is not, the Christian is called to act with patience, love, and faithfulness—never with bitterness or pride.

In **1 Corinthians 7:10–11**, it says:

“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord: Let not the wife depart from her husband. But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.”

This passage teaches that marriage is sacred before God. If a wife leaves her husband, she should not remarry but wait and be reconciled to him. Likewise, the husband must not abandon his wife. The goal is restoration and peace, not separation.

The same chapter continues in **1 Corinthians 7:12–14**:

“But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”

Here, the Apostle Paul explains that the presence of a believer in the home brings sanctification and blessing. The believing spouse becomes a channel of grace that can influence the entire household toward righteousness.

However, if the unbelieving partner chooses to leave, the believer is not bound in such cases (as later stated in 1 Corinthians 7:15). Still, the believer should never be the one to initiate separation out of impatience or pride.

In civil law, particularly in the **Family Code**, these principles also find a parallel—upholding marriage as a vital institution, promoting reconciliation, and respecting individual freedom of belief. The **Constitution** further guarantees religious freedom; thus, no husband or wife should be compelled to convert against their will. To do so would not only be unchristian but also a violation of moral and legal principles.

Sadly, many abuse this freedom—pressuring their spouses or using religion as a means of control rather than of love. But true Christianity teaches respect, patience, and understanding.

In essence:

- Marriage must be preserved with love and forgiveness.

- The believing spouse should be a light and example, not a source of strife.
- Religious differences must never justify abuse or coercion.
- Both partners should practice mutual respect, as Christ commands believers to live in peace and love.

By following these divine and moral principles, Christian couples—whether equally or unequally yoked—can reflect the grace and patience of God within their homes.

The Law of Christ on Socializing with Unbelievers

In the Christian life, one of the greatest challenges believers face is how to live righteously among those who do not share their faith. Whether in the home, workplace, or community, Christians are constantly surrounded by people of diverse beliefs, values, and lifestyles. The Bible provides clear guidance on how believers should conduct themselves when interacting with unbelievers—with wisdom, righteousness, and steadfastness in faith.

1. Living with Unbelievers in the Family

It is common that within a family, one may be a believer while the other is not. This situation can be difficult, especially between husband and wife. The Bible teaches patience, understanding, and faithfulness in such cases. In **1 Corinthians 7:12–14**, the apostle Paul writes:

“If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband.”

This means that believers are not to separate from their unbelieving spouses if the relationship remains peaceful and respectful. The believing partner’s faith and example may serve as a means for the other’s eventual conversion. God values marriage as a sacred covenant that must not be broken because of differences in religion alone.

If separation occurs, Paul also advises in **1 Corinthians 7:10–11** that the wife should remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband, and the husband should not leave his wife. This command emphasizes reconciliation, forgiveness, and the sanctity of marriage.

2. Respect for Religious Freedom and Justice

God’s law upholds fairness and love, while human law protects religious freedom. Compelling one’s spouse or anyone else to follow a particular faith through force or manipulation is not in line with Christian teaching. The gospel calls believers to **win others through example and love**, not by coercion.

Unfortunately, in modern society, this principle is often violated—both at home and in workplaces where people are pressured to conform to certain religious or cultural practices. Such compulsion contradicts both the spirit of Christ and human rights. True faith must be voluntary and heartfelt, never imposed.

3. The Foundation of a Godly Marriage

The essence of a Christian relationship between husband and wife is grounded in **righteousness, judgment, loving-kindness, mercy, and faithfulness**. These virtues are highlighted in **Hosea 2:19–20**:

“And I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving-kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the LORD.”

These principles teach couples to handle their relationship with fairness and compassion, especially when conflicts arise. Decisions should be made through righteous judgment—without bias or pride—and with mercy and understanding. Faithfulness strengthens the family and mirrors God’s steadfast love for His people.

4. Associating with Unbelievers in Society

Some Christian groups isolate themselves from non-believers, believing it is sinful to associate with them. However, this contradicts the example set by **the Apostle Paul**, who willingly associated with Jews, Gentiles, and other groups to share the gospel.

In **1 Corinthians 9:19–22**, Paul wrote:

“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more... To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews... To them that are without law, as without law... To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

This passage shows that Christians may interact and build relationships with non-believers for the purpose of sharing the truth and demonstrating the love of Christ. However, this association must never lead believers to compromise their morals or adopt ungodly practices.

5. Wisdom in Socializing with the World

In socializing with those outside the faith, believers must always exercise discernment and wisdom. The Bible commands in **Colossians 4:5**,

“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.”

This means Christians should conduct themselves prudently, being mindful of their words and actions, and using every opportunity to be a good witness of their faith. Believers must not allow worldly influences to corrupt their values but instead strive to be the “salt and light” of the earth (Matthew 5:13–16).

A wise believer knows how to balance kindness and conviction. Friendship with unbelievers should lead to edification, not temptation. When exposed to ungodly behavior, the Christian’s response should be firmness in faith and compassion in spirit—not judgment or compromise.

6. The Duty of Believers Toward All People

God’s will is that His people live peaceably and prayerfully in the world. Paul instructs in **1 Timothy 2:1–2**:

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

Christians are called to pray not only for fellow believers but also for all people, including leaders and those in authority. This act of intercession reflects Christ’s love for all humanity and His desire for peace and righteousness in society.

7. God Knows His True People

In the midst of a world filled with both believers and unbelievers, God knows those who truly belong to Him. **2 Timothy 2:19** declares:

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

This verse reminds Christians to stay pure and faithful, avoiding all forms of sin and wickedness despite the temptations of the world. Believers must continually strive to reflect Christ in their conduct, speech, and relationships, maintaining integrity wherever they are.

Conclusion

To socialize with unbelievers is not forbidden by Christ, but it must be done **with wisdom, righteousness, and a godly purpose**. Christians are called to live among others as examples of light, love, and truth—never conforming to sin, but influencing others through good works and steadfast faith.

As the apostle Paul demonstrated, the goal of every Christian interaction should be the salvation and edification of others. By showing patience, humility, and compassion, believers can win souls for Christ while preserving their holiness before God.

Ultimately, the true mark of a Christian is not isolation from the world, but transformation within it—living a life that honors God and draws others toward His saving grace.

Chapter 11

Baptism and Its Importance

Baptism is one of the most sacred and essential acts of faith in Christianity. It symbolizes **spiritual cleansing, rebirth, and acceptance into the body of Christ**. The term itself means *immersion*, and in Scripture, it represents the washing away of sins and the beginning of a new life devoted to God.

When a believer is baptized, they are immersed in **flowing water**, signifying the complete removal of spiritual impurity and the death of the old, sinful self. Upon rising from the water, they are renewed in spirit—what the Bible calls the “**inner man**”—and are now guided by the Holy Spirit. This transformation marks the person’s true conversion to Christianity, as affirmed in **Acts 22:16**, which calls believers to “be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Baptism is done **in the name of Jesus Christ**, as the apostles practiced, and it is through this act that the believer receives forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Those who have undergone baptism are recognized as Christians, as first mentioned in **Acts 11:26**, when the disciples in Antioch were called Christians after their conversion and instruction in the faith.

The proper method of baptism is **immersion**, not sprinkling, because full immersion represents a total cleansing and rebirth. This act should take place in natural, flowing water, symbolizing purity and the washing away of sin.

Baptism is intended for **those who consciously believe** in Christ and His teachings. It is not meant for infants, for they are innocent, pure, and free from sin. Jesus Himself declared that the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. Therefore, baptism is reserved for those capable of faith, repentance, and the understanding of its spiritual significance.

Through baptism, a person is spiritually renewed, forgiven, and welcomed into the community of believers. It is both a **public declaration of faith** and a **divine covenant** with God—an act that cleanses the soul, renews the heart, and marks the beginning of a life lived in obedience to Christ.

The Meaning and Significance of Baptism According to Scripture

Baptism is not merely a religious ritual but a divine command that signifies **repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal**. In **Acts 2:38**, the apostle Peter declares, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall*

receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” This verse reveals the twofold blessing of baptism: **the cleansing of sins** and **the reception of the Holy Spirit**.

When a person sincerely repents—acknowledging sin, turning away from it, and seeking forgiveness through Jesus Christ—baptism seals that repentance. The water symbolizes the washing away of sin, while the act of immersion represents death to the old, sinful nature. Upon rising from the water, the believer receives new life through the Spirit, fulfilling the promise of spiritual rebirth.

This transformation is beautifully described in **Romans 6:4**, which says, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”* Just as Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, baptism symbolizes the believer’s union with Christ’s death and resurrection—the burial of the “old self” and the birth of a **new creature in Christ**.

The apostle Paul confirms this in **2 Corinthians 5:17**: *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* A baptized believer is no longer bound by the past. The sinful nature is put to death, and a new spiritual identity begins. The believer now lives a Christ-centered life, guided by the Holy Spirit and grounded in righteousness.

Even Jesus Christ Himself submitted to baptism—not because He needed cleansing from sin, but to **fulfill all righteousness** and to set an example for all who would follow Him. In **Matthew 3:13–16**, Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. John hesitated, knowing Jesus was sinless, but Christ insisted, saying, *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.”*

As Jesus emerged from the water, the heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended upon Him like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* This moment revealed the divine purpose of baptism—it is both **a sign of obedience and the moment of divine affirmation**.

Through baptism, believers publicly declare their faith, receive spiritual cleansing, and are filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the beginning of a **new life of holiness and obedience to God**, walking in the same righteousness that Jesus Himself exemplified.

The Soul and the Spirit After Death

What truly happens to a person’s soul and spirit after death? This question has stirred human thought for generations, giving rise to many beliefs and traditions. Some say that when a person dies, their soul immediately goes to heaven if they were good, or to hell if they were evil. Others believe that the soul returns to visit its home after three days. There

are also customs in which people light candles or prepare food at the gravesite, thinking that these offerings sustain the dead in the afterlife.

However, these practices are **not grounded in biblical truth**. They arise from human traditions and superstitions rather than from the teachings of Christ. The Bible clearly warns against following beliefs that have no scriptural foundation. As Christians, our understanding of life and death must come from **the Word of God alone**, which is our source of truth and guidance.

In **Luke 4:4**, Jesus said, *“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”* This means that our spiritual life and understanding are sustained not by human customs or rituals, but by the Word of God. The Bible provides the clear answer to what happens when a person dies.

According to **Ecclesiastes 12:7**, *“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”* This verse explicitly reveals the truth: when a person dies, **the body returns to dust**, for it was formed from the earth, while **the spirit returns to God**, its Creator.

This passage dispels the false notion that the dead linger around their homes or interact with the living. Once death comes, the body and the spirit separate—the body decays in the ground, but the spirit goes back to God, awaiting His final judgment. The soul does not wander, eat, or require offerings, for as **Job 14:10,12** says, *“Man dieth, and wasteth away... so man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.”*

In this sense, death is described as **a state of rest or sleep**, where the soul no longer experiences earthly concerns. The departed are beyond hunger, thirst, or emotion. Their destiny rests in the hands of God, who alone determines the resurrection of the righteous and the judgment of the wicked.

Therefore, Christians are called to reject unbiblical practices concerning the dead and instead focus on **faith in God’s promises**—that one day, all will rise again, either to eternal life or to judgment, according to their deeds and faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:28–29).

In summary:

- The **body returns to dust**.
- The **spirit returns to God** who gave it.
- The **soul rests**, awaiting resurrection.

This is the true biblical teaching about life after death—rooted not in custom or human reasoning, but in the eternal Word of God.

The Soul and Spirit After Death: The Promise of Judgment and Paradise

We must understand what the **Word of God** teaches about life, death, and eternity. Just as our bodies need food to live, our **souls and spirits need the Word of God** to remain alive and strong. Without the Word, the soul becomes dry and empty, vulnerable to spiritual decay. The Scriptures serve as our nourishment, guiding us toward righteousness and eternal life.

As written in **Hebrews 9:27**, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* This verse makes it clear that every person is destined to die once—and after death comes judgment. However, this judgment does not happen immediately upon death. Instead, there will be **one appointed day of judgment** when all people from all nations will stand before the Lord.

This is confirmed in **Matthew 25:32–33**, which says, *“Before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”* This portrays a universal judgment where God Himself, through Jesus Christ, will distinguish the righteous from the unrighteous.

Likewise, **Acts 17:31** affirms this truth: *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”* Notice the phrase **“appointed a day”**—there is a specific, predetermined day for judgment. This verse proves that **all humanity awaits the same day of reckoning**, when Christ will judge the world in perfect justice.

The Existence of Paradise

Is there really a **Paradise**? According to the Scriptures, **yes**, and it is found in the **third heaven**. The apostle Paul testified to this in **2 Corinthians 12:2–4**, saying, *“I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth); such a one caught up to the third heaven.”* He further describes being caught up into **Paradise**, where he heard inexpressible words, revealing that this place is real and holy—a dwelling beyond earthly understanding.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself confirmed the existence of Paradise. While He was crucified, one of the criminals beside Him repented and said, *“Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.”* To this, Jesus replied in **Luke 23:43**, *“Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”*

Thus, Paradise is not a myth—it is a divine place promised by God to those who are saved. **Titus 1:2** also declares, *“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before*

the world began.” This promise of eternal life in Paradise was given long before creation, revealing God’s eternal plan of salvation.

The Beauty of Paradise

In **Revelation 22:1–3**, John describes the breathtaking glory of Paradise:

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

This vision reveals the perfect peace, purity, and healing that await the redeemed. It is a place where there is no curse, no pain, and no death—only the eternal presence of God and the Lamb.

The Reward of the Faithful

Those who remain faithful until the end will receive their reward from the Lord. In

Revelation 2:17, Jesus says,

“To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.”

This **white stone** symbolizes purity, victory, and acceptance before God—a token of eternal life and a new identity in Christ.

In **Revelation 3:4**, it is also written, *“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy.”*

This verse emphasizes the **reward of holiness and perseverance**—those who remain undefiled and faithful will walk with Christ, clothed in white garments as a sign of righteousness and eternal triumph.

Summary

1. **The soul must be nourished** with the Word of God to stay spiritually alive.
2. **Every person dies once**, and **judgment comes after death**, but only on **one appointed day**.
3. **Paradise** is real and located in the **third heaven**, where the faithful will dwell with God.
4. **Jesus Christ’s promise** of Paradise assures believers of eternal life.
5. **The faithful will receive** their reward—a **white stone and new name**, walking with Christ in glory.

Therefore, we must live each day in obedience, holiness, and faith, continually feeding our souls with the Word of God, that we may be found worthy to enter the eternal Paradise He has prepared for those who love Him.

piritual Death: The Consequence of Deception and Ignorance of the Word

Many people today experience **spiritual death** not because their bodies have perished, but because they have been **misled by false teachings** and **deceived by ungodly doctrines**. This tragedy happens when people neglect the Word of God and fail to discern the truth from lies.

The Lord declares in **Hosea 4:6**, *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”* This means that ignorance of God’s Word leads to destruction—not just physical ruin, but spiritual death. When people refuse to know the truth, they fall prey to false teachers who distort the Scriptures for personal gain.

Jesus Himself warned us about this in **Matthew 15:14**, *“Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”* The “blind” in this passage refers to those who are **ignorant of God’s truth**, both the preacher who lacks divine guidance and the listener who blindly follows. Without the light of Scripture, both are lost, stumbling into the pit of spiritual darkness.

The Bible forewarns us about the rise of **false prophets and deceivers** in the last days—men who appear godly, perform signs, and claim to speak for God but whose teachings are contrary to the Scriptures.

In **Matthew 24:24**, Jesus warns, *“For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.”* These false teachers may seem convincing, performing wonders that captivate the crowd, yet their intentions are rooted in deceit. They seek followers, not disciples; fame, not truth.

The danger lies in **mistaking miracles for divine authority**. The Bible clearly teaches that miracles alone do not prove that a person is sent by God. Satan himself can disguise as an angel of light and empower his servants to perform lying wonders (2 Corinthians 11:13–15). Therefore, Christians must test every teaching and every spirit, as instructed in **1 John 4:1**, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”*

The Armor Against Spiritual Death

To guard against deception, the Bible instructs believers to **equip themselves with spiritual armor**. As Paul writes in **Ephesians 6:10–11**, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”*

The “armor of God” represents truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the Word of God—spiritual defenses that empower believers to stand firm against lies and temptation.

Without this armor, Christians are vulnerable to false doctrines that kill the soul. **Spiritual death** begins when a person stops hearing, believing, and living by the truth. But when we continually feed on the Word of God, our spirits are renewed and strengthened. Faith grows from hearing the Word (Romans 10:17), and this faith brings life.

False Teachers, Deceptive Miracles, and the True Wonders of God

In these modern times, **many false teachers** use *miracles and wonders* as instruments of deception. They perform spectacular acts to convince people that they are sent by God, but in reality, they serve as **tools of the devil** to mislead even the faithful.

The Bible warns us clearly in **Matthew 24:24**, “*For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.*” This means that not every miracle or extraordinary event is of God. The devil can imitate the divine to confuse and attract the hearts of those who lack spiritual discernment.

The Deceptive Nature of False Miracles

People are often amazed when they witness supernatural events—sudden healings, mysterious visions, or displays of power. Yet the Scriptures caution that **Satan also has power** to create illusions of miracles. These spectacles are not meant to glorify God but to exalt the person performing them.

Many false preachers today go as far as **discouraging their members from seeking medical help**. They forbid believers from consulting physicians or taking medicine, insisting instead that “faith alone” will heal. But this teaching is **contrary to wisdom and compassion**. Even the Bible acknowledges the role of physicians and medicine as blessings from God. In **Sirach 38:1–2 (KJV Apocrypha)** it says, “*Honour a physician with the honour due unto him for the uses which ye may have of him: for the Lord hath created him.*” God works through many means—including science, medicine, and human knowledge—to bring healing to His people.

The miracles that come from God today are **not always in the form of spectacular wonders**. The greatest miracles are those that happen quietly in our daily lives—miracles of **provision, protection, and preservation**.

Everyday Miracles: Signs of God’s Constant Grace

Many fail to recognize that **life itself is a miracle**.

- Waking up each morning, breathing freely, and seeing the sunrise is already a miracle.

- Going to work, traveling safely through the dangers of the road, and returning home unharmed is another.
- Being able to eat, to sleep peacefully, to laugh with family, and to endure each day's trials—these are all **manifestations of God's constant mercy**.

When we live in a world full of dangers, surrounded by strangers, and still find peace and safety, we are witnesses of God's miraculous hand.

People often ask, "Do we still believe in miracles?" The answer is **yes**—but not in the way false teachers portray them. We believe in **God's miracles**, which are continuous, gentle, and sustaining. The problem is that many people no longer recognize these everyday wonders because they look for **extraordinary signs** instead of **ordinary grace**.

God's Miracles Through Human Progress

Some overly fanatical individuals even condemn the **advancements of science and technology**, calling them the work of the devil. For example, they interpret the modern **bank card system** or **digital transactions** as signs of the "mark of the beast" or tools of the Antichrist. But such conclusions are **misguided and fear-driven**.

The truth is, human progress and innovation are not contrary to God's will—they are part of it. God gives wisdom and understanding to humankind to improve life and make civilization flourish. The development of medicine, technology, and education are **manifestations of divine wisdom** working through people.

The Bible supports this truth in **Ecclesiastes 3:10–11**, "*I have seen the task which God has given to the sons of men to be occupied in it. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in their hearts, yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.*"

This means that every discovery and progress that benefits humanity happens **within the will of God**. People may not fully understand His plan, but every advancement that brings healing, comfort, and peace reflects His divine order in creation.

Summary

1. **False teachers** use deceptive miracles to lead people astray and glorify themselves.
2. **True miracles** come from God and are often seen in the simple, everyday blessings of life.
3. **God uses science, medicine, and human wisdom** as instruments of healing and progress.

4. **Condemning human advancement** as evil without discernment is ignorance of God's creative will.
5. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, **all things are made beautiful in God's time**, and His purpose is woven into every good thing that blesses humanity. **Reflection**

True faith is not based on visible wonders but on **trusting the unseen hand of God** in all things. Every breath, every sunrise, every act of kindness, and every new discovery are **silent testimonies of His power and love**.

Instead of chasing after dramatic miracles, believers should open their eyes to the **miracle of life itself**—a daily gift from God that false teachers can neither imitate nor counterfeit.

As Psalm 118:24 declares: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Understanding the Purpose of Sickness, Faith, and God's Sovereignty

The Bible gives us wisdom to discern the deeper meaning behind sickness, healing, and the trials of human life. In **Ecclesiastes 3:10–11 (KJV)**, it says:

"I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

In this verse, "*travail*" means **the burdens, challenges, and sufferings of life** that God allows men to experience. In the Filipino rendition, it is expressed as "mga karamdaman" or "mga sakit," referring to **diseases and afflictions** that people must endure and learn to overcome. This translation captures the idea that **God allows illnesses and problems** not to destroy humanity, but to inspire human beings to **seek wisdom, discover cures, and grow in faith**.

Indeed, the continued progress in **science and technology**, as well as the discovery of medicine and healing methods, are not contrary to God's plan—they are **part of it**. These advancements arise from the human intellect that God Himself designed. Through such knowledge, men find ways to survive, treat diseases, and improve their lives, showing that **God's purpose in allowing pain and sickness is to develop human understanding and compassion**.

Healing and the Power of Faith

In **James 5:14–15**, the Apostle James writes:

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up."

Many interpret this passage literally, believing that physical oil possesses healing power. But the verse carries a **spiritual meaning**. The “anointing with oil” symbolizes the **Word of God and the teaching of Christ**—the true oil that nourishes the spirit and renews faith. When the elders pray “in the name of the Lord,” they are invoking Christ’s authority through His Word, not through the physical act itself.

Faith is not based on ritual; it is based on **spiritual understanding of the Word**. The “prayer of faith” represents trust in God’s will, not in the external use of substances. Hence, the true healing begins **within the soul**—through repentance, spiritual renewal, and obedience to God’s Word.

The **first apostles** of Christ exemplified this faith. They endured persecution, torture, and death for the sake of the gospel. Their faith was not a blind belief but a conviction born from truth. In contrast, **false teachers** have also risen—leaders who manipulate faith for personal gain, teaching doctrines that lead followers astray. Some even incite violence or fanaticism under the guise of divine command. But true faith leads to **peace, righteousness, and love**, never to destruction.

False Teachings and Misinterpretations of Scripture

Because of widespread ignorance and spiritual blindness, many people misinterpret key verses of the Bible. A prime example is **John 10:10**, which says:

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Many assume that the “thief” in this passage refers to **Satan**. However, when we examine the context beginning with **John 10:1**, we read:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”

The “thief” here refers to **false teachers and deceitful men** who claim spiritual authority without entering through the “door”—that is, **without coming through Christ**, who is the only true Shepherd and the Door of the sheep. These are human deceivers who exploit religion to steal from others spiritually and materially.

Thus, the “thief” in John 10:10 is not Satan directly but **any person who misleads the flock**, destroys faith, and manipulates others in the name of God.

God’s Sovereignty Over Life and Death

Another false notion widely spread among certain religious groups is that **Satan causes sickness and death**. But the Bible clearly teaches that **God Himself is sovereign over both**. In **Deuteronomy 32:39**, God declares:

“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”

This verse reveals a profound truth: **nothing happens outside God’s will**. Life and death, health and sickness—all fall under His divine control. God wounds, but He also heals; He takes life, but He also restores it. This doesn’t mean God is cruel; rather, it shows that **He holds ultimate authority** over creation. Even suffering serves a divine purpose—to humble man, to strengthen faith, and to draw souls closer to Him.

Conclusion

1. **Sickness and suffering** are not punishments but opportunities for growth and understanding.
2. **Healing and miracles** must be understood spiritually—faith and the Word of God are the true medicines of the soul.
3. **False teachers** misuse Scripture and deceive others, but the true Shepherd—Christ—leads through truth and righteousness.
4. **God alone controls life and death**, and everything that happens is within His perfect plan.

Reflection

When we face sickness or hardship, let us not blame the devil nor lose hope in God’s mercy. Instead, we must understand that such trials exist to **exercise our faith**, as Ecclesiastes says. Through these experiences, we learn compassion, wisdom, and dependence on God.

As **Romans 8:28** reminds us:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Thus, every sickness, every trial, every moment of weakness is not a curse—but a **lesson of divine love**, meant to bring us closer to the One who heals both body and soul.

The Sovereignty of God Over All Things: Life, Death, and Tribulation

If we truly believe that God is more powerful than Satan, then we must also accept that nothing happens without His permission. God alone determines what will be allowed and what will not. He reigns supreme over heaven and earth, and even Satan himself cannot act apart from His consent.

This truth is clearly illustrated in the Book of Job, one of the most profound testimonies of divine sovereignty and human faith.

The Example of Job: God's Control Over Evil and Suffering

In Job 1:6–12, we read how Satan appeared before God and sought permission to test Job, a righteous man. God permitted Satan to touch everything Job owned—but not Job himself. Later, in Job 2:6–7, God allowed Satan to afflict Job with painful sores but commanded, *“Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.”*

This passage shows that Satan's power is limited. He cannot act independently, nor can he inflict suffering without God's permission. Every trial Job endured—his loss of wealth, his children, and his health—occurred under God's sovereign control.

Job's life demonstrates a profound spiritual truth:

God may allow suffering to test faith, to refine character, or to fulfill a divine purpose that we may not yet understand.

Even in his suffering, Job declared:

“The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” — Job 1:21

He did not blame Satan, but acknowledged God's ultimate authority.

God's Will in Life, Death, and Health

When we observe human life, we often see contradictions that puzzle us. Some people are physically strong yet die suddenly, while others are frail and sickly yet live long lives. This inconsistency reminds us that life and death are not governed by physical strength or circumstance, but by the will of God.

As Deuteronomy 32:39 declares:

“I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.”

This verse reveals that both life and death are in God's hands. Sickness and healing, weakness and strength—all come from Him. Human reasoning cannot explain why one lives and another dies, why one suffers while another prospers. But for the believer, there is comfort in knowing that nothing escapes God's plan, and everything serves a divine purpose.

The Purpose Behind Calamities and Tribulations

In our present age, we witness wars, famines, diseases, and natural disasters—all of which bring great suffering and death. Many question: *If God is good, why does He allow these things to happen?*

The Bible gives a clear answer. These events are not random; they are warnings and signs permitted by God to awaken mankind and remind us of our dependence on Him. In Matthew 24:6–8, Jesus said:

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.”

These calamities are not the end, but the beginning of God's divine plan unfolding on earth. They serve as tests of faith, warnings of judgment, and invitations to repentance.

Through such tribulations, God reveals that He alone holds power over nature, nations, and human destiny. Nothing happens by chance—everything that unfolds in the world, from the smallest illness to the greatest war, occurs under the watchful eye of God.

A Call to Faith and Endurance

For believers, the proper response to suffering is not fear or despair, but faith and endurance. As Job said in Job 2:10,

“Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”

True faith accepts both blessings and trials as coming from the same loving hand of God. Suffering reminds us that this world is temporary, and that our true hope lies not in human power or comfort, but in God's eternal purpose.

In Romans 8:18, the Apostle Paul reminds us:

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Thus, when we experience pain, loss, or disaster, we must remember that God is still in control. His will is perfect, even when it is beyond our understanding.

Conclusion

1. God's sovereignty is absolute. Satan can act only within the limits God allows.
2. Life, death, sickness, and health are determined by God's will—not by chance, fate, or physical condition.
3. Calamities and tribulations serve as divine warnings and spiritual tests to prepare humanity for judgment and redemption.

4. Believers must endure suffering with faith, knowing that every trial has a divine purpose.

Reflection

When you face hardship, illness, or loss, remember the story of Job. His suffering was not a punishment, but a test that revealed the depth of his faith and trust in God.

Let us then live with the same conviction:

“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.” — Job 13:15

For in God’s hands lie life and death, strength and weakness, joy and sorrow—all working together for His glory and our ultimate good.

Satan and His Angels and the Worst of Men

The story of creation, as recorded in the Book of Genesis, tells us that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. According to 2 Corinthians 12:2, there are *three heavens*: the first refers to the sky or atmosphere, the second to the celestial realm (space and stars), and the third to the abode of God—the place of His divine presence.

Along with the physical creation, God also created all the angels, spiritual beings whose purpose was to serve and glorify Him. Among these angels was Lucifer, whose name means *“light-bearer”* or *“morning star.”* He was created in great beauty and wisdom, a shining example of God’s creative power.

However, like man, the angels were also given free will—the freedom to choose between obedience and rebellion. Lucifer, in his pride, desired to rise above his Creator and to be worshipped like God Himself. This was the beginning of sin in heaven: the sin of pride and rebellion.

Lucifer’s Rebellion and Fall

The prophet Isaiah recorded Lucifer’s ambition and downfall in Isaiah 14:12–14:

*“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

In these verses, we see Lucifer’s heart filled with arrogance and ambition. He wanted to ascend to the throne of God, to rule over all creation, and to be worshipped like the Most High. But such pride could not stand in the presence of a holy and perfect God.

Because of his rebellion, Lucifer and the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven. Revelation 12:7–9 describes this cosmic event vividly:

*“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.
And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:
he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*

Thus, Lucifer became Satan, meaning “adversary,” and the angels who joined his rebellion became demons—unclean spirits that now operate in the world to oppose the will of God and to corrupt mankind.

The Work of Satan and His Angels on Earth

When Satan and his fallen angels were cast down to earth, they began their work of deception and destruction. Their aim is to separate man from God by tempting him to sin. The Book of Genesis, chapter 3, records the first instance of this when the serpent tempted Eve to eat the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden:

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.”
— Genesis 3:1

Through cunning words, the serpent (Satan) deceived Eve, and through her, Adam fell into sin. This act of disobedience became the first sin of mankind, leading to the fall of man and his separation from God. From that moment on, the world became subject to sin, death, and corruption.

Satan has since continued his work of deceit. He sows evil in the hearts of men, tempting them to disobey God, to love the world, and to live according to the flesh. He influences nations, corrupts leaders, and distorts the truth to lead humanity astray.

The Nature of Satan’s Influence

Satan is not merely a symbolic force of evil; he is a real spiritual being with intelligence, cunning, and power—though his power is limited by God. His methods are subtle and deceptive:

1. Temptation – He appeals to man’s desires, as he did to Eve, offering worldly pleasure in exchange for disobedience.
2. Deception – He disguises himself as an “angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14), mixing truth with lies to confuse believers.

3. Accusation – He is called “*the accuser of our brethren*” (Revelation 12:10), constantly seeking to condemn those who follow God.
4. Possession and Influence – In many instances, he and his demons possess the minds and bodies of men who yield to sin, using them as instruments of wickedness.

Through these means, Satan continues to corrupt human nature, leading men into greed, pride, hatred, and violence.

The Worst of Men

The “worst of men” are not merely the wicked or the immoral but those who willfully serve the purpose of Satan—those who reject truth, oppose righteousness, and lead others into deception. They are the human instruments through which the devil works.

In John 8:44, Jesus told the unbelieving Jews:

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

These words reveal that anyone who rejects the truth of God and lives in deceit becomes a child of the devil in spirit and deed. The “worst of men” are those who embody Satan’s rebellion—those who hate truth, love wickedness, and resist the will of God.

God’s Sovereignty Over Evil

Even though Satan and his angels work tirelessly to destroy mankind, God remains sovereign over all creation. The devil’s power is permitted only for a time and only according to God’s purpose. Every act of evil will ultimately serve to fulfill the divine plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

As Romans 16:20 promises:

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.”

Evil may appear powerful, but it is temporary and doomed to defeat. The end of Satan and his angels has already been declared in Revelation 20:10:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Conclusion

1. Lucifer’s pride led to his fall and transformation into Satan, the adversary of God and man.

2. Satan and his angels now work to deceive, tempt, and destroy humanity through sin and falsehood.
3. The worst of men are those who consciously yield to Satan's influence, becoming instruments of evil in the world.
4. Despite the presence of evil, God remains in control, and His justice will ultimately prevail.
5. The faithful must remain vigilant, discerning truth from lies, and steadfast in the Word of God.

Reflection

Evil did not originate from man but from pride and rebellion against God. Every time a person chooses self-will over God's will, he repeats Lucifer's sin.

Let us therefore guard our hearts, for pride is the root of all rebellion. As 1 Peter 5:8–9 warns:

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:
Whom resist stedfast in the faith.”*

Only by clinging to the truth of Christ and walking in humility can we overcome the influence of Satan and stand victorious in the power of God.

Satan and His Cohorts: The Power of Deception and the Responsibility of Man

Satan and his cohorts in the spirit world possess a terrifying ability: **they can transform into different forms and manifestations** to tempt, frighten, and mislead mankind toward destruction. The Apostle Paul warns us in **2 Corinthians 11:14–15**,

*“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

This passage reveals that **Satan's most dangerous deception is not his darkness but his imitation of light**. He disguises himself and his servants as figures of truth, purity, and goodness to lure people into error. Many false teachers and doctrines seem righteous outwardly, yet they are driven by deceitful spirits working to corrupt the hearts and minds of men.

Satan's Entry into the Human Mind

The devil and his spirits work not only externally but **internally**, influencing the **thoughts and desires** of men. When people open their minds to idleness, malice, and vanity, they create a space for evil spirits to dwell. This is why the saying goes: *“An idle mind is the devil’s workshop.”*

Evil thoughts often lead to evil actions. When a person continually entertains bitterness, greed, lust, or hatred, **Satan finds a foothold**. Through this influence, people begin to act under the devil’s persuasion—committing robbery, murder, corruption, and other heinous acts. These deeds are not merely physical crimes; they are **manifestations of spiritual possession and moral decay**.

But even as Satan tempts and influences, **he cannot force** a person to sin. God has given humanity **free will**—the sacred capacity to choose between good and evil. As **James 1:14–15** teaches,

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

The devil may entice, but man himself chooses to obey or resist. Hence, man bears full responsibility for his actions.

The Free Will of Man and His Power to Resist

God endowed man with reason, conscience, and free will to discern right from wrong. Even though Satan tempts, **man can resist through the power of faith and submission to God**. The Bible gives us this clear command in **James 4:7**:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

This verse gives a twofold instruction:

1. **Submit to God** – align your heart with His will through prayer, obedience, and study of the Word.
2. **Resist the devil** – reject sinful thoughts and temptations, refusing to be lured into disobedience.

When man fully submits to God, he gains spiritual authority over evil. The devil and his spirits cannot overpower a soul fortified by faith, truth, and righteousness.

The Nature of Evil in Mankind

Although Satan is the ultimate source of temptation, **man becomes the doer of sin**. Satan is the “pusher,” but man is the “performer.” Evil deeds become real through human hands—murder, theft, oppression, and every kind of corruption. Because man has a body and acts in

the physical world, **he often becomes even worse than Satan in his cruelty**, since the devil works through his influence, but man commits the act himself.

This explains why some crimes in human history are so **horrific and inhuman** that they defy imagination—mass killings, exploitation, brutality, and acts of perversion. Those who commit such atrocities are often **completely hardened in heart**, losing all sense of conscience. They become, in a moral sense, like beasts—**“numb and animalistic,”** as the text says.

These people are no longer merely tempted; they are possessed by evil intentions, willingly aligning themselves with Satan’s cause. Yet, even in such darkness, the Word of God still calls humanity to repentance and renewal through Christ.

Satan’s True Objective: The Destruction of Souls

The ultimate goal of Satan and his cohorts is not merely to make people commit sins but to **separate them eternally from God**. Every temptation, every deceit, every fear he instills is designed to distance man from the truth. His strategy is subtle:

- He tempts through pleasure, making sin seem harmless or desirable.
- He instills fear and despair, so that men doubt God’s mercy.
- He distorts truth, using religion itself to mislead souls away from genuine faith.

As **1 Peter 5:8** warns:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

The devil prowls in every age and every place, seeking entry into human hearts. But the key to victory is vigilance—being spiritually awake and grounded in God’s Word.

The Fall of Man and the Lesson of Eden

From the beginning, God gave man the power to choose. In the **Garden of Eden**, Adam and Eve were warned not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Yet, the **serpent (Satan)** deceived them with cunning words, convincing them that disobedience would make them “like God.” They chose to believe the lie, and sin entered the world.

This first act of disobedience illustrates the essence of temptation: **it begins with a choice**. God did not force man to obey; Satan did not force man to sin. Adam and Eve chose, and they bore the consequence of that choice—separation from the presence of God.

The same principle applies today. Every sin begins in the heart, where a person either allows or resists evil. The Bible urges believers to **guard their hearts**, for it is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23).

Resisting Evil and Choosing Life

God's Word teaches us that **resistance is possible and necessary**. Man must exercise his free will to choose righteousness daily. **Deuteronomy 30:19** declares:

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

When we choose to obey God, we choose life. When we give in to sin, we choose death.

Faithful Christians must therefore:

- **Fill their minds with God's Word**, leaving no room for idleness or evil thought.
- **Pray continually**, seeking divine strength in moments of temptation.
- **Fellowship with believers**, for unity in faith helps resist spiritual attacks.
- **Avoid sin and flee from temptation**, as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:12).

Conclusion

Satan and his cohorts are powerful deceivers, capable of transforming themselves into images of light and righteousness. Yet, their strength lies only in deception—**they have no power over a soul that stands firm in God's truth**.

Man, endowed with free will, bears the responsibility to resist temptation and to choose the path of righteousness. The devil may whisper lies, but **it is man's decision that determines his destiny**.

As long as we remain vigilant, prayerful, and faithful to the teachings of Christ, the devil's schemes will fail. For it is written in **1 John 4:4**:

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

God's Spirit within us is far greater than the spirit of evil that roams the earth. Therefore, let every believer stand firm, resist the devil, and live in the victory that Christ has already won.

Chapter 12

Compositions of a Human Being

Many people believe that there is something in a man that separates him after death, though world religions have developed a bewildering array of beliefs about the hereafter. Something inside a person is immortal and goes on living after departing. According to the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, "soul is equated with the total person." In Genesis 2:7, it states, " God proceeded to form the man out of dust from the ground and to blow into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man came to be a living soul. The first man, Adam, was a soul." In other words, when man was created, he was composed of dust from the ground and the breath of life, which is the spirit that God gave us. This spirit, which makes us alive, returns to God when a man dies.

The understanding that the word "soul" can mean the whole being of a person is supported by other scriptures. The bible speaks of a soul. In Leviticus 23:30, "The soul is spoken of as being impatient, irritated, sleepless, fearful, and depressed. Romans 13:1 states: " Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities." And at I Peter 3:20, we read: " In Noah's days, a few people, that is, eight souls were carried safely through the water." Apparently, it does not mention any soul that is some immaterial entity that lives on after death. The terms "soul" and "life" are used in parallel, one amplifying the meaning of the other. " Soul", then, can also refer to the life that one enjoys as a living soul, or person. The bible refers to Moses' enemies who were seeking to take his life as "all the men who were hunting for |his soul." (Exodus 4:19), Matthew 20:28 reads, " And concerning Jesus Christ, the bible says: "The Son of Man came to give his soul {life} a ransom in exchange for many."

While man has three compositions as affirmed in the bible, such as spirit, soul, and body. The bible tells in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.", we can say that man's composition will only become two because in Genesis 2:7, it is stated there that man is made up of dust and the breath of life which is the spirit that God gave us. And after that, man became a living soul.

The soul is the wholeness or entirety of a human being that makes the soul and body as one. When this soul has no spirit from God, it is lifeless, meaning the spirit that is dead in Christ, the one that is of the world, which is full of sin. But when a man is given a new spirit when baptized, he becomes a living soul with a new spirit. A man without a spirit of God is dead according to the bible, and he is only pronounced alive when he is renewed or living a new life in Christ.

Therefore, having a new spirit, a man lives and now contains three compositions: spirit, soul, and body. Those who continuously live in sin in this world are not given a spirit, but they merely live in their body and soul because they are dead in their faith and therefore, spiritless. The body that has no spirit is dead, although living in the body and soul. They have no spirit from God because they have no faith. Faith without works is dead according to James 2:17, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." This spirit that the bible is referring to when given unto man will help him in many things, for example, in overcoming his weaknesses.

Romans 8:26 says, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: "The reason they live is because of the breath of life, which is different from the spirit of the sons of God. In Judas 1:19 read, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Men should have a clean heart and a renewed spirit to have complete compositions. Psalms 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

The Perfect Man

In the Old Testament, there were men who were regarded as *perfect* in their generation — not in the sense of absolute sinlessness, but in their faithfulness, uprightness, and obedience to God's commandments. The word *perfect* in the scriptures often refers to one who is *blameless, complete, mature, or wholehearted* in his devotion to God.

One of the earliest examples is Job, who was described as "*a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil*" (Job 1:1). To be perfect, therefore, means to live in such a way that one's heart and actions are aligned with the will of God.

Another account is found in Genesis 6:9, which states:

"This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God."

Despite living in a corrupt and violent generation, Noah remained faithful. He obeyed God's instructions even when others mocked him, and by his obedience, he and his family were saved from the flood.

But do perfect men exist in our time? The apostle James provides an important insight in James 3:2:

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

Here, perfection is equated with mastery over one's words and actions — a spiritual maturity that reflects discipline and moral integrity. A *perfect man* is one who guards his

tongue and keeps his whole being under control, living in harmony with the teachings of Christ.

Paul's Example of Spiritual Perfection

The apostle Paul serves as an example of such devotion. After his conversion, he dedicated his entire life to preaching the gospel of Christ. He endured hunger, imprisonment, persecution, shipwreck, and near-death experiences — all for the sake of the truth. He wrote in Philippians 3:12-14:

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul recognized that perfection is not easily attained; it is a lifelong pursuit of Christlike character. He taught that true perfection is found in Christ — and through constant obedience and faith, believers grow into spiritual maturity.

Guarding the True Gospel

Paul also sternly warned that *false teachers* would rise and corrupt the pure gospel. In Galatians 1:8, he declared:

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

This warning remains crucial today. With many preachers proclaiming different doctrines, Christians must be discerning. The apostle John echoes this counsel in 1 John 4:1:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Here, *spirit* refers to the teachings or doctrines being preached. Every believer is commanded to *test* these teachings — to confirm them through the scriptures and ensure that they are consistent with the words of Christ and His apostles.

Modern-Day Pharisees

Christ Himself warned His followers against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. In Matthew 5:20, He said:

“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The *Pharisees* of today may not wear the same robes or dwell in synagogues, but they are those who preach to large crowds, appearing righteous outwardly, yet their teachings

deviate from the truth of Christ. Some may knowingly conceal false doctrines for personal gain, power, or recognition.

A perfect man, therefore, is not one without flaw, but one who continually strives to live according to God's word — testing all teachings, living in humility, controlling his thoughts and words, and walking in the righteousness of Christ.

Angels Appear Before Men

In the early days of human history, there were mysterious and extraordinary encounters between heavenly beings and mankind. The Scriptures recount that the *sons of God* — beings often interpreted as angels — once appeared and even mingled with human beings on earth. They did not merely appear as messengers; rather, they established personal and physical relationships with men and women.

This is recorded in **Genesis 6:1–4**:

“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

From these verses, it is clear that the *sons of God* — angelic beings — cohabited with the *daughters of men*. The union between the divine and the mortal produced offspring described as *giants* or *Nephilim*, mighty men renowned for their great strength and fame. Yet, this unnatural relationship corrupted the moral and spiritual order that God had established.

The result was the rapid spread of wickedness across the earth. Humanity, originally created in God's image, became defiled through disobedience and corruption. The scripture records God's deep grief over the moral decay of mankind:

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”(*Genesis 6:5–6*)

Because of this, God declared judgment upon the earth:

“And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I

have made them.”

(*Genesis 6:7*)

The Great Judgment and God’s Covenant with Noah

Amid the growing wickedness, one man stood out — **Noah**, who was righteous and blameless in his generation. The Bible says he “*walked with God*” (*Genesis 6:9*), meaning he remained faithful and obedient despite the corruption around him. God, therefore, spared Noah and his family, commanding him to build an ark to preserve life before the great deluge came upon the earth.

The flood marked both judgment and renewal — a cleansing of the corruption caused by man’s sin and the fallen angels’ influence. Every living thing perished except Noah, his family, and the creatures aboard the ark. After the flood, God established a **covenant** with Noah, ensuring the continuation of life and setting forth a new beginning for mankind.

“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”(*Genesis 9:1*)

This covenant symbolized God’s mercy and His enduring purpose for humanity, despite mankind’s repeated failures. He even placed the rainbow in the sky as a sign of this everlasting promise (*Genesis 9:13–17*).

The Lessons from the Age of the Angels

The story of the *sons of God* and *daughters of men* serves as a timeless warning. When divine boundaries are broken, and when mankind yields to ungodly desires, the result is corruption and destruction. Even the angels who sinned were not spared judgment. **2 Peter 2:4** affirms this:

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Similarly, **Jude 1:6–7** reinforces that those angels who abandoned their proper dwelling are kept in eternal chains until the final judgment.

These accounts remind believers that God’s order must not be violated and that all rebellion — whether by angels or men — leads to divine judgment. However, the preservation of Noah and his family also reminds us that righteousness, obedience, and faith can deliver us from destruction.

Even today, as wickedness increases and spiritual corruption spreads, God still looks for those who, like Noah, walk with Him in sincerity and truth.

Be Fruitful and Multiply — A Misunderstood Command

In the present time, despite the tremendous growth of the global population — especially in third-world countries — humanity continues to increase in number at an alarming rate. This phenomenon has brought with it overwhelming challenges: poverty, hunger, immorality, and various forms of social and moral decay. The question arises: *Should we still say to ourselves and to others, “Be fruitful and multiply,” as though it were a universal and timeless command for all generations?*

The answer is no. It is not practical, wise, nor spiritually discerning to interpret this phrase as a direct instruction for everyone today. The world’s population has multiplied beyond what the earth’s resources can sustain for all, leading to widespread suffering and social instability. Overpopulation has resulted in distress, starvation, homelessness, and rampant wickedness — consequences that reveal humanity’s lack of understanding of God’s original intent behind His words.

Sometimes, human reasoning becomes distorted and unacceptable because it fails to interpret the Scriptures in their proper context. Many people read the Bible without discernment and take verses literally without considering *to whom, when, and why* the words were spoken. As a result, they cling to commands that were never meant for all times and situations.

Such misunderstanding leads to false conclusions and misplaced obedience. People insist that God’s command to “be fruitful and multiply” applies to them personally, without recognizing the historical and spiritual setting in which God originally gave the command.

Let us read the verse carefully in **Genesis 9:1**:

“And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”

It is clear from this verse that the command was given specifically to **Noah and his sons** after the great flood, at a time when the entire human race had been destroyed except for their family. The world then was empty and needed to be repopulated. Thus, the command to multiply was both necessary and purposeful — to restore the population of mankind upon the face of the earth.

Today, however, the situation is entirely different. The earth is not void of people; it is overflowing with them. The world now faces the consequences of excessive multiplication — poverty, unemployment, vagrancy, crime, and moral corruption. These are not the fruits of God’s blessing but rather the outcomes of man’s failure to understand His Word correctly.

The Wisdom of Understanding God's Word

God's commands are always given in their proper time and purpose. What was fitting in Noah's generation may no longer be applicable in ours. To apply a divine instruction without understanding its context is to misuse the Word of God. The Bible itself teaches that there is "*a time to be born, and a time to die*" (Ecclesiastes 3:2) — meaning that all things must occur within God's ordained timing and reason.

Therefore, believers must learn to discern God's will not merely by quoting Scripture but by understanding it rightly. **2 Timothy 2:15** instructs us:

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

To "rightly divide" means to interpret the Word with precision and understanding — knowing which commands were given to specific people in specific situations, and which ones are meant for all generations.

When God told Noah to "be fruitful and multiply," it was a blessing and a directive for restoration. But when people in our generation multiply without discernment, responsibility, or wisdom, it no longer becomes a blessing — it becomes a burden.

Hence, the call of our time is not simply to multiply in number but to multiply in **wisdom, righteousness, and faith**. God desires not a multitude of people living in misery and wickedness, but a generation of men and women who live godly lives and walk in His truth.

As Proverbs 4:7 declares:

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Angels and the Misinterpretation of God's Command

The verse in Genesis 9:1 clearly shows that the command "*Be fruitful and multiply*" was given specifically to **Noah and his sons**, not to the people of our time nor to the Gentiles. God gave this command to Noah after the flood to repopulate the earth, which had been left desolate by the deluge. Humanity had to begin again and spread over the face of the earth to have dominion over all living creatures, as God intended.

This command, however, was **not given to the generations of today**. The condition of the world now — overcrowded, corrupt, and filled with evil — proves that God would not issue such a command in our time. God, being righteous, would never instruct the wicked to multiply, for that would only increase the number of the wicked upon the earth. The command was meant as a **blessing** to a righteous man and his family, not as a universal rule for all ages.

Some may ask, “*Do we not have the right to multiply?*” Of course, no one can forbid a person from having children. Yet, if one chooses to have a large family without the means to sustain them, the hardships that follow will be their own burden. Wisdom teaches that every choice carries its consequences. Life itself dictates prudence and balance.

Nevertheless, this is not merely a matter of economics or population control. It is, above all, a **spiritual concern**. Humanity suffers not because of numbers, but because of **ignorance and misunderstanding of God’s Word**. Many are misled by false teachers who twist Scripture for their own gain. When teachings are unrighteous, the works of the followers will likewise be unrighteous.

The Bible must not only be read — it must be **studied, understood, and rightly interpreted**. Without this, people fall prey to deception and error. As the prophet Isaiah warned:

“Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter.”
— *Isaiah 56:11*

This passage reveals the sad state of many leaders and teachers in our time — blind shepherds, greedy and self-serving, who lead souls astray for personal gain. Their ignorance of the truth brings darkness to those who follow them.

The Watchers of Heaven

Before man was created, **angels** were already in existence. They were the first celestial beings formed by God, witnesses to the foundation of the world.

“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding...

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.”
— *Job 38:4–7*

Here, the “morning stars” and “sons of God” refer to the angels. They rejoiced as God fashioned the earth and established His creation. From the beginning, angels have observed the works of men. They are God’s messengers, recording human deeds and reporting them before His throne.

The Lord Jesus Himself affirmed their role:

“Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”— *Matthew 18:10*

The angels of the Lord encamp around those who fear Him and deliver them from danger:

“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”
— *Psalm 34:7*

And in the Book of Hebrews, we read of the heavenly multitude:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.”
— *Hebrews 12:22*

Angels, therefore, are divine beings appointed to serve God and minister to His people. They possess great power and wisdom, yet their authority is derived from God alone. They watch over the faithful, guide them, and execute divine will upon the earth. But despite their might and holiness, they too are accountable to the same God who created them.

The Angels That Sinned

Many assume that angels are incapable of sin, being heavenly beings in the presence of God. Yet the Scriptures reveal otherwise. Some angels, led by pride and rebellion, sinned against their Creator. For this, they were cast down from heaven and condemned to eternal punishment.

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”
— *2 Peter 2:4*

This verse proves that even celestial beings are not exempt from divine justice. Their rebellion led to their downfall, and their destiny is sealed until the final judgment. Likewise, mankind who follows in their rebellion will share the same fate.

God’s law stands eternal — **righteousness and obedience** are the standards by which both angels and men shall be judged. Whether in heaven or on earth, none can escape His righteous judgment.

Lucifer and the Judgment of the Celestial Beings

Lucifer and the angels are also **creations of God**, and like all of creation, they too shall be judged on the **Day of Judgment**. Though they are celestial beings, higher in order and power than humans, they remain subject to the sovereignty of their Creator. The Scriptures proclaim that **everything in heaven and on earth belongs to the Lord**, and none can stand equal to Him.

“Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty:
for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine;

thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.”

— *1 Chronicles 29:11*

This verse powerfully declares the **absolute supremacy of God**. His dominion extends from the highest heavens to the depths of the earth. All things — both visible and invisible — exist by His will and for His glory. The angels, though glorious in form and mighty in strength, are but **servants of His divine purpose**.

The Rebellion and Fall of Lucifer

Among these heavenly beings was **Lucifer**, whose name means “*light-bearer*” or “*morning star*.” He was created in splendor and wisdom, an angel of high rank and beauty. Yet within his heart arose pride and ambition. He desired not to serve, but to be **worshipped**; not to reflect God’s light, but to **replace it**.

The prophet Isaiah describes this tragic fall:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
For thou hast said in thine heart,
I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the Most High.” — *Isaiah 14:12–14*

In these verses, we see the **root of all sin — pride**. Lucifer’s ambition was to rise above his Creator, to ascend beyond his appointed place, and to claim equality with the Almighty. But his rebellion led to his downfall. Cast out from heaven, he became the adversary — **Satan**, the deceiver of nations, the father of lies, and the instigator of all wickedness on earth.

The Nature of His Rebellion

Lucifer’s fall did not occur in isolation. Scripture reveals that he drew with him **a multitude of angels** who shared in his rebellion. These fallen angels became the **forces of darkness**, working tirelessly to oppose God’s truth and corrupt humanity. Their desire is to destroy what God has made good, and to lure mankind into disobedience and ruin.

From the very beginning, Satan sought to defile creation. In the Garden of Eden, he tempted Eve to doubt God’s word, introducing sin into the world. From that moment on, the **battle between good and evil** has continued — not as a struggle of equals, but as a rebellion doomed to fail under God’s eternal sovereignty.

Satan's dominion over the earth is temporary and permitted only by divine allowance. Even in his rebellion, he remains subject to the authority of God. The story of Job reminds us that Satan cannot act beyond what God allows. His power is limited, his end is certain, and his defeat has already been decreed.

The Destiny of the Fallen

Though Satan and his angels continue to roam the earth, their **judgment is already sealed**. They await the day when they will be cast into the **lake of fire**, prepared for them since the foundation of the world.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”— *Matthew 25:41*

This final judgment will reveal God's perfect justice — that no rebellion, however powerful, shall escape His hand. The same God who cast down Lucifer will also **vindicate the righteous** who remained faithful to His Word.

Let every believer, therefore, be watchful and discerning. For though the enemy still deceives and tempts, his days are numbered. The victory belongs to the Lord, and all creation — both angelic and human — will bow before His throne when the fullness of time comes.

An Angel Appears Before a Gentile

God delights in those whose hearts are pure and whose deeds reflect righteousness. His mercy and grace are not confined to one nation, race, or people, but extend to all who seek Him in sincerity and truth. Throughout the Scriptures, we read of divine visitations — moments when the heavenly realm touches the earthly — and among these is the remarkable account of **Cornelius the centurion**, a Gentile whose faith and devotion reached the ears of Heaven.

“And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by a holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.”

— *Acts 10:22*

Cornelius was a Roman officer, an Italian by birth, yet the Scripture calls him “**a just man**” and “**one that feareth God.**” Though he was not of the Jewish nation nor among those under the Mosaic law, his generosity, faith, and reverence for God were evident to all — and most importantly, to God Himself. His prayers and alms were received as a **memorial before the Lord**, prompting the Almighty to send a **holy angel** with a divine message.

This moment is deeply significant. It shows that **God's eyes search beyond boundaries** — beyond race, religion, or position — and rest upon the **heart of man**. He is not a respecter of persons but a discerner of the soul. The Lord does not look on outward appearance, but on the inner life of faith, humility, and obedience.

As it is written:

“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry.”
— *Psalms 34:15*

Thus, the case of Cornelius reveals a great spiritual truth — that even among those **outside the covenant of Israel**, there are souls whose hearts incline toward God. Cornelius, though a Gentile, **feared God and practiced righteousness**, and in doing so, attracted divine favor. The angel's appearance before him was both a reward for his faith and a preparation for the greater revelation of Christ that was to come through Peter.

Beyond the Law but Living by It

The example of Cornelius also illuminates the teaching of Christ and the apostles — that **some who are not under the Law perform the righteousness of the Law**, while **others who are under the Law fail to live by it**. The Apostle Paul declared:

“For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.”— *Romans 2:14*

This means that there are people who, though not belonging to the chosen nation or church, still live uprightly and do what is right in the eyes of God because His law is written in their hearts. Such people demonstrate that faith and righteousness are not confined within the walls of religion but are rooted in the **inner obedience of the heart**.

Therefore, we must not be quick to judge or condemn others based on **religion, race, or tradition**. What matters most before God is not the name of one's denomination, nor the rituals one performs, but the **condition of the heart** and the **fruit of one's life**.

For God, who sent His angel to Cornelius, is the same God who sent His Son to the world — that “**whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life**” (*John 3:16*).

A Lesson in Divine Fairness

The story of Cornelius is a testimony of divine fairness and inclusiveness. It tells us that God is ever-watchful, listening even to those who seek Him in silence and sincerity. Cornelius' encounter with the angel marked the **beginning of the Gentile mission**, proving that salvation through Christ is not limited to a particular people but offered freely to all.

May this story remind every believer that **God still visits those who seek Him** — not necessarily through angels in visible form, but through the whisper of His Spirit, the truth of His Word, and the providence of His grace.

About the Author

Bro. Artemio Saguinsin is a natural-born Filipino citizen, a devoted lecturer, teacher, story writer, historian, and researcher with a deep passion for religion and spirituality. His works reflect a lifelong pursuit of truth, faith, and understanding of the divine message within the Scriptures.

He is the author of *Deciphering the Verses of Codex Sinaiticus*, *Adultery in the Spirit*, *The Minaret*, *The Uncanny World of Amadeus*, and *Enemies Within the Reich* — a collection of writings that span biblical interpretation, historical narrative, and spiritual reflection. Beyond his theological and historical contributions, *Bro. Saguinsin* has also written several academic textbooks in **law and business**, widely used by students and educators alike.

In 2006, he was **baptized with the Members of the Church of God International (MCGI)**, a milestone that deepened his commitment to studying and teaching the Word of God. Through his writings and lectures, *Bro. Saguinsin* continues to share insights drawn from faith, history, and experience — encouraging readers to seek wisdom, righteousness, and spiritual discernment in the light of the Holy Scriptures.

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