

*Evidences
of a
Christian*

*Compiled by
Louwrens Erasmus*

Evidences of a Christian

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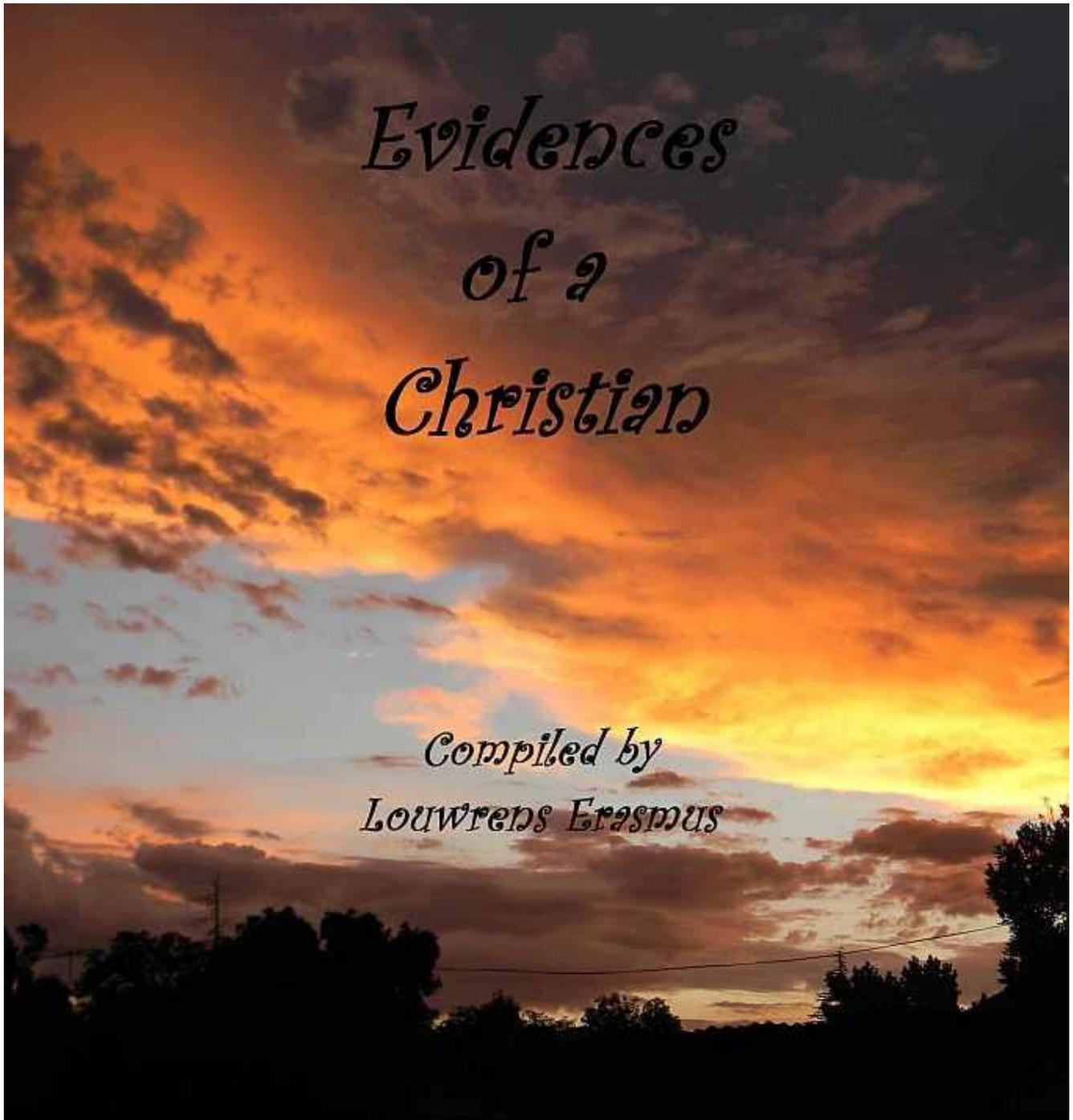
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All quotations from the King James Version of the Bible. All emphasis self applied.

Introduction

“LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.” (Ps 15:1-5)

Are there any physical evidences that we should see in a Christian? In other words, should people be able to see that you are a Christian without asking you? These types of questions kept me thinking about this subject for quite a while. I looked at various people, including some highly esteemed and many self proclaimed Christians, but did not really see something that differentiated them from non-Christians. The Bible declares in the Psalm above that we should be different, and this is confirmed in Malachi: *“Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.” (Mal 3:18)*

Many years ago I found a document that a person compiled which listed some of the characteristics or evidences of a Christian and thought that this was a very good document. I was so pleased with it that I spent hours turning it into a “PowerPoint show”. That was up to about a week ago. I then all of a sudden found so many scriptures that made me think twice about the subject again, as I found scriptures that added a totally different dimension to the subject. This led me to rethink the subject again from scratch, expanding on some areas and adding numerous others.

So what is the point? That I cannot just accept what someone else had written about the subject, but that I should ask the LORD what His opinion is. He will give you the correct answer.

How will it be done? I want to look at certain scriptures that list some of these evidences, and expound on them. For the most part it will only be direct quotations from the Bible, as nobody could write it better than the original writers of the Bible.

I would like to start with Psalm 1. *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Ps 1:1-6)*

This Psalm spells out a number of real evidences, as well as a number of other issues. These include giving us the results of types of people, those that serve the LORD, and those that don't.

Let us start by analysing the Psalm. What does the writer want to tell us? Firstly he informs us where we should not be. Where is that? *“that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful”* This does not sound very difficult, so that does not seem to be the problem.

So where should we be? *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”* This might sound very straightforward and very easily done, but this is where the problem with most people starts. It says that our delight should be in the law of the LORD, but then Jesus we are told in the New Testament came to put the law aside, and Paul confirms this. But did they really say this?

The time when Moses had to build the tabernacle, the LORD showed him in heaven exactly what to do and how to do it. In the holiest of holies he had to prepare a place for the Ark of the Covenant and the place where the two tablets with the Ten Commandments had to be put. When Jesus came He declared that he would pull down the temple and rebuild it in three days. With His crucifixion the veil between the holiest and the most holiest sections was torn from the top to the bottom, allowing us to enter into this place without the need for a high priest, as Jesus is our High Priest and entered into it once to pay for our sins with His blood.

But, the two tablets were not destroyed, they were still there. That is the first point.

When Jeremiah speaks to Israel about their inability to comply with what the LORD wanted, he tells them something that we as Christians very seldom hear of. We all get told what the covenant means and that we should come into a covenant relationship with the LORD. But what is a covenant? The original covenant was entered into between the LORD and Abraham. *“And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness”*.(Gen 15:5-6) The result of this was as follows: *“And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, **for because thou hast done this thing**, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; **because thou hast obeyed my voice**”*. (Gen 22:16-18) From this we can safely conclude that we have to obey His voice if we want to part of His covenant.

Back to Jeremiah. He tells Israel as follows: *“Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, **Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you**: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God: That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD. Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, **Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them**. For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, **Obey my voice**. Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not. And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.”*(Jer 11:2-10)

Fortunately for us Jeremiah also declares further on in the book of Jeremiah that the LORD wants to enter into a new covenant with us: *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:”* (Jer 31:31-32)

This passage declares that the LORD will enter into a new covenant with us, and this was with Jesus, but it does not say that the requirement to enter into this covenant is any different than before. So the requirement of *“**Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them**”* still applies to this covenant. Abraham had to comply with this requirement, and so do we.

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But what does it mean to listen to the LORD? Does He still speak to us? We are all told at a very young age that the Bible is the Word of God. In order for us then to find an answer to a question, we will have to examine the Word of God, and then accept what it says about a subject. If I do not do this, then I am rejecting both the LORD and His Word. We also have to understand that we find different translations of the Bible, and have to guard against using a translation that was done to strengthen a doctrine or viewpoint.

So to get the answer about a specific subject, I have to examine the Bible and follow the example given in the Bible. So I either have to break with something if that is what the Bible declares, or I have to do what the Bible declares.

So the first evidence that I would see in a Christian's life, is someone who listens to every word from the LORD, and then does what it requires.

In the opening paragraph I quoted Psalm 15. Let us look at it in detail.

"LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. " (Ps 15:1-5)

This Psalm is really the best definition I have of who a Christian really is. I will list them for us here, but they are covered by the sections following.

1. He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
2. speaketh the truth in his heart.
3. He that backbiteth not with his tongue,
4. nor doeth evil to his neighbour,
5. nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.
6. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned;
7. he honoureth them that fear the LORD.
8. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.
9. He that putteth not out his money to usury,
10. nor taketh reward against the innocent.

Psalm 1 also gives us a very good example of what the life of a Christian comprises of. The first word we find in this Psalm is blessed. That word to me means that some who is blessed has no physical handicaps (healthy, can supply his immediate needs), is always happy (state of ecstasy, no enemies), and is blessed as far as his spirit is concerned. So someone who is blessed, is well in body, soul, and spirit.

How do we achieve this?

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. (Ps 84:5)

So for the first couple of evidences, I would like to use the word blessed to shed some light on what the evidences of a Christian entails.

Who is a Christian?

According to Scripture, a Christian is one who has repented of their sin, believes the true complete Gospel and now the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, dwells within.

Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**" (Mk. 1:14b,15)

"I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.** (Lk. 13:3)

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.** (Rom. 8:9)

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; [and] **he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.** (1 Jn. 5:11,12)

Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, **that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you are disqualified.** (2 Cor. 13:5)

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. (Jn. 10:9)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.** (Jn. 14:6)

"And I will pray to 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.** (Jn. 14:16,17)

[Even] the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** (Col. 1:26,27)

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "**I will dwell in them** And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." (2 Cor. 6:16)

With this as a background, let us examine what our lives should be like in order for us to see that we can be differentiated from those people who are in the world.

1. **A person redeemed by the LORD.**

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O **people saved by the LORD**, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places. (Deut 33:29)

Blessed is he **whose transgression is forgiven**, whose sin is covered. (Ps 32:1)

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD **imputeth not iniquity**, and in whose spirit there is no guile. (Ps 32:2)

Blessed is the **nation whose God is the LORD**; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. (Ps 33:12)

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, **in the light of thy countenance.** (Ps 89:15)

Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, **whose God is the LORD.** (Ps 144:15)

Saying, Blessed are they whose **iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.** (Rom 4:7)

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord **will not impute sin.** (Rom 4:8)

2. That chooses to serve the LORD

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (Ps 1:1)

Blessed is that man that **maketh the LORD his trust**, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. (Ps 40:4)

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: **they will be still praising thee.** Selah. (Ps 84:4)

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man **that trusteth in thee.** (Ps 84:12)

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, **that delighteth greatly in his commandments.** (Ps 112:1)

ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, **who walk in the law of the LORD.** (Ps 119:1)

Blessed are **they that keep his testimonies**, and that seek him with the whole heart. (Ps 119:2)

Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; **that walketh in his ways.** (Ps 128:1)

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, **whose hope is in the LORD his God:** (Ps 146:5)

3. That does what the LORD wants

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. (Ps 41:1)

Blessed are they **that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.** (Ps 106:3)

Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. (Isa 56:2)

Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but **as servants of Christ, doing the will of God** from the heart, (Eph. 6:6)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever** you do, do all **to the glory of God.** (1 Cor. 10:31)

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.** (1 Jn. 2:17)

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done on earth** as it is in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father** in heaven. (Mt. 7:21)

For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is **My brother and sister and mother.** (Mt. 12:50)

Now we know that **God does not hear sinners;** but if anyone is a worshiper of God and **does His**

will, He hears him. (Jn. 9:31)

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. **If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.** (Jn. 12:26)

"Father, **glorify Your name.**" Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "**I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.**" (Jn. 12:28)

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (Jn. 15:8)

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,** (1 Ths. 1:9)

That you would have a walk worthy of God who **calls you into His own kingdom and glory.** (1 Ths. 2:12)

Whoever offers praise **glorifies Me**; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God. (Psa. 50:23)

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; **Let Your glory be above all the earth.** (Psa. 57:5)

I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And **I will glorify Your name forevermore.** (Psa. 86:12)

But now having been set free from sin, and having **become slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and end, everlasting life. (Rom. 6:22)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.** (Rom. 12:2)

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." (Rom. 15:9)

For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.** (1 Cor. 6:20)

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works **to serve the living God?** (Heb. 9:14)

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have **done the will of God**, you may receive the promise: (Heb. 10:36)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which **we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.** (Heb. 12:28)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb. 13:15)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;** (1 Pet. 2:9)

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, **that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 4:11)

Serve the LORD with fear. And rejoice with trembling. (Psa. 2:11)

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "**Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!**" (Rev. 19:5)

4. Understanding that the Scriptures are the only complete and perfect revelation of God, His Son Jesus Christ, truth, and instruction regarding all things pertaining to this life.

O earth, earth, earth, **hear the word of the LORD.** (Jer. 22:29)

And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,** (2 Tim. 3:15,16)

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it **not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God,** which also effectively works in you who believe. (1 Ths. 2:13)

For **the word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing **even to the division of soul and spirit,** and of joints and marrow, and is **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** (Heb. 4:12)

Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,** for prophecy **never came by the will of man,** but holy men of God spoke **as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.** (2 Pet. 1:20,21)

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we **through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.** (Rom. 15:4)

But He answered and said, "It is written, `Man shall not live by bread alone, but **by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**'" (Mt. 4:4)

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. (Prov. 30:5)

Heaven and earth will pass away, **but My words will by no means pass away.** (Lk. 21:33)

And take the helmet of salvation, and **the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;** (Eph. 6:17)

...and the Scripture **cannot be broken;** (Jn. 10:35b)

"Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.** (Jn. 17:7)

But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. (Jas. 1:22-25)

And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation - as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, **as also in all his epistles,** speaking in

them of these things, in which are some things **hard to understand**, which those who are **untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures**. (2 Pet. 3:15,16)

As His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (2 Pet. 1:3)

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (1Co 10:11)

5. Love for and fear of God above all else.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him. (Ps 2:12)

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. (Ps 34:8)

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul**, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? (Dt. 10:12,13)

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those who are around Him. (Psa. 89:7)

Serve the LORD with fear. And rejoice with trembling. (Psa. 2:11)

Therefore you shall not oppress one another, **but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.** (Lev. 25:17)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Prov. 9:10)

In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To avoid the snares of death. (Prov. 14:26,27)

In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; And **by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.** (Prov. 16:6)

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but **in the fear of the LORD continue all day long;** (Prov. 23:17)

You shall **love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.** (Dt. 6:5)

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment.** (Mt. 22:36-38)

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: `Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. **And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'** This is the first commandment. (Mk. 12:29,30)

He who **loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.** And he who **loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.** And he who does not take his cross and follow after

Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and **he who loses his life for My sake will find it.** (Mt. 10:37-39)

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. (Prov. 8:17)

And we know that all things work together for good **to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28)

Now may the Lord direct your hearts **into the love of God** and into the patience of Christ. (2 Ths. 3:5)

By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God and keep His commandments.** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (1 Jn. 5: 2,3)

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 21)

You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry? (Psa. 76:7)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psa. 111:10)

Praise the LORD! **Blessed is the man who fears the LORD**, Who delights greatly in His commandments. (Psa. 112:1)

The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy. (Psa. 147:11)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.** (Heb. 12:28,29)

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation **whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.** (Acts 10:34,35)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is the whole duty of man.** (Eccl. 12:13)

6. Continually seeking God, great desire to please Him, and through prayer and diligent study of Scripture, consistently growing in wisdom and knowledge of the truth.

Seek the LORD and His strength; **Seek His face evermore!** (1 Chr. 16:11)

Trust in Him at all times, you people; **Pour out your heart before Him**, God is a refuge for us. Selah (Psa. 62:8)

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. (Jas. 1:5)

But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and **you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.** (Dt. 4:29)

But 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 diligently seek Him.** (Heb. 11:6)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.** (2 Tim. 2:15)

Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and **to please God;** (1 Ths. 4:1)

Grace and peace be multiplied to you **in the knowledge of God** and Jesus our Lord, (2 Pet. 1:2)

But grow in the grace and **[in the] knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (2 Pet. 3:18)

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation **in the knowledge of Him,** (Eph. 1:17)

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.** These things we also speak, **not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "Who has know the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor. 2:9-16)

But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things that belong to the Lord - **how he may please the Lord.** (1 Cor. 7:32)

So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** (Rom. 8:8)

No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, **that he may please him** who enlisted him as a soldier. (2 Tim. 2:4)

Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness,** For they shall be filled. (Mt. 5:6)

But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,** and all these things shall be added to you. (Mt. 6:33)

So that you **incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; **Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.** For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. **Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.** When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you, (Prov. 2:2-11)

Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. **Wisdom is the principal**

thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you. (Prov. 4:5-9)

Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; For **wisdom is better than rubies,** And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. (Prov. 8:10,11)

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. (Prov. 8:17)

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. (Prov. 16:16)

He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good. (Prov. 19:8)

As the deer pants for the water brooks, **So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.** When shall I come and appear before God? (Psa. 42:1,2)

So teach us to number our days, **That we may gain a heart of wisdom.** (Psa. 90:12)

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; (Prov. 3:13)

7. Has repented of past sins and their life of sin. The power of sin is completely broken, now thoroughly pure in their thoughts, words and actions - resists all temptation - no secret sin remains.

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and **he cannot sin,** because he has been born of God. (1 John 3:9)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk **just as He walked.** (1 John 2:6)

And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure.** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and **in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.** Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. **Whoever has been born of God does not sin,** for His seed remains in him; and **he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.** In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (1 Jn. 3:3-10)

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God **keeps himself,** and the wicked one does not touch him. (1 Jn. 5:18)

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. For **sin shall not have dominion over you,** for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we

are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that **to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?** But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And **having been set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness. (Rom. 6:6-18)

But now having been set **free from sin**, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and end, everlasting life. (Rom. 6:22)

Awake to righteousness, and **do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God**. I speak this to your shame. (1 Cor. 15:34)

Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. **Sin no more**, lest a worse thing come upon you." (Jn. 5:14)

She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and **sin no more**." (Jn. 8:11)

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness** in the fear of God. (2 Cor. 7:1)

Therefore you shall be **perfect**, just as your Father in heaven is **perfect**. (Mt. 5:48)

But as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy** in all your conduct, because it is written, "**Be holy, for I am holy**." (1 Pet. 1:15,16)

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh **has ceased from sin**, (1 Pet. 4:1)

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and without blame before Him in love**, (Eph. 1:4)

And that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in **righteousness and true holiness**. (Eph. 4:24)

But fornication and **all uncleanness** or covetousness,, as is fitting for saints; **let it not even be named among you** (Eph. 5:3)

That you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and **without offense** till the day of Christ, (Php. 1:10)

That you may become **blameless and harmless, children of God without fault** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (Php. 2:15)

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, **without spot and blameless**; (2 Pet. 3:14)

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live **soberly, righteously, and godly** in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from **every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people**, zealous for good works. (Tit. 2:12-14)

And those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. (Gal. 5:24)

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the

right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore **put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which **you also once walked when you lived in them.** But now you must also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, **since you have put off the old man with his deeds,** and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge **according to the image of Him who created Him,** (Col. 3:1-10)

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:17)

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of **how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot,** counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord." And again, "The LORD will judge His people." (Heb. 10:26-30)

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be **partakers of His holiness.** (Heb. 12:10)

As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who **called us to glory and virtue,** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.** (2 Pet. 1:3,4)

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, **and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.** (1 Jn. 1:6)

So that He may establish your hearts **blameless in holiness** before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (1 Ths. 3:13)

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in **holiness.** (1 Ths. 4:7)

8. Has become a servant of God, desires only to do His will and to see Him glorified and praised in all things.

Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but **as servants of Christ, doing the will of God** from the heart, (Eph. 6:6)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or **whatever** you do, do all **to the glory of God.** (1 Cor. 10:31)

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but **he who does the will of God abides forever.** (1 Jn. 2:17)

Your kingdom come. **Your will be done on earth** as it is in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father** in heaven. (Mt. 7:21)

For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is **My brother and sister and mother**. (Mt. 12:50)

Now we know that **God does not hear sinners**; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and **does His will**, He hears him. (Jn. 9:31)

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. **If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor**. (Jn. 12:26)

"Father, **glorify Your name**." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "**I have both glorified it and will glorify it again**." (Jn. 12:28)

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. (Jn. 15:8)

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**, (1 Ths. 1:9)

That you would have a walk worthy of God who **calls you into His own kingdom and glory**. (1 Ths. 2:12)

Whoever offers praise **glorifies Me**; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God. (Psa. 50:23)

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; **Let Your glory be above all the earth**. (Psa. 57:5)

I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And **I will glorify Your name forevermore**. (Psa. 86:12)

But now having been set free from sin, and having **become slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and end, everlasting life. (Rom. 6:22)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God**. (Rom. 12:2)

And that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." (Rom. 15:9)

For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's**. (1 Cor. 6:20)

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works **to serve the living God**? (Heb. 9:14)

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have **done the will of God**, you may receive the promise: (Heb. 10:36)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which **we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear**. (Heb. 12:28)

Therefore by Him let us continually offer **the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Heb. 13:15)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**; (1 Pet. 2:9)

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, **that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet. 4:11)

Serve the LORD with fear. And rejoice with trembling. (Psa. 2:11)

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "**Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!**" (Rev. 19:5)

9. **Content with present circumstances, free from love of money and from covetousness (desire for more).**

Let your conduct be **without covetousness, and be content with such things as you have.** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb. 13:5)

But godliness **with contentment** is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And **having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,** for which some **have strayed from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned to **in whatever state I am, to be content:** I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (Php. 4:11,12)

Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **Therefore do not worry**, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** (Mt. 6:25-33)

For what will it profit a man **if he gains the whole world**, and loses his own soul? (Mk. 8:36)

And He said to them, "Take heed and **beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**" (Lk. 12:15)

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry.** (Col. 3:5)

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting; being

filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, **covetousness**, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (Rom. 1:26-29)

For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, **nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.** (Eph. 5:5)

Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease! (Prov. 23:4)

10. No attraction to the world and the things of this world, has forsaken this life.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who **does the will of God abides forever.** (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (Jas. 4:4)

He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (Jn. 12:25)

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (Jn. 17:16)

And those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.** (Gal. 5:24)

But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.** (Gal. 6:14)

Set your mind on things above, **not on things on the earth.** (Col. 3:2)

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and **sells all that he has and buys that field.** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, **went and sold all that he had** and bought it. (Mt. 13:44-46)

And when He had called the people to Him, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever **loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.** For what will it profit a man **if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?** (Mk. 8:34-36)

And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom. 12:2)

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame - **who set their mind on earthly things.** (Php. 3:18,19)

So when they had brought their boats to land, **they forsook all** and followed Him (Lk. 5:11)

Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "**Let the dead bury their own dead**, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit**

for the kingdom of God." (Lk. 9:59-62)

And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are **choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life**, and bring no fruit to maturity. (Lk. 8:14)

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were **strangers and pilgrims on the earth**. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now **they desire a better, that is a heavenly country**. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Heb. 11:13-16)

For here we have **no continuing city**, but we seek the one to come. (Heb. 13:14)

11. Walks in brokenness and humility, free from pride.

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and **be clothed with humility**, for "God **resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**" **Therefore humble yourselves** under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (1 Pet. 5:5,6)

For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon **everything proud and lofty**, Upon everything lifted up - And **it shall be brought low** - (Isa. 2:12)

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, **With him who has a contrite and humble spirit**, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (Isa. 57:15)

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and lowly in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. (Mt. 11:29)

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, **with all lowliness and gentleness**, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (Eph. 4:1,2)

Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 18:4)

And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and **he who humbles himself will be exalted**. (Mt. 23:12)

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**" (Jas. 4:6)

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (Jas. 4:10)

The wicked **in his proud countenance** does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. (Psa. 10:4)

May the LORD cut off all flattering lips, And the tongue that speak **proud things**, (Psa. 12:3)

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. (Psa. 34:18)

The sacrifices of God are **a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart** - These, O God, You will not despise. (Psa. 51:17)

Though the LORD is on high, **Yet He regards the lowly**; But the proud He knows from afar. (Psa. 138:6)

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; **Pride** and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. (Prov. 8:13)

When **pride** comes, then comes **shame**; But with the **humble is wisdom**. (Prov. 11:2)

The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And **before honor is humility**. (Prov. 15:33)

Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished. (Prov. 16:5)

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall. (Prov. 16:18)

A man's pride will bring him low, But the **humble in spirit will retain honor**. (Prov. 29:23)

"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And **all the proud**, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. (Mal. 4:1)

For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the **pride of life - is not of the Father** but is of the world. (1 Jn. 2:16)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem others better than himself. (Php. 2:3)

12. Teachable, loves and invites correction - able to do so to others.

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days. (Prov. 19:20)

Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; **Reprove one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge**. (Prov. 19:25)

As iron sharpens iron, **So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend**. (Prov. 27:1)

Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, **able also to admonish one another**. (Rom. 15:14)

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, **able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all**

longsuffering and teaching. (2 Tim. 4:2)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly **in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs**, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)

Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. (Tit. 2:15)

As you know how we **exhorted, and comforted, and charged** every one of you, as a father does his own children, (1 Ths. 2:11)

13. Understands that chastisement from God, afflictions, trials, temptations, suffering and persecution will follow and that these things build godly character.

So you should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, **so the LORD your God chastens you.** (Dt. 8:5)

Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law, (Psa. 94:12)

My son, **do not despise the chastening of the LORD,** Nor detest His correction; **For whom the LORD loves He corrects,** Just as a father the son in whom he delights. (Prov. 3:11,12)

"For **whom the LORD loves He chastens,** And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? **But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.** Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, **but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Heb. 12:6-11)

Beloved, **do not think it strange** concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice **to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings,** that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are **reproached** for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.** For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Therefore let **those who suffer according to the will of God** commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. (1 Pet. 4:12-19)

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him,** that we may also be glorified together. For **I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared** with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:16-18)

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but **also to suffer for His sake,** (Php. 1:29)

Strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**We**

must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

Even to the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being **reviled**, we bless; being **persecuted**, we **endure** it; being **defamed**, we entreat. We have been made as the **filth of the world**, the **offscouring** of all things until now. (1 Cor. 4:11-13)

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 tribulations**, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For **as the sufferings of Christ abound in us**, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are **afflicted**, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is **effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer**. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as **you are partakers of the sufferings**, so also you will partake of the consolation. (2 Cor. 1:3-7)

We are **hard pressed** on every side, yet not crushed; we are **perplexed**, but not in despair; **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body **the dying of the Lord Jesus**, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. (2 Cor. 4:8-10)

Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses**, for Christ's sake. for when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Cor. 12:10)

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but **share with me in the sufferings for the gospel** according to the power of God, (2 Tim. 1:8)

You therefore must **endure hardship** as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (2 Tim. 2:3)

If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. (2 Tim. 2:12)

Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.** (2 Tim. 3:12)

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word **in much affliction**, with joy of the Holy Spirit, (1 Ths. 1:6)

That no one should be shaken by these **afflictions**; for you yourselves know that **we are appointed to this**. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that **we would suffer tribulation**, just as it happened, and you know. (1 Ths. 3:3,4)

If the **world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (Jn. 15:18-20)

Blessed is the man who **endures temptation**; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. (Jas. 1:12)

My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, **as an example of suffering** and patience. (Jas. 5:10)

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after you have suffered a while**, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. (1 Pet. 5:10)

So that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith **in all your persecutions and tribulations** that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you also suffer;** (2 Ths. 1:4,5)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by **various trials**, that the **genuineness of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1 Pet. 1:6,7)

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and **suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.** (1 Pet. 2:20)

Therefore, since Christ **suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,** (1 Pet. 4:1)

That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death, (Php. 3:10)

And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** (Acts 5:40,41)

Blessed are you **when men hate you**, And when they exclude you, And **revile** you, and **cast out your name as evil**, For the Son of Man's sake. **Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.** (Lk. 6:22,23)

They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, **the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.** (Jn. 16:2)

14. Walks closely with God, knowing that it is possible to fall away, eternal salvation is only assured at death.

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But **he who endures to the end will be saved.** (Mt. 10:22)

But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.** (Mt. 24:13)

And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore **every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.** (Mt. 3:10; Lk. 3:9)

But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.** (Lk. 8:13)

Every branch in Me that **does not bear fruit He takes away**; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (Jn. 15:2)

If anyone does not abide in Me, **he is cast out as a branch** and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. (Jn. 15:6)

For if God did not spare the natural branches, **He may not spare you either.** Therefore consider the

goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue in His goodness**. Otherwise you also will be cut off. (Rom. 11:21,22)

You therefore, beloved, since you know these things beforehand, beware lest you also **fall from your own steadfastness**, being led away with the error of the wicked; (2 Pet. 3:17)

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (1 Tim. 4:1)

Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief **in departing from the living God**; but exhort one another daily, while it is called, "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ **if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end**, (Heb. 3:12-14)

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have **tasted the good word of God** and the powers of the age to come, **if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance**, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. (Heb. 6:4-6)

"Now the just shall live by faith; but **if anyone draws back**, My soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul. (Heb. 10:38,39)

"When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require of your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul. Again, **when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die**; because you did not give him warning, **he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered**; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man that the righteous **should not sin**, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul." (Ezek. 3:18-21)

For if, **after they have escaped the pollutions** of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled** in them and overcome, the latter end is **worse for them than the beginning**. For it would have been **better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, than **having known it** to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Pet. 2:20-22)

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and **I will not blot out his name** from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (Rev. 3:5)

So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spew you out of My mouth**. (Rev. 3:16)

15. **Maintains Biblical separation from false brethren or backsliders, warning them of God's judgment in love and hope of restoration.**

Now I urge you, brethren, **note those** who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them**. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. (Rom.

16:17,18)

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. **From such withdraw yourself.** (1 Tim. 6:3-5)

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a **form of godliness** but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!** (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, **note that person and do not keep company with him**, that he may be ashamed. (2 Ths. 3:14)

I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with **anyone named a brother**, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner - **not even to eat with such a person.** (1 Cor. 5:9-11)

But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contention, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a **divisive man** after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned. (Tit. 3:9-11)

Him we preach, **warning every man** and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. (Col. 1:28)

Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn those who are unruly**, comfort the faint-hearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. (1 Ths. 5:14)

Therefore watch, and remember that for three years **I did not cease to warn** everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:31)

And have **no fellowship** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but **rather expose them.** (Eph. 5:11)

16. Husband is spiritual head of home, loves and honors wife.

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, **the head of woman is man**, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Cor. 11:3)

Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, **giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (1 Pet. 3:7)

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. (Col. 3:19)

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. (Eph. 5:25-29)

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**. (Eph. 5:33)

17. Women in subjection to husbands, modest in dress and appearance.

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And **he shall rule over you**." (Gen. 3:16)

Likewise you wives, **be submissive to your own husbands**, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your beauty be that outward adorning of arranging the hair, of wearing gold, or of putting on fine apparel; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, **being submissive to their own husbands**, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)

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**. (Eph. 5:22-24)

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (Col. 3:18)

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, **the head of woman is man**, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Cor. 11:3)

In like manner also, that the **women adorn themselves in modest apparel**, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach **or to have authority over a man**, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. (1 Tim. 2:9-15)

the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things - that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, **obedient to their own husbands**, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:3-5)

18. Children disciplined in subjection, and instructed in the ways of righteousness.

My son, hear the **instruction of your father**, And do not forsake the **law of your mother**; (Prov. 1:8)

He who spares his rod **hates his son**, But he who **loves him disciplines him promptly**. (Prov. 13:24)

Chasten your son while there is hope, And **do not set your heart on his destruction**. (Prov. 19:18)

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. (Prov. 22:6)

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but **the rod of correction will drive it far from him.** (Prov. 22:15)

Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, **he will not die.** (Prov. 23:13)

The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. (Prov. 29:15)

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. 6:1-4)

Children, **obey your parents in all things,** for this is well pleasing to the Lord. (Col. 3:20)

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. (Dt. 6:6,7)

19. Maintains reasonable care for body - no destructive habits.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? **If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.** For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. (1 Cor. 3:16,17)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice,** holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. (Rom. 12:1)

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with **carousing, drunkenness,** and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. (Lk. 21:34)

Let your **gentleness** be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (Php. 4:5)

that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification and honor,** (1 Ths. 4:4)

And everyone who competes for the prize is **temperate in all things.** Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. (1 Cor. 9:25)

20. Loves, serves and builds up true Body of Christ, rich in good works, giving time and resources to needy brethren or others as the Spirit directs. Does the work of the Lord.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with **brotherly love,** in honor giving preference to one another; (Rom. 12:10)

But concerning **brotherly love** you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another;** (1 Ths. 4:9)

Let **brotherly love** continue. (Heb. 13:1)

Evidences of a Christian

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere **love of the brethren**, love one another fervently with a pure heart, (1 Pet. 1:22)

Honor all people. **Love the brotherhood**. Fear God. Honor the king. (1 Pet. 2:17)

He who **loves his brother** abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. (1 Jn. 2:10)

In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, **nor is he who does not love his brother**. (1 Jn. 3:10)

We know that we have passed from death to life, **because we love the brethren**. He who does not love his brother abides in death. (1 Jn. 3:14)

By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And **we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**. (1 Jn. 3:16)

If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he **who loves God must love his brother also**. (1 Jn. 4:20,21)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another** in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16)

But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, **that there should be no schism in the body**, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now **you are the body of Christ**, and members individually. (1 Cor. 12:20-27)

For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another**. (Gal. 5:13)

And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and **servant of all**." (Mk. 9:35)

Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven. (Mt. 5:16)

For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also **for the interests of others**. (Php. 2:4)

If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you **do not give them the things** which are needed for the body, **what does it profit?** (Jas. 2:15,16)

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be **rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share**, (1 Tim. 6:17,18)

That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped **for every good work**. (2 Tim. 3:17)

For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make **a certain contribution for the poor among the saints** who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. (Rom. 15:26,27)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, **always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)

Now concerning **the collection for the saints**, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. (1 Cor. 16:1-3)

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7)

And let us consider one another in order to stir up **love and good works**, (Heb. 10:24)

Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works** which they observe, **glorify God** in the day of visitation. (1 Pet. 2:12)

But whoever has this world's goods, and **sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?** My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but **in deed and in truth**. (1 Jn. 3:17,18)

Beloved, **let us love one another**, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 Jn. 4:7,8)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially to those who are of the household of faith**. (Gal. 6:10)

In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of **good works**; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (Tit. 2:7)

Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, **zealous for good works**. (Tit. 2:14)

This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable to men. (Tit. 3:8)

And let our people also learn to **maintain good works**, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (Tit. 3:14)

21. Practices complete honesty in every matter, speaks only pure truth, and lives in total obedience to the laws of man unless disobedience to God is required by man's law.

These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are **an abomination** to Him: A proud look, A **lying tongue**, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in

running to evil, **A false witness who speaks lies**, And one who sows discord among brethren. (Prov. 6:16-19)

Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously. (Psa. 119:29)

Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue. (Psa. 120:2)

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight. (Prov. 12:22)

A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. (Prov. 13:5)

For He said, "Surely they are My people, **Children who will not lie.**" So He became their Savior. (Isa. 63:8)

But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**" Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" And she said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. (Acts 5:1-10)

Therefore, **putting away lying, each one speak truth** with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (Eph. 4:25)

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, (Col. 3:9)

But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or **causes** an abomination or **a lie**, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 21:27)

But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and **whoever loves and practices a lie.** (Rev. 22:15)

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and **he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.** Therefore if you have not been faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? (Lk. 16:10-12)

Repay no one evil for evil. **Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.** (Rom. 12:17)

Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true**, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - **meditate on these things.** (Php. 4:8)

Having your conduct **honorable among the Gentiles**, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Pet. 2:12)

LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And **works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;** (Psa. 15:1,2)

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity and truth.** (1 Cor. 5:8)

(For the fruit of the Spirit is **in all goodness, righteousness, and truth**), (Eph. 5:9)

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 resist the authority resist 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. (Rom. 13:1-7)

Therefore **submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake,** whether to the king as supreme, (1 Pet. 2:13)

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (Tit. 3:1)

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your soul, as those who must give an account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Heb. 13:17)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

22. Walks carefully among weak brethren so as not to cause them to stumble.

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to

him it is unclean. **Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love.** Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ dies. Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything **by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.** Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin. (Rom. 14:1-23)

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. (Rom. 15:1,2)

But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours **become a stumbling block to those who are weak.** For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? **But when you thus sin against the brethren,** and wound their weak conscience, **you sin against Christ.** Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (1 Cor. 8:9-13)

23. Has brought forth fruit worthy of repentance - has corrected past sins when possible.

Therefore bear **fruits worthy of repentance,** (Mt. 3:8)

Therefore bear **fruits worthy of repentance,** and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (Lk. 3:8)

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and **if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.**" And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;" (Lk. 19:8,9)

24. Understands that these things are wrought by abiding in Christ, not by their own knowledge, effort or by keeping law or rules (works).

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, **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, bears much fruit; for **without Me you can do nothing.** (Jn. 15:4,5)

Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight,** for by the law is the knowledge of sin. (Rom. 3:20)

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God,** (2 Cor. 3:5)

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor. 12:9)

Knowing that **a man is not justified by the works of the law** but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and **not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.** (Gal. 2:16)

This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? **Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?** (Gal. 3:2,3)

For **as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse**; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in **all things** which are written in the book of the law, to do them." But that **no one is justified by the law in the sight of God** is evident, for "The just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "The man who does them shall live by them." (Gal. 3:10-12)

You have become **estranged** from Christ, you who attempt to be **justified by law; you have fallen from grace.** (Gal. 5:4)

But of Him you are in **Christ Jesus**, who **became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption** - (1 Cor. 1:30)

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast. (Eph. 2:8,9)

And be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law**, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; (Php. 3:9)

Who are we?

Louwrens and Hettie Erasmus are two people called by the LORD to make a difference in the lives of others. Hettie has been doing counselling for almost as long as she can remember, and has studied both formally and informally. She is still lead and taught by the Holy Spirit on a daily basis in her ministry.

Louwrens, that's me, is the person who wrote all the books and articles you will find on our website and on Amazon, Kindle and Smashwords. Unfortunately for myself, I am suffering from Carcinoid cancer, a slow growing but devious cancer. We are raising funds to fight this Carcinoid cancer I am suffering from in order for me to survive. After 21 years of fighting, our finances are depleted and we have no more resources to fight this cancer on our own any longer and have started a fundraising project to help us in this fight as I am no longer able to do any "real" work. Writing is not a real work to me but a commission from the LORD. You can contribute at any of the following places. The first place is directly at our payment processor who also handles all our transactions from our website, which has been virtually nonexistent. Their page is at

<https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/shamaministries>

If you would like to contribute on our website you can do so directly on our website at <http://shamaministries.org.za/wp/shop/>

Our contact details are:

Website: <http://www.shama.org.za>

Email: louwrens at shama dot org dot za. Replace the words with normal characters as in a normal email address, as we are trying to keep junk mail and spammers to the minimum.

The following books can be downloaded for free from our site:

The Book of Moses. This is a complete guide for any Christian explaining the way of a Christian, and answers most doctrinal questions, questions you have in your everyday walk with the LORD, on the end times and what heaven will look like, as well as questions about Church. Download link [here](#)

Is Egypt in Heaven? The book is based on a time in my life when I received major surgery in my fight against Carcinoid cancer, and had a near death experience. Some sections are based on the truth, and some is fiction to explain what heaven will look like. Download link [here](#)

A Wake Up Call. The book examines the doctrine of election, and then draws on the result to explain the effect on our everyday life. Download link [here](#)

Evidences of a Christian. Do I have to exhibit a different lifestyle as a non Christian, and if so, what should it be like? Download link [here](#)

The Covenant of Righteousness. This book does a detailed study of what the Covenant entails, what Jesus came to fulfil and then describes all the ramifications on all the various doctrines of today. Download link [here](#)

The Revelation of John Revealed. This book takes a completely different approach to how to interpret the book of Revelation. It uses as a basis the exact same lessons that are described in this book using Israel as our example, and then what the affect this has on our views of this book today. This book is absolutely different from anything you have read or heard. We have to remember that all the current viewpoints started somewhere in the Roman Catholic Church and was modified or still

viewed as the only view. They leave Israel as example completely out of all interpretations. Download link [here](#)

The Olivet Discourse – A description of the message about what will happen from the time of His death until the time He returns. I also look at how He will separate His sheep from the goats. You can download it from [here](#).

On a trot through Romans – In this book I tried to publish a non partisan view of how to interpret the Letter to Romans. This does not mean that I do not ignore incorrect interpretations, but I spend a lot of time on those part that both John Calvin and then another part that John Darby spent time on and completely missed the boat. I trust that you will also accept it in this light. You can download the book [here](#)

Jews – Church or Nation? In this short booklet I look at the reference to Israel in the Old Testament to find out if they were seen as a congregation of the LORD's people, or as a nation. There are so many antichrist messages found in the Church today, and I believe that this information will shock you as it shocked me when I looked at the subject. This is also possibly the biggest stepping stone used by the antichrist doctrine of the rapture. You can download it [here](#)

Books by other writers that can also be downloaded from this site include a book about the biblical interpretation of dreams and visions. Download link [here](#). I also have an old windows help file that cover dreams and visions, but can only run on PC's still running Windows 7 or older. The link is [here](#). Another book I referred to in some of my writings is The Epistle of Barnabas written by Mark. Download link [here](#). You will also find a book that I have used as part of our Bible School [here](#)

Other article that you will find on my website are as follows:

- Matthew 24 and 25 – The Olivet Discourse and a look at how Jesus described the endtimes
- The Jews and the Book of Acts
- My testimony and why I write
- How do I spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- Escape from Christendom
- Evidences of a Christian
- Wedding day sermon
- Charles Finney Letter 3 – conversion
- SETTLERS and the PIONEERS theology
- Who do you preach? The murdered or the murderer? Jesus or John Calvin
- Feeding Sheep or Amusing Goats? Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)
- Israelvision or British-Israel World Federation

DVD's Some of the books have also been recorded as DVD's. These DVD sets contain most of the information in the book with the same name, but some points are expanded upon and it also includes a section on my life with Carcinoid cancer and the effect on my daily life. These DVD's are available

Evidences of a Christian

in HD format and can be requested by sending me an email at louwrens at shama dot org dot za. The cost per set is R400 and is sent via speed couriers post office to post office service.

YouTube All the DVD's that I recorded of some of these books are also available on my YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/LouwErasmus>