

What Must I Do To Have Eternal Life

Can we find our answer in the Sacred Word? Let's make an attempt to see! The Bible tells us:

Romans 3:23 *"For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

Isaiah 64:6 *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*

One may say: "But I am not like the worldly infidel, I go to church twice a week, and do good deeds, why folks are always telling me that I have a really good heart!"

What is the witness of Scripture about the heart of man?

Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*

Romans 1:29 –31 *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (30)Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31)Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:*

Romans 3:20-22 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

Romans 4:21-25 *And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. ²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. ²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; ²⁴But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; ²⁵Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

Everywhere there are hearts crying out for something which they have

not. They long for a Power that will give them mastery over sin, that will deliver them from the bondage of evil, and give health and life and peace. Many who call themselves Christians are mere human moralists. The work of the Holy Spirit of God is to them a strange work.

Romans 10:2, 3 *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of **God's** righteousness, and going about to establish their **own** righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

Genuine faith appropriates the righteousness of Christ, and the sinner is made an overcomer with Christ; for he is made a partaker of the divine nature, and thus divinity and humanity are combined.

He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works, is attempting an impossibility. Man cannot be saved without obedience, but his works should not be of himself; Christ should work in him to will and to do of His good pleasure. (See Phil. 2:13)

Whatever our profession, it amounts to nothing unless Christ is revealed in works of righteousness.

Ephesians 2:8 –10 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

As we feed upon His word, we find that it is spirit and life. The Word destroys the natural, earthly nature, and imparts a new life in Christ Jesus.

Act 22:15 *For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard.*

We see this portrayed in the story of the demoniac that came screaming out from among the tombs with chains dangling from him that had been incapable of holding him.

JESUS SAID TO THE MAN

Luke 8:39 *Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.*

This is what everyone can do whose heart has been touched by the grace of God. This is the witness for which our Lord calls, and for want of

which the world is perishing.

Souls are kept from obeying the truth by a confusion of ideas, and because they do not know how to surrender their will and mind to Jesus.

We must not allow anything to draw our attention from the question, ‘**What shall I do to inherit eternal life?**’ (Luke 10:25) This is a life and death question, which we must each settle for eternity.

Ephesians 1:18 *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*

Luke 18:18 *And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*

Christ Read the ruler’s heart. Only one thing he lacked, but that was a vital principle. He needed the love of God in the Soul.

Love is the BASIS OF GODLINESS. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother. But we can never come into possession of this spirit by trying to love others. What is needed is falling at the foot of the cross and submitting the heart to a selfless Saviour who left the glory of heaven to die for us, when we thus contemplate these scenes the love of Christ will melt the selfish heart. When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously.

MUST I BE BORN AGAIN?

John 3:3, *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

1John 3:14 –15 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. ¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness. The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This effectual change can be brought about only by the effectual working of Spirit of Christ dwelling in the heart.

John 3:5–7 *“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter*

into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Proverbs 16:25 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

The great burden of every soul should be, Is my heart **renewed**? Is my soul **transformed**? Are my sins pardoned through faith in Christ? Have I been born again? Do I still lust after the things of the flesh?

John 1:12, 13 *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: ¹³Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

TRUE CONVERSION IS A RADICAL CHANGE

The very drift of the mind and bent of the heart should be turned and life become new again in Christ, the things we once love no longer hold any joy for us, as we look at the Saviour's life and sacrifice for us.

Ephesians 4:22–24 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

NOT YET CONVERTED?

Romans 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

ALL 10 EXPECTING HEAVEN

Matthew 25:1–4 *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

The two classes of WATCHERS represent the two **classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord**. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the Word of God. The oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit of God that gives us the Power to turn from the "lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life," for we have God's

own promise:

1Jn 2:16,17 *“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ⁽¹⁷⁾ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”*

AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION

Romans 8:9 *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.*

Now is the time that we could show our devotion to Jesus that other souls shall not only hear the Word of God, but they too, without delay secure oil in their vessels with their lamps. That oil is the righteousness of Christ. It represents character, and character is not transferable. No man can secure it for another. Each must obtain for himself a character purified from every stain of sin.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR HEAVEN

Matthew 22:2, 11—14 *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, ¹¹And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: ¹²And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. ¹³Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.*

Proverbs 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

The parable of the wedding garment opens before us a lesson of the highest consequence. By the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity; the wedding garment represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding. Rev 19:8

It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their **personal Saviour**.

Isaiah 64:6 *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character and this character He offers to impart to us. *"All our righteousness are as filthy rags."* Isa. 64:6. Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." Sin is defined to be *"the transgression of the law."* 1 John 3:5, 4. But Christ was obedient to every requirement of the law. He said of Himself, *"I delight to do Thy will, O My God; yea, Thy law is within My heart."* Ps. 40:8. When on earth, He said to His disciples, *"I have kept My Father's Commandments."* John 15:10. By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments.

When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. We are no longer in rebellion against His Father's commandments. We "Delight to do God's will," as Jesus did, for He abides in our hearts.

Isaiah 61:10 *"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."*

The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unfor-saken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST PLEADS FOR US.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

2Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

God will accept nothing but purity and holiness; one spot, one wrinkle, one defect in the character, will forever debar the soul from heaven with all its glories and treasures. Compare, Jeremiah 4:14

It is the white Robe of Christ's righteousness that gives the forgiven sinner admittance into the presence of the heavenly angels. This we receive when we cooperate with God in submissive obedience to All of His commands.

1Corinthians 6:9, 10 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

Revelation 3:17 *Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

How plainly is pictured the position of those who think they have all the truth, who take pride in their knowledge of the Word of God, While its sanctifying power has not been felt in their lives.

Many have the theory of the truth who know not the power of godliness. If the word of God dwelt in the heart, it would control the life.

Revelation 3:20 *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

REMEMBER:

Proverbs 16:25 *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

How WILLING is Christ to take possession of the soul temple if we will let Him! He is represented as waiting and knocking at the door of the heart. Then why does He not enter? It is because the love of sin has closed the door of the heart. As soon as we consent to give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed between the soul and the Saviour.

In the WORK of redemption there is no compulsion. No external force is employed. Under the influence of the Spirit of God, man is left free to choose whom he will serve. In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom. The expulsion of sin is the act of the soul itself. True, we have no power to free ourselves from Satan's control; but when we desire to be set free from sin, and in

our great need cry out for a Power out of and above ourselves, the powers of the soul are imbued with the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, and they obey the dictates of the will in fulfilling the will of God.

Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

WE CAN SERVE ONLY ONE MASTER

James 4:7, 8 *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*

Revelation 3:18 *“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.”*

The truly converted heart will feel the necessity of buying gold, which is pure faith and love; white raiment, which is a spotless character, made pure in the blood of their dear Redeemer, and eye-salve which is the grace of God that will give clear discernment of spiritual things, and detect sin. These attainments are more precious than the gold of Ophir.

Acts 24:16 *And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*

The religion of Christ is something more than talk. The righteousness of Christ consists in right actions and good works from pure, unselfish motives. Outside righteousness, while the inward adorning is wanting, will be of no avail.

Philippians 2:12, 13 *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* See also Zech. 4:6

When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He

makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit. Praise God for such a wonderful Saviour!

OUR ONLY HOPE

ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD **WE CAN ATTAIN TO THIS!** It is for us to YIELD Up our WILL to the WILL of Jesus Christ; and as we do this, God will immediately take possession and work in us to WILL and to do of His good pleasure. Our whole nature will then be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ, and even our thoughts will be subject to Him. You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire; but you can control the WILL and thus you can make an entire change in your life. By yielding UP your WILL to Christ, your life will be hid with Christ in God and allied to the Power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from God that will hold you fast to His strength; and a new life, even the life of living faith, will be possible to you. But your WILL must co-operate with God's WILL.

Acts 4:10, 12 *"Be it known ...that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth..whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole... 12Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

Matthew 1:21 *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins."*

John 1:29 *"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."*

1Peter 5:8 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"*

Christ Alone had experience in all the sorrows and temptations that befall human beings. Never another of woman born was so fiercely beset by temptation; never another bore so heavy a burden of the world's sin and pain. Never was there another whose sympathies were so broad or so tender. A sharer in all the experiences of humanity, He could feel not only for, but with, every burdened and tempted and struggling one.

By Experiencing in Himself the strength of Satan's temptation, and of human sufferings and infirmities, Jesus would know how to help those who

should put forth efforts to help themselves.

1Corinthians 10:13 *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

During Christ’s thirty years of life on earth His heart was wrung with inconceivable anguish. The path from the manger to Calvary was shadowed by grief, enduring such heartache as no human language can portray. He could have said in truth, *“Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow” Lam. 1:12*. Hating sin with a perfect hatred, He yet gathered to His soul the sins of the whole world. Guiltless, He bore the punishment of the guilty. Innocent, yet offering Himself as a substitute for the transgressor. The guilt of every sin pressed its weight upon the divine soul of the world’s Redeemer. The evil thoughts, the evil words, the evil deeds of every son and daughter of Adam, called for retribution upon Himself; for He had become man’s substitute. Though the guilt of sin was not His, He took it upon Himself, His spirit was torn and bruised by the transgressions of men, and He who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

2Corinthians 5:21 *“For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father’s wrath upon Him as man’s substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.

Isaiah 53:4, 5 *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”*

1Peter 3:18 *“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just*

for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

And now the Lord of glory was dying, a ransom for the race. In yielding up His precious life, Christ was not upheld by triumphant joy. All was oppressive gloom. It was not the dread of death that weighed upon Him. It was not the pain and ignominy of the cross that caused His inexpressible agony. Christ was the prince of sufferers; but His suffering was from a sense of the malignity of sin, a knowledge that through familiarity with evil, man had become blinded to its enormity. Christ saw how deep is the hold of sin upon the human heart, how few would be willing to break from its power. He knew that without help from God, humanity must perish, and He saw multitudes perishing within reach of abundant help.

Ezekiel 34:11, 12 *"For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day."*

In the parable the shepherd goes out to search for one sheep, the very least that can be numbered. So if there had been but one lost soul, Christ would have died for that one. Oh, Reader, are you that 'One'?

Hebrews 12:25 *"See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven."*

The way has been made clear for all those who choose to hear, repent, and believe. All heaven is waiting the sinner's co-operation, and the only barrier that stands in his way is one which he alone can remove, his own will. He must submit to the will of God, and through repentance and faith, come unto God for salvation. No one will be forced against his will; Christ draws, but never compels.

Jeremiah 31:3 *"The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."*

Every one that will submit to be ransomed, Christ will rescue from the pit of corruption and from the briers of sin.

Hebrews 2:3 *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was*

confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;”

Acts 26:18 *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”*

God does not send messengers to flatter the sinner. He delivers no message of peace to lull the unsanctified into fatal security. He lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces the soul with arrows of conviction. The ministering angels present to him the fearful judgments of God to deepen the sense of need, and prompt the cry, **“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”** Luke 10:25

Remember: *“Faith works by love and purifies the soul.”* Through faith the Holy Spirit works in the heart to create holiness therein; but this cannot be done unless the human agent will work with Christ. We can be fitted for heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart.

Jeremiah 3:13 *“Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.”*

The only reason that we have not remission of sin is that we have not acknowledged to Him whom we have wounded by transgression, whom we have pierced by our sins, that we are at fault and in need of mercy. The confession that is the outpouring of the inmost soul will find its way to the heart of Infinite Pity.

Acts 5:31 *“Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to **give repentance** to Israel, and **forgiveness** of sins.”* Compare Rom. 2:14, Zech. 3:9

By the manifestation of His love, by the entreating of His Spirit, He woos men to repentance; for repentance is the gift of God, and whom He pardons He first makes penitent. The sweetest joy comes to man through his sincere repentance toward God for the transgression of His law, and through faith in Christ as the sinner’s Redeemer and Advocate. It is that men may understand the joy of forgiveness, the peace of God, that Christ draws them through the manifestation of His love. If they respond to His drawing, yielding their hearts to His grace, He will lead them on step by step, to a full knowledge of Himself, and this is Life Eternal.

2Corinthians 7:10 *“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world*

worketh death.”

Proverbs 28:13 *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

Repentance includes sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life.

Proverbs 23:26 *“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”*

IT REQUIRES ALL

The WHOLE HEART must be yielded to God, or the change can never be wrought in us by which we are to be restored to His likeness. By nature we are alienated from God. The Holy Spirit describes our condition in such words as these: *“Dead in trespasses and sins;” “the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint” “no soundness in it.”* We are held fast in the snare of Satan, *“taken captive by him at his will.”* Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 1:5, 6 ; 2Timothy 2:26. God desires to heal us, to set us free. But since this requires an entire transformation, a renewing of our whole nature, we must yield ourselves wholly to Him. The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.

Ephesians 4:22–24 *“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

VITAL FOR US TO REMEMBER

The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. When the Holy Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life.

Psalms 51:17 *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*

HE HAS PROMISED

1John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1John 1:7 *“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we*

have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

All the washings and sprinklings enjoined in the ceremonial law were lessons in parables, teaching the necessity of a work of regeneration in the inward heart for the purification of the soul-dead in trespasses and sins, and also the necessity of the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. Compare Haggai 2:14.

Humanity has no power to regenerate itself. It does not tend upward, toward the divine, but downward, toward the satanic. Christ is our ONLY hope for none but God can subdue the pride of man's heart. We cannot save ourselves. We cannot regenerate ourselves. What is justification by faith? It is the work of God in laying the glory of man in the dust, and doing for man that which is not in his power to do for himself.

Romans 3:26 *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

2Corinthians 5:17, 18 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;"*

Romans 5:8 *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

That which was objectionable in the character is purified from the soul by the love of Jesus. All selfishness is expelled. All envy, evil speaking are rooted out and a radical transformation is wrought in the heart.

Sanctification is a STATE OF HOLINESS, without and within, being holy and without reserve the Lord's, not in form, but in truth. Every impurity of thought every lustful passion, separates the soul from God; for Christ can never put His robe of righteousness upon a sinner, to hide his deformity.

1Peter 1:14, 15 *"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;"*

When we submit ourselves to Christ, we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then, as the Lord looks upon us, He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:14 *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”*

WHAT IS HOLINESS?

Holiness is not rapture; it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love.

Ephesians 5:25–27 *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; ²⁶That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷That 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.”*

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN WHAT

THE HEAVENLY FATHER IS LIKE?

John 3:14 - 16 *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

If you have confessed your sins, and in heart put them away, and have resolved to give yourself to God. Then go to Him, and ask that He will wash away your sins and give you a new heart. Then believe that He does this because He has promised. John 20:31 And that believing, ye might have life through His name.

JESUS PAID OUR DEBT

1John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

At the cross the sinner is drawn from the stronghold of sin, from the confederacy of evil, and at every approach to the cross his heart relents and in penitence he cries, “It was my sins that crucified the Son of God.” At the cross he leaves his sins, and through the grace of Christ his character is transformed. The Redeemer raises the sinner from the dust, and places him under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As the sinner looks upon the Redeemer, he finds hope, assurance, and joy. Faith takes hold of Christ in

love. Faith works by love, and purifies the soul.

BEFORE AND AFTER FORGIVENESS

Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

John 6:37 *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out.”*

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”*

Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His Word you will receive strength. Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart life to the soul that is “dead in trespasses.” Eph. 2:1 He will set free the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune in the chains of sin.

ALL CREDIT GOES TO GOD

2Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”*

Isaiah 55:6—7 *“Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”*

WHAT MAKES A SAINT? A FORGIVEN SINNER!

To be pardoned in the way that Christ pardons, is not only to be forgiven, but to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The Lord says, *“A new heart will I give unto thee.”* The image of Christ is to be stamped upon the very mind, heart, and soul. The apostle says, *“But we have the mind of Christ”* 1 Cor. 2:16. Without the transforming process which can come alone through divine power, the original propensities to sin are left in the heart in all their strength, to forge new chains, to impose a slavery that can never be broken by human power. But men can never enter heaven with

their old tastes, inclinations, idols, ideas, and theories. Heaven would be no place of joy to them; for everything would be in collision with their tastes, appetites, and inclinations, and painfully opposed to their natural and cultivated traits of character.

2Peter 1:3, 4 *“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

We must learn of Christ. We must know what He is to those He has ransomed. We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be partakers of the Divine Nature.

Ephesians 3:16, 17, 20 *“That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ²⁰Now unto Him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”*

If we are right with God today, we are ready if Christ should come today. What we need is Christ formed within, the hope of glory.

YOU MAY SAY, BUT I AM ONLY HUMAN!

If we are only human, are we then, Christians? Jesus was humanity linked with divinity. And Jesus says, *“Abide in Me, and I in you.”* John 15:4-7; 17:11 In John 17:21-23 Jesus prays, *“I in them & Thou in Me, that they may be perfect in one; that the world may know that Thou has sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou has loved Me.”*

We must realize that through belief in Him it is our privilege to be partakers of the divine nature, and so escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Then we are cleansed from all sin, all defects of character. We need not retain one sinful propensity.

Galatians 2:19, 20 *“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. ²⁰I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”*

OUR ONLY HOPE

When His words of instruction have been received, and have taken possession of us, Jesus is to us an abiding presence, controlling our thoughts and ideas and actions. We are imbued with the instruction of the greatest Teacher the world ever knew. A sense of human accountability and of human influence gives character to our views of life and of daily duties. Jesus Christ is everything to us, the first, the last, the best in everything. Jesus Christ, His Spirit, His character, colors everything; it is the warp and the woof, the very texture of our thoughts upon self; it is no more we that live, but Christ that liveth in us, and He is the hope of glory. Self is dead, but Christ is a living Saviour. Continuing to look unto Jesus, we reflect His image to all around us. We cannot stop to consider our disappointments, or even to talk of them; for a more pleasant picture attracts our sight, the precious love of Jesus. He dwells in us by the word of truth.

AND THEN

Philippians 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

UNITY ON PRINCIPLES

Satan had claimed that it was impossible for man to obey God's commandments; and in our own strength it is true that we cannot obey them. But Christ came in the form of humanity, and by His perfect obedience He proved that humanity and divinity combined **can obey every one of God's precepts.**

John 15:4, 5 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing."*

Galatians 5:22 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"*

Dear reader,

Are you in a position where you do not possess these graces? Just as soon as any one crosses you, or offends you, does there arise in your heart a feeling of bitterness, a spirit of rebellion? If this is the spirit you have, bear in mind that you have not the spirit of Christ. It is another spirit. For Jesus says in Matthew 7:16 *"Ye shall know by their fruits."*

When Christ in the heart it will be so softened and subdued by love for God and man that fretting, faultfinding, and contention will not exist there. The religion of Christ in the heart will gain for its possessor a complete victory over those passions that are seeking for the mastery.

James 3:13–17 *Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.*

You see; Righteousness within is testified to by righteousness without. He who is righteous within is not hard-hearted and unsympathetic, but day by day he grows into the image of Christ, going on from strength to strength. He who is being sanctified by the truth will be self-controlled, and will follow in the footsteps of Christ until grace is lost in glory. The righteousness by which we are justified is imputed; (CHARGED TO THE ACCOUNT OF -) the righteousness by which we are sanctified is imparted. (COMMUNICATED) The first is our title to heaven, the second is our fitness for heaven.

1 Timothy 6:12, 14 *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. ¹⁴That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:”*

When Souls are converted, their salvation is not yet accomplished. They then have the race to run; the arduous struggle is before them to “fight the good fight of faith.” The battle is lifelong, and must be carried forward with determined energy proportionate to the value of the object you are in pursuit of, which is eternal life.

Each day we must renew His consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these we are to be ever on guard, STRIVING in Christ’s strength for VICTORY.

It is only by personal union with Christ, by communion with Him daily,

hourly, that we can bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

GOD'S ANCIENT WRITER SAYS

Joshua 24:15 *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

We must look to Christ; we must RESIST as He RESISTED; we must PRAY as He Prayed; we must AGONIZE as He AGONIZED, if we would CONQUER as He conquered. And His Holy Word has a precious promise of encouragement.

1Corinthians 10:13 *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

And remember; Our heavenly Father measures and weighs every trial before He permits it to come upon the believer. He considers the circumstances and the strength of the one who is to stand under the proving and test of God, and He never permits the temptations to be greater than the capacity of resistance. If the soul is overborne, the person overpowered, this can never be charged to God, but the one tempted was not vigilant and prayerful and did not appropriate by faith the provisions God had abundantly in store for him. Christ never failed a believer in His hour of combat. The believer must claim the promise and meet the foe in the name of the Lord.

1Peter 2:21 –23 *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: ²²Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: ²³Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.”*

Jesus did not contend for His rights. Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail or become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God's countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently.

Isaiah 30:21 *“And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, say-*

ing, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

We want to become so sensitive to holy influences that the lightest whisper of Jesus will move our souls.

Ephesians 4:30 *"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*

James 4:7–8 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

IN THE WHOLE SATANIC FORCE THERE IS NOT POWER TO OVERCOME ONE SOUL WHO IN SIMPLE TRUST CASTS HIMSELF ON CHRIST.

Jude 1:24 *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,"*

The Saviour is by the side of His tempted and tried ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. When temptations and trials come, do not wait to adjust all the difficulties, but look to Jesus, your Helper.

2Corinthians 12:9 *"And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

ONLY ONE DAY AT A TIME!

We are to live only one day at a time. We do not have to do the work of a lifetime in a few hours. We need not look into the future with anxiety; for God has made it possible for us to be overcomers every day.

1John 5:4 *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*

Revelation 3:21 *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."*

But remember; Satan takes the control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God. (see Matt. 6:24; 12:43-45; Rom. 6:16)

Galatians 5:24 *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the*

flesh with the affections and lusts.”

WHAT AFFECTIONS & LUSTS?

The lower passions have their seat in the body and work through it. The words “flesh” or “fleshly” or “carnal lusts” embrace the lower, corrupt nature; the flesh of itself cannot act contrary to the will of God. We are commanded to crucify the flesh, with the affections and lusts. How shall we do it? Shall we inflict pain on the body? No; but put to death the temptation to sin. The corrupt thought is to be expelled. Every thought is to be brought into captivity to Jesus Christ. All animal propensities are to be subjected to the higher powers of the soul. The love of God must reign supreme; Christ must occupy an undivided throne. Our bodies are to be regarded as His purchased possession. The members of the body are to become the instruments of righteousness.

Titus 2:11–14 *“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

THE OLYMPIC GAMES EXAMPLE

1Corinthians 9:25–27 *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”*

Self is difficult to conquer. Human depravity in every form is not easily brought into subjection to the Spirit of Christ. But all should be impressed with the fact that unless this victory is gained through Christ, there is no hope for them. The victory can be gained; for NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD. By His assisting grace, ALL evil temper, ALL human depravity, may be overcome. Every Christian must learn of Christ.

Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, ac-*

ceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

It may take time to attain perfect submission to God's will, but we can never stop short of it and be fitted for heaven. True religion will lead its possessor on to perfection. Our thoughts, our words, and our actions, as well as our appetites and passions, must be brought into subjection to the will of God. We must bear fruit unto holiness.

Mark 4:19 *"And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, (of God) and it becometh unfruitful."* (to us)

1John 2:15–17 *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

You see; God will not accept one of us who is belittling his powers in lustful, earthly debasement, by thought, or word, or action. Heaven is a pure and holy place, where none can enter unless they are refined, spiritualized, cleansed, and purified. There is a work for us to do for ourselves, and we shall be capable of doing it only by drawing strength from Jesus.

PAUL WRITES

1Corinthians 10:31 *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

We must be trained to understand and follow Bible principles; we must learn of Christ the science of eating and drinking to the glory of God.

1Corinthians 6:9–11 *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."*

Therefore our sins of selfishness, of un-amiable temper, of indolence, of wrong habits and practices, are to be positively and firmly put away. The

one who *breaks with Satan is to give no place to his temptations. Let the souls who come to Christ consider that He is the sin bearer. Let the repenting soul lay hold by faith of the provision made to save him, not in his sin, but **from** his sin. 1John 1:9. *Dan 4:27

1John 3:5–9 *“And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. ⁶Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. ⁷Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. ⁸He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”*

The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning.

Self-denial means to rule the spirit when passion is seeking for the mastery; to resist the temptation to censure and to speak faultfinding words; to have patience with the child that is dull and whose conduct is grievous and trying; to stand at the post of duty when others may fail; to lift responsibilities wherever and whenever you can, not for the purpose of applause, not for policy, but for the sake of the Master, who has given you a work to be done with unwavering fidelity; when you might praise yourself, to keep silent and let other lips praise you. Self-denial is to do good to others where inclination would lead you to serve and please yourself. Although our fellow men may never appreciate our efforts or give us credit for them, yet we are to work on in simple faith in the promises of God.

2Peter 2:19 *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”*

If we indulge anger, lust, covetousness, hatred, selfishness, or any other sin, we become servants of sin. “*No man can serve two masters.*” If we serve sin, we cannot serve Christ. The Christian will feel the promptings of sin, for the flesh lusteth against the Spirit; but the Spirit striveth against the flesh, keeping up a constant warfare. Here is where Christ’s help is

needed. Human weakness becomes united to divine strength, and faith exclaims, “Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

1Corinthians 10:1–6, 11, 12 *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ²And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³And did all eat the same spiritual meat; ⁴And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. ⁵But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things were our **examples**, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ¹¹Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples**: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. ¹²Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”*

To go forward without stumbling, we must have the assurance that a hand all-powerful will *hold us up, and an infinite pity be exercised toward us if we fall. God alone can at all times hear our cry for help.

*Compare, **Song of Solomon 2:6** *“His left hand is under my head, and His right hand doth embrace me.”*

Hebrews 7:25 *“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to win and draw him to Christ. The angels never leave the tempted one a prey to the enemy who would destroy the souls of men if permitted to do so. As long as there is hope, until they resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, men are guarded by heavenly intelligences.

2Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

2Chronicles 30:9 *“...for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away His face from you, if ye return unto Him.”*

All are fallible, all make mistakes and fall into sin; but if the wrongdoer is

willing to see his errors, as they are made plain by the convicting Spirit of God, and in humility of heart will confess them then he may be restored to God. Oh, Friend, Will you come to Christ today? Time is running out!

1John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

As soon as we consent to give sin up, to acknowledge our guilt, the barrier is removed between the soul and the Saviour.

Matthew 6:14,15 *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

He who refuses to forgive is thereby casting away his own hope of pardon.

MAKING EVERYTHING RIGHT WITH ANOTHER

Ezekiel 33:14–15 *“Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; ¹⁵If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.”*

If we have injured others through any unjust business transaction, if we have overreached in trade, or defrauded any man, even though it be within the permission or extent of the law, we should confess our wrong, and make restitution as far as lies in our power. It is right for us to restore not only that which we have taken, but all that it would have accumulated if put to a right and wise use during the time it has been in our possession.

The Lord says, If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; none of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: He shall surely live. **JESUS SAYS**

Matthew 26:41 *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* and again in **Mark 14:38**.

If we will only watch, continually watch unto prayer, if we will do everything as if we were in the immediate presence of God, we would be saved from yielding to temptation, and could hope to be kept pure, spotless, and undefiled till the last.

1John 5:14 –15 *“And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:*

¹⁵And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.”

But many who profess the faith know not what true conversion is. They have no experience in communion with the Father through Jesus Christ, and have never felt the power of divine grace to sanctify the heart. Praying and sinning, sinning and praying, their lives are full of malice, deceit, envy, jealousy, and self-love. The prayers of this class are an abomination to God. True prayer engages the energies of the soul and affects the life.

Mark 11:24 *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

Psalms 55:22 *“Cast thy burden (of sin) upon the LORD, and He shall sustain thee: He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.”* Compare Matt. 11:28

Psalms 34:7 *“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear (to offend) Him, and delivereth them.”*

Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him to be overcome.

2Timothy 3:16 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (Right Doing)”*

John 7:17 *“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”*

Satan will be baffled and defeated when he finds the heart preoccupied with the truth of God. This is one method of fulfilling James 4:7.

John 10:27 –28 *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: ²⁸And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.”*

Those who decide to do nothing in any line that will displease God, will know, after presenting their case before Him, just what course to pursue. And they will receive not only wisdom, but strength. Power for obedience, for service, will be imparted to them, as Christ has promised.

THE BIBLE SAYS IT IN THIS WAY

Deuteronomy 5:32 *“Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside*

to the right hand or to the left.”

1Corinthians 1:2 *“...to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...”*

Note: We understand that a saint is a forgiven, justified sinner who then chooses to demonstrate his/her gratitude by living a righteous life by obedience to the commandments.

None of us need excuse our hasty temper, our misshapen characters, our selfishness envy, jealousy, or any impurity of soul, body, or spirit. God has called us to glory and virtue. We are to obey the call.

Ephesians 4:17, 22, 24 *“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²⁴ And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”*

MAKING OUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE

2Pe 1:10 *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”*

Matthew 22:14 *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

THE IMPORTANCE OF A FAITH THAT WORKS

Christ Himself will decide who are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny. Mat. 12:37; Jm. 2:21, 24, 25; Rm. 2:13; 3:4; 4:2

Jeremiah 21:8 *“...Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death. Therefore choose life.”*

Christ calls upon us to enter the narrow pathway, where every step means a denial of self.

Luke 13:23 *“Then said one unto Him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And He said unto them, ²⁴ Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”*

John 8:12 *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*

Only as we are willing to be purged from sin can we enter into fellowship with Him. Only the pure in heart can abide in His presence.

WE ARE ADMONISHED TO -

1Thessalonians 5:22 *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*

COULD TV, FUNNY PAPERS, MOVIES, NOVEL READING ETC. BE INCLUDED IN PSALMS?

Psalms 101:2 *“I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes; I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”*

He who finds pleasure in dwelling upon scenes of impurity, who indulges the evil thought, the lustful look, may behold in the open sin, with its burden of shame and heart-breaking grief, the true nature of the evil which he has hidden in the chambers of the soul.

Proverbs 23:7 *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*

Proverbs 4:23 *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”*

SCRIPTURE COUNSELS US

Ephesians 5:1, 2 *“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ²And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.”*

SHARING WHAT HE IMPARTS

Those who walk even as Christ walked, who are patient, gentle, kind, meek and lowly in heart, those who yoke up with Christ and lift His burdens, who yearn for souls as He yearned for them—these will enter into the joy of their Lord.

Ephesians 4:15 *“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”*

DID HE INCLUDE EXODUS 20:3-17?

Matthew 4:4 *“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”*

THE RESULTS

In the matchless Gift of His Son, God has encircled the whole world with

an atmosphere of grace as real as the air which circulates in the atmosphere. All who choose to breathe this life-giving atmosphere will live and grow up to the stature of men and women in Christ Jesus.

The truth is to be planted in the heart. It is to control the mind and regulate the affections. The whole character must be stamped with the divine utterances. Every jot and title of the word of God is to be brought into the daily practice.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14 *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”*

Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections of his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god; and John suggests;

1John 5:21 *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons (& daughters) of God, even to them that believe on His name:”*

Revelation 14:12 *“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”*

This power is not in the human agent. It is the power of God. When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ. The whole world is in desperate Rebellion against God and when we choose to follow the commandments of God, we will find ourselves on the Battlefield that Christ has promised to help us through.

TRIALS ARE THE LOT OF ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Job 23:10 *“But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

SAFE TO SAVE?

James 1:12 *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when (after) he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.”*

Sin shall not rise up the second time. Nah. 1:9 Heaven is now examining each soul to see if they will stand the test of chiseling, shaping and polish-

ing by the Master Artist!

It is Christ formed within that makes a man worthy of receiving the crown of life that fadeth not away.

1Peter 5:6 –10 *“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour**: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. ¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His **eternal** glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*

This effort on our part is vital. All promises are on condition. See James 4:7

JESUS PROMISES

Revelation 22:12 *“And, behold, I come quickly; and My **reward** is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*

WITHOUT A WEDDING GARMENT

By the king's examination of the guests at the feast is represented a work of judgment. The guests at the gospel feast are those who profess to serve God, those whose names are written in the book of life. But not all who profess to be Christians are true disciples. Before the final reward is given, it must be decided who are fitted to share the inheritance of the righteous. This decision must be made prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven; for when He comes, His reward is with Him, “to give every man according as his work shall be.” Rev. 22:12. Before His coming, then, the character of every man's work will have been determined, and to every one of Christ's followers the reward will have been apportioned according to his deeds.

The wedding garment *represents the character which all must possess who shall be accounted fit guests for the wedding. *Rev. 3:4, 5; 19:8

Dear Friend,

These special gems have been so meaningful to us that we just wanted to share them with you, our neighbors and friends. We hope by now they have, and will continue to be a real blessing to you as well. Feel free to copy and share with others. Now we come to the last few verses which the limited space of this booklet will allow. We would like to encourage you to get into the love letter from Heaven, (Holy Bible) and become acquainted with your heavenly Father, His

Only Begotten Son Jesus, and the working of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" Preparation for eternity begins here on this earth. Remember God would have us reveal Him by blooming wherever we are planted.

JESUS PRAYED THAT WE MIGHT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM

John 17:1 –3, 17 –24 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee: ²As Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Him. ³And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. ¹⁷Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth. ¹⁸As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. ²⁰Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; ²¹That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, *art* in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. ²²And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. ²⁴Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for Thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.

Remember The essence of all righteousness is loyalty to our Redeemer. It is when Christ is received as a personal Saviour that salvation comes to the soul. Will you today, just now, ask our loving Saviour to forgive you, as you forsake all evil, and repent of all sins, so that you may enjoy life eternal, when in that great day, Jesus Christ, comes to take His own to dwell with Him forever!

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life.

BLESSINGS FROM THE MOST HOLY PLACE ABOVE THE ONLY PLACE WHERE SINS ARE BLOTTED OUT!