

## SCRIPTURES FOR INDIVIDUAL, UNISON, RESPONSIVE OR ANTIPHONAL READING

Indexes to Scripture Readings may be found on pages 665 to 673

### 629 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

And God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

**You shall have no other gods before Me.**

You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 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 fathers to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

**On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.**

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day.

**Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**You shall not murder.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**You shall not steal.**

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*Ex. 20:1-17 (NIV)*

### 630 TEACHING CHILDREN

Take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.

**Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess;**

That you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

**Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful**

**to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you—a land flowing with milk and honey.**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.**

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart;

**You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

**You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

**And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

*Deut. 4:9; 6:1-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4 (NKJV)*

## 631 OBEDIENCE

You shall therefore love the Lord your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.

**For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.**

It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will go up to heaven for us to

get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?

**Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?**

But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.

**This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.**

Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

**He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.**

Jesus answered and said to him, If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.

**Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.**

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

**And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

*Deut. 11:1; 30:11-14; Josh. 1:8; 1 Sam. 15:22; John 14:21,23; Heb. 5:8; 11:8; 1 John 2:3 (NASB)*

## 632 FORGIVENESS

Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

**No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?

**He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy.**

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

Peter came to Him and said, Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?

**Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.**

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

**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.

**If we say that we have not sinned, we**

**make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

Isa. 1:18; Jer. 31:34; Mic. 7:18; Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-22; Eph. 4:32; 1 John 1:8-2:2 (NKJV)

## 633 SCRIPTURE

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever. Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it;

**And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness;

**So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

**For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.**

We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

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

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

**For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

*Isa. 40:9; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 4:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:18-21 (NIV)*

## 634 THE MESSIANIC KING

There will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past He humbled the land of Naphtali, but in the future He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great Light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a Light has dawned.**

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before You as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

**For as in the day of Midian's defeat, You have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.**

Every warrior's boot used in battle and

every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

**For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

**The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.**

*Isa. 9:1-7 (NIV)*

## 635 CHRIST'S INCARNATION

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**He was in the beginning with God;**

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

**In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men.**

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.**

He came for testimony, to bear witness to the Light, that all might believe through Him.

**He was not the Light, but came to bear witness to the Light.**

The true Light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not.**

**He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not.**

**But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God;**

**Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

*John 1:1-14 (RSV)*

## 636 THE MAGI'S VISIT

**Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,**

**Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.**

**When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;**

**And assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.**

**They told him, In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:**

**And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.**

**Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared;**

**And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.**

**When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the Child was.**

**When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;**

**And going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

**And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.**

*Matt. 2:1-12 (RSV)*

## 637 CHRIST'S BAPTISM

**In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!**

**For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.**

**When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, Brood of vipers! Who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**

**Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.**

**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after**

me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.

**He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.**

And John tried to prevent Him, saying, I have need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to Me?

**But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him.**

Then Jesus, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

**And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

*Matt. 3:1-3, 7-8, 11-17 (NKJV)*

## 638 CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,

**Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to Me.**

If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.

**This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:**

Say to the Daughter of Zion, See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.**

They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them.

**A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.**

The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted,

**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, Who is this?

**The crowds answered, This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.**

*Matt. 21:1-11 (NIV)*

## 639 CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

**He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.**

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

**He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.**

Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

**Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.**

But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

**We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

**By oppression and judgment, He was taken away.**

And who can speak of His descendants? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people He was stricken.

**He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death, though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.**

*isa. 53:1-9 (NIV)*

## 640 CHRIST'S DEATH

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.

**And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and arrayed Him in a purple robe;**

They came up to Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! and struck Him with their hands.

**Pilate went out again, and said to them, See, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in Him.**

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, Behold the Man!

**When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, Crucify Him, crucify Him! Pilate said to them, Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no crime in Him.**

Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

**So they took Jesus, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha.**

There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

**Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.**

*John 19:1-6, 18-19 (RSV)*

## 641 CHRIST'S ASCENSION

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen;

**To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard from Me;

**For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

**And He said to them, It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

**Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.**

And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

**Who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**

*Acts 1:1-11 (NKJV)*

## 642 CHRIST'S EXALTATION

If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love;

**If there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion;**

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;**

Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

**Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus;**

Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped;

**But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.**

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name;**

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth;

**And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*Phil. 2:1-11 (NASB)*

## 643 CHRIST'S RETURN

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.

**We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.**

According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.



**For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

**Therefore encourage each other with these words.**

*1 Thess. 4:13-18 (NIV)*

## 644 THE HOLY SPIRIT

**I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever;**

**Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.**

**I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.**

**Now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, Where are You going?**

**But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**

**Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**

**And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**

**Of sin, because they do not believe in Me;**

**Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;**

**Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

**I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.**

**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

**He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.**

**All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.**

*John 14:16-18; 15:1-5 (NIV)*

## 645 MISSIONS

**The eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated.**

**And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful.**

**And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**

**Do you not say, There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.**

**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching;**

**That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your**

**heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;**

For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**For the Scripture says, Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.**

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him;

**For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**

How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!**

*Matt. 28:18-20; John 4:35; Rom. 10:8-15 (NASB)*

## 646 THE CHURCH

He said to them, But who do you say that I am?

**And Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

**And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you

bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**As the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.**

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

**He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**

You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God;

**Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone;**

In whom the whole building being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord;

**In whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word;

**That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

*Matt. 18:15-19; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25-27 (NKJV)*

## 647 THE LORD'S SUPPER

I received from the Lord what I also

delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread;

**And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord.

**Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.

**That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.**

But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged.

**But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world.**

*1 Cor. 11:23-32 (RSV)*

## 648 THE BEATITUDES

Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down.

**His disciples came to Him and He began to teach them, saying:**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

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

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

*Matt. 5:1-12 (NIV)*

## 649 THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.**

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.**

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

**By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.**

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.

**If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.**

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

**This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.**

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

**You are My friends, if you do what I command you.**

No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing.

**But I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you

ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

**This I command you, that you love one another.**

*John 15:1-17 (NASB)*

## 650 THE LORD'S PRAYER

When you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

**Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.**

In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

**Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

**But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

*Matt. 6:15 (NKGJV)*

## 651 DISCIPLESHIP

**A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.**

**It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master.**

**If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be My disciple.**

**And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.**

**When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of Life.**

**To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples.**

**Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**

**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**

**By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.**

**This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.**

*Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 14:26-27; John 8:12, 31-32; 13:34-35; 15:8 (NIV)*

## 652 COMFORT

**Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.**

**In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?**

**And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.**

**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever.**

**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

**For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.**

**If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.**

**Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.**

*John 14:1-3, 15-18, 27; 2 Cor. 1:3-7 (RSV)*

## 653 GOD'S LOVE

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**We love Him because He first loved us.**

*John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:1; 4:9-12, 18-19 (NKJV)*

## 654 THE NEW BIRTH

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

**He came to Jesus at night and said, Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with him.**

In reply Jesus declared, I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

**How can a man be born when he is old? Nicodemus asked. Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!**

Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

**Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.**

You should not be surprised at My saying, You must be born again.

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

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!**

*John 3:1-8, 14-17; 2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)*

## 655 PRAYER

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.**

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one; so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

**Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

**And He who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

**Since then we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.**

For we have not a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may re-**

**ceive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

This is the confidence which we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.

**And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him.**

Matt. 7:7-11; Mark 11:24-25; John 14:13-14; Rom 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Heb. 4:14-16; 1 John 5:14-15 (RSV)

## 656 GIVING

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

**In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

**Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

**If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and

whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Thanks be to God for His indescribable Gift!**

*Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7, 9, 12; 9:8-7, 15 (NIV)*

## 657 FAITHFULNESS

Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?

**Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.**

Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

**His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.**

He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

**If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you?**

And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

**No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.**

It is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

**The things which you have heard from**

**Me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.**

Do not fear what you are about to suffer.

**Be faithful until death; and I will give you the crown of life.**

*Matt. 24:43-47; 25:21; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 2:2; Rev. 2:10 (NASB)*

## 658 ETERNAL LIFE

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

**Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.**

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

**My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.**

This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

**He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life.**

I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.



**We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.**

*John 3:14-16, 36; 5:24; 10:27-29; 1 John 5:11-13, 20 (RSV)*

## 659 SALVATION BY GRACE

From His fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Law came in, to increase the trespass; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved);

**And raised us up with Him and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast.

**The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world.**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit;

**Which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.**

*John 1:16-17; Rom. 5:20-21; Eph. 2:4-9; Titus 2:11-12; 3:4-7 (RSV)*

## 660 REDEMPTION

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

**But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.**

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference;

**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.**

God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—

**He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus.**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

**For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.**

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers;

**But with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

*Mark 10:45; Rom. 3:21-26; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (NIV)*

## 661 CHRISTIAN LOVE

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

**If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.**

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.**

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.**

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.**

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put chil-**

**dish ways behind me.**

Now we see but a poor reflection, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

*1 Cor. 13 (NIV)*

## 662 FAITH

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

**For by it the men of old gained approval.**

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

**And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.**

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

**By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise.**

For he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

**By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.**

Therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that,

as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

**By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son.**

It was he to whom it was said, In Isaac your descendants shall be called.

**He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.**

*Heb. 11:1-3, 6, 8-12, 17-19 (NASB)*

## 663 FAMILY

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

**For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.**

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

**For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.**

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

**For this reason a man shall leave his**

**father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.**

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise:**

That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

**And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

*Eph. 5:22-6:4 (NKJV)*

## 664 UNITY

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

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

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

**There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—**

One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

**One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship

with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion;

**Then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

*Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 2:1-4 (NIV)*

## 665 GOVERNMENT

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

**Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

**For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**

Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

**For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.**

Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.

**Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.**

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using your liberty as a cloak for vice, but as servants of God.

**Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**

*Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17 (NIV)*

## 666 WORK

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

**For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, we did not eat any one's bread without paying;**

But with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you.

**It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our conduct an example to imitate.**

For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat.

**For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work.**

Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living.

**Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing.**

*2 Thess. 3:6-13 (RSV)*

## **667 THE CHRISTIAN'S RESURRECTION**

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied.

**But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

For as by a man came death, by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

**For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**

Some one will ask, How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?

**You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.**

And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

**But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.**

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

**It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.**

It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

**For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality.**

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

**Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

*1 Cor. 15:19-22, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (RSV)*

## **668 JUSTIFICATION THROUGH FAITH**

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

**Through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.**

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

**And perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;**

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

**But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

**For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.**

*Rom. 5:1-11, 18 (NASB)*

## 669 MATURITY

He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

**Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.**

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

**But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working**

**of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**

Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

**For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.**

But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

**Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity.**

*Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 5:12-6:1 (NASB)*

## 670 CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD

Holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.

**For we have not a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues for ever.**

Consequently He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

**For it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless,**

**unstained, separated from sinners,  
exalted above the heavens.**

He has no need, like those high priests,  
to offer sacrifices daily, first for His  
own sins and then for those of the peo-  
ple; He did this once for all when He  
offered up Himself.

**And every priest stands daily at his  
service, offering repeatedly the same  
sacrifices, which can never take away  
sins.**

But when Christ had offered for all  
time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat  
down at the right hand of God, then to  
wait until His enemies should be made  
a stool for His feet.

**For by a single offering He has per-  
fected for all time those who are sanc-  
tified.**

Therefore, brethren, since we have  
confidence to enter the sanctuary by  
the blood of Jesus, by the new and liv-  
ing way which He opened for us  
through the curtain, that is, through  
His flesh, and since we have a great  
priest over the house of God;

**Let us draw near with a true heart in full  
assurance of faith, with our hearts  
sprinkled clean from an evil consci-  
ence and our bodies washed with pure  
water.**

*Heb. 3:1; 4:15-16; 7:24-27; 10:11-14, 19-22 (RSV)*

## 671 CHRIST'S TEMPTATION

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into  
the desert to be tempted by the devil.

**After fasting forty days and forty nights,  
He was hungry.**

The tempter came to Him and said, If  
you are the Son of God, tell these  
stones to become bread.

Jesus answered, It is written: Man does  
not live on bread alone, but on every  
word that comes from the mouth of  
God.

Then the devil took Him to the holy  
city and had Him stand on the highest  
point of the temple.

**If you are the Son of God, he said,  
throw Yourself down.**

For it is written: He will command His  
angels concerning You, and they will  
lift You up in their hands, so that You  
will not strike Your foot against a  
stone.

**Jesus answered him, It is also written:  
Do not put the Lord your God to the  
test.**

Again, the devil took Him to a very  
high mountain and showed Him all  
the kingdoms of the world and their  
splendor.

**All this I will give you, he said, if You  
will bow down and worship me.**

Jesus said to him, Away from Me,  
Satan! For it is written: Worship the  
Lord your God, and serve Him only.

**Then the devil left Him, and angels  
came and attended Him.**

*Matt. 4:1-11 (NIV)*

## 672 ASSURANCE

We know that God causes all things to  
work together for good to those who  
love God, to those who are called  
according to His purpose.

**For whom He foreknew, He also pre-  
destined to become conformed to the  
Image of His Son, that He might be the  
firstborn among many brethren;**

And whom He predestined, these He  
also called; and whom He called, these

He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?**

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

**Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies.**

Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**

Just as it is written, For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

**But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

**Nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Rom. 8:28-39 (NASB)*

## 673 SANCTIFICATION

Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.

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

Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

**When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.**

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

**But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

**For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.**

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

**The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;**

idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

**I warn you, as I did before, that those**



**who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**Gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

**Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

*Rom. 6:11-14, 19-22; Gal. 5:19-25 (NIV)*

## 674 DEDICATED SERVICE

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

**Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

For by the grace given to me I bid every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith which God has assigned him.

**For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

**Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.**

Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord.

**Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**

Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality.

**Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.**

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

**Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited.**

Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

**Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

*Rom. 12:1-5, 9-18, 21 (RSV)*

## 675 PERSEVERANCE

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

**And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.**

Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

**But I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.**

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

**For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

**Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,**

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**We have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.**

Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

**As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.**

Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

**Be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;**

For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

**Building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;**

Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 2:12-13; 3:12-14; Heb. 3:14; 12:1-3; James 5:10-11; 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Jude 20-21, 24, 25 (NASB)

## 676 RIGHTEOUSNESS

And he believed the Lord; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God for salvation to every one who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, He who through faith is righteous shall live.**

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

**For no human being will be justified in His sight by works of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.**

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear

witness to it, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

**For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by His blood, to be received by faith.**

This was to show God's righteousness, because in His divine forbearance He had passed over former sins;

**It was to prove at the present time that He Himself is righteous and that He justifies him who has faith in Jesus.**

The promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they should inherit the world, did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

**Then as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one man's act of righteousness leads to acquittal and life for all men.**

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

**Law came in, to increase the trespass; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

**I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened.**

For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

**For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified.**

Gen. 15:6; Prov. 14:34; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:19-26; 4:13; 5:18-21; 10:1-4 (RSV)

## 677 GLORIFICATION

The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.**

For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

**For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

**For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees?**

But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

**And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;**

And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren;

**And whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

*Rom. 8:18-30 (NASB)*

## 678 GOD'S GOODNESS

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures for ever!

**Deliver us, O God of our salvation, and gather and save us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Thy holy name, and glory in Thy praise.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Then all the people said Amen! and praised the Lord.

**The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.**

You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

**But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven;**

For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

**For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?**

And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

**You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

What man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?

**Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?**

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

**So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.**

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.

**For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

And those whom He predestined He also called; and those whom He called He also justified; and those whom He justified He also glorified.

**Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.**

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

**You have tasted the kindness of the Lord.**

*1 Chr. 16:34-36; Nah. 1:7; Matt. 5:43-48; 7:9-12; Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Tim. 4:4; James 1:17; 1 Pet. 2:3 (RSV)*

## 679 WISDOM

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding,

**To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;**

To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion—

**A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,**

To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.**

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;

**For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

**If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

**But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.**

This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

**For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there.**

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

**Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

*Prov. 1:1-7; 3:13-14; 9:10; James 1:5; 3:13-18 (NKJV)*

## 680 JOY

Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail, and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls,

**Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.**

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

**Always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,**

In view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

**For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.**

Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

**The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;**

The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

**What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.**

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!**

*Heb. 3:17-18; Phil. 1:3-6, 15-18; 4:1,4 (NASB)*

## 681 RECONCILIATION

If when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

**That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

**Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ.**

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

**And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.**

And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

**For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

*Rom. 5:10-11; 2 Cor. 5:19-20; Eph. 2:13-18 (NKJV)*

## 682 VICTORY OVER SIN

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

**Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?**

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

**Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.**

For he who has died has been freed from sin.

**Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.**

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

**Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

**And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

*Rom. 6:1-13 (NIV)*

## 683 CHRIST, BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

**But I said to you, that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.**

All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

**For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

**For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.**

The Jews therefore were grumbling about Him, because He said, I am the bread that came down out of heaven.

**And they were saying, Is not this Jesus, the Son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does He**

**now say, I have come down out of heaven?**

Jesus answered and said to them, Do not grumble among yourselves.

**No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.**

It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

**Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father.**

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

**I am the bread of life.**

*John 6:35-48 (NASB)*

## 684 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

**To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

**To another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,**

And to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.

**But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.**

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

**And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.**

All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they?

**All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?**

All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

**But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.**

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

**For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.**

But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

**Let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.**

*1 Cor. 12:1, 7-11, 27-31; 14:1-3, 40 (NASB)*

## 685 CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

**Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.**

For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

In these you once walked, when you lived in them.

**But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth.**

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

**Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.**

*Col. 3:1-11 (RSV)*

## 686 THE GOOD SAMARITAN

A certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

**He said to him, What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?**

So he answered and said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

**And He said to him, You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.**

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?



**Then Jesus answered and said: A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.**

Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

**Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.**

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

**On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.**

So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?

**And he said, He who showed mercy on him. Then Jesus said to him, Go and do likewise.**

*Luke 10:25-37 (NKJV)*

## **687 PASSOVER AND THE LAST SUPPER**

Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

**And He sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.**

So they said to Him, Where do You want us to prepare?

**And He said to them, Behold, when you**

**have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pithers of water; follow him into the house which he enters.**

Then you shall say to the master of the house, The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?

**Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready.**

So they went and found it as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

**And when the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.**

Then He said to them, With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

**For I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.**

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this and divide it among yourselves;

**For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.**

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.

**Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.**

*Luke 22:7-20 (NKJV)*

## **688 THE CHRISTIAN'S BAPTISM**

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

## 689 FELLOWSHIP

Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas.

**He then brought them out and asked, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**

They replied, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.

**Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.**

At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

**The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.**

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

**We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,

**Having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.**

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

**The life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—**

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

**And we are writing this that our joy may be complete.**

This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth;**

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.**

*1 John 1 (RSV)*