

Follow Me...

First Steps for New Believers—
Obeying the Commands of the Lord Jesus



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Matthew 28:18-20

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

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Luke 17:10 "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

(Art from the cover)



This original artwork (here and on the cover) has been provided by Fred Rawlinson. Fred has been a true friend and I offer my sincere thanks to him for his friendship, fellowship, and for freely offering his skill as an artist. The painting depicts Psalm 22 (the Psalm of the Crucifixion), Psalm 23 (the Psalm of the Good Shepherd who leads us through the valley of the shadow of death), and Psalm 24 (Our Great High Priest who leads us on to Heaven).

FOREWORD: A WORD TO PASTORS AND TEACHERS

What would you have wanted... ideally... when you were saved? Many people that I have encountered during ministry would say that when they were saved they had very little help growing as a Christian. Often new believers may live many years before they enjoy a grasp of some of the basic steps along the path left by our Lord.

Like a new baby breathes his first breath, the life of faith is begun in prayer of repentance and faith. Then, like a new infant, the new believer should soon be hungry for spiritual food. The Word of God is our spiritual food. The Lord Jesus taught us that “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Many are simply told to “read the Gospel of John;” but there is so much to learn for the new believer. As Ephesians 2:8-10 makes clear: we are not saved by works, but we are saved to do good works. The Scripture says:

“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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto** good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Keeping the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament or the New Testament commands of Christ will not save anyone—but someone who has been saved by Christ should want to know what is moral, what is right, what pleases their new Lord.

When I was saved, I would have loved to have had all of the commands of Christ very simply arranged for a new disciple—and someone who was already far down the path of obedience to help me as I took my first steps. The New Testament says that as we “make disciples” we are to baptize them and *teach them to observe Christ’s commands*.

This short book contains the commands of Christ in a practical arrangement for new Christians. It is my hope that it will help many as they begin the journey along the path of obedience and growth in discipleship that leads to full joy.

Jesus is Lord!

R. Kirk Kilpatrick,
Disciple of Jesus Christ

PART I

MAKING DISCIPLES

INTRODUCTION

When He had called the people to *Himself*, 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." Mark 8:34

Who are you? Why are you here? Where are you going?

Do you believe in God? Do you believe that sin is real? If you believe in God and in the reality of sin, then how can someone be made right with God?

Can you have peace in your heart that you will be in heaven when you die? Can you know where you will spend eternity? The answers to these questions are found in the Word of God.

If you have been thinking about spiritual things, then there is no better time than the present to follow Jesus. Have you been saved? If so, you are to be a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ! He calls His disciples to follow Him.

I-1. Some Elementary Revealed Truths

I-1 A. The Nature of God

The Bible teaches us that without faith it is impossible to please God:

Hebrews 11:6

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.

God has revealed Himself through nature:

Psalm 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.
Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.
Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

God has revealed Himself through Scripture and by His Son:

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

God is Holy (this is the most important concept when it comes to God's nature):

Isaiah 6:1-3

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

God has revealed that He desires to forgive sin—but He will not clear the guilty:

Exodus 34:6-7

The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty...

The only way for sin to be forgiven is by atonement prescribed by Him:

Leviticus 17:11-12

For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.

Romans 3:19-26

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:27-28

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

God is our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, and the Judge of all people:

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Revelation 4:9-11

Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Summarizing many scriptures on the nature of God, *The Baptist Faith and Message* says:

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being (*BFM*, 2000).

I-1 B. The Nature of the Word of God

The Word of God is made up of two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament begins with the books of Moses and continues through the history of Israel until the fifth century BC. Forty human writers, writing over a period of more than fifteen hundred years—each under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God, produced the magnificent, Holy Bible.

This book focuses on the basic commands of Christ to His disciples recognizing these things should be the ABC's, the first steps, of our walk with Jesus. They are foundational truths that should never be forgotten and should be fine-tuned throughout life. From the call of the Gospel to "Repent and Believe" to the commands of Jesus that are for the mature believer, a lifetime journey of trials, testing, joy, and reward awaits the new believer.

While the emphasis in this book is upon the New Testament, all of the Word of God has value for believers. As a whole, the Scripture is so deep that there are not enough lifetimes to plum its depths fully. There is light for our path, bread for our hunger, weapons for our warfare, and personal wealth that cannot be taxed and never passes away.

Matthew 4:4

It is written, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD."

Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Luke 24:44

"... all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me."

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Colossians 3:16

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.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1 Peter 1:24-25

FOR ALL FLESH IS AS GRASS, AND ALL THE GLORY OF MAN AS THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERETH, AND THE FLOWER THEREOF FALLETH AWAY: BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER. And this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.

A Simple Chronology of the Old Testament
(4 events, 3 names, 2 dates)

Creation	Fall	Flood	Tower	Abram	Moses	David	722*	586**
				BC	~ 2000	~1500	~1000	

* Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria

** Fall of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to Babylon

Thirty-Nine Books of the Old Testament

Law/Torah/Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Minor Prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Twenty-Seven Books of the New Testament

Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Acts of the Apostles

Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1-2

Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude, Revelation

I-1 C. Who is Jesus that I should obey Him?

Jesus was called both “Lord” and “Christ.” Lord means “Owner/Ruler” and was used in the Old Testament of God Himself. Christ means “Anointed One.” It was the title that pointed to the One promised by the prophets. Jesus is His name. The angel said, “you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus (*Yeshua* in Hebrew) is made up of two parts: 1) the name of God and 2) the verb to save. His name means “The LORD saves.”

Mark 9:7

And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

I-1 D. Who were His Apostles that I should obey them?

Matthew 10:2-4

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

1 Corinthians 15:9-11

[Paul] For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

John 15:20

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....And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

1 Corinthians 14:37

If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.

I-2. The Gospel: According to the Scriptures: The Old Testament

The salvation of God was planned by Him before creation and was progressively revealed. The Apostle Paul pointed to the Old Testament scriptures being fulfilled by the Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins **according to the Scriptures**, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day **according to the Scriptures**...

The apostle Paul emphasized that “Christ” (the Anointed One, the promised Messiah) died, was buried, and was raised from the dead “according to the scriptures.” The scriptures that Paul referenced were the Old Testament scriptures that contained prophecies of Jesus.

I-2 A. In the Garden

The book of Genesis gives us the story of creation as recorded by Moses. Moses received the account as direct revelation from God. For forty years Moses communed with God and wrote the first five books of the Bible; and according to tradition also the book of Job. Exodus 33:11 records, “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend . . .”

Genesis records the fall of Adam and Eve through sin. Satan tempted Eve saying that they would be “like gods knowing good and evil” if they ate of the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The temptation was to idolatry. They did not simply commit a sin of disobedience. They entered into the same sin as the Devil’s own rebellion—and fell under the same condemnation. All other sins are symptoms of the sin of idolatry.

That is why the first of the Ten Commandments is “no other gods.” To desire to be equal with God or to replace Him is idolatry. To substitute your will for God’s will is idolatry. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are all symptoms of the sin of idolatry. The believer humbly says, in following the example of Jesus, “Not my will, but Thy will be done.”

Adam and Eve first tried to cover themselves with fig leaves; but they left the Garden clothed by God with animal skins. That is the record of the first deaths—and the first sacrifices.

I-2 B. The Two Altars

Genesis 4 relates the account of Adam and Eve’s two sons who chose different occupations. Cain was a farmer while Abel kept the flock. When they decided to approach God in worship, they both made an altar. At the beginning of human history these two altars anticipated all religions to come. Every religion finds its roots in either Cain’s altar or Abel’s altar.

Cain brought the best of his crops that he had grown by the sweat of his brow. Abel brought the best of his flock to his altar to offer them to God in simple faith hoping in the grace of God. But the Lord rejected the offering of Cain because sin cannot be atoned for by our labor. God accepted the offering of Abel’s altar because Abel came before the Lord in simple faith hoping in the grace of God.

I-2 C. Abraham and Isaac

Abraham lived about 2000 years before the birth of Christ. Genesis 12 is the record of the call of Abraham. God promised that He would make Abraham a great nation even though he did not have a son. When Isaac was born, Abraham rejoiced. Yet when Isaac was a teenager, the Lord called on Abraham to take Isaac, his only son, the son that Abraham loved—to a mountain in the land of Moriah that God would show to him and offer him there as a burnt offering (Genesis 22).

Abraham must have been grieved and confused at first; but he obeyed God and went to the place where they could see the top of the mountain from a distance. Abraham took the wood of the offering and placed it upon his son Isaac's back. They walked on together.

Isaac noticed the wood and the fire and the knife in his father's hand. He asked, "Where is the lamb" for the sacrifice, father. Abraham said, "God will provide Himself a lamb." When they arrived at the place of sacrifice, Abraham bound Isaac's hands and placed him on the wood and raised the knife. But the Lord stopped him and said that now he knew that Abraham truly loved the Lord since he had not withheld his only son from him. Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. He offered the ram in the place of Isaac and called the name of the place "The LORD will provide."

Centuries later Moses said, "as it is said to this day, in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen" (Genesis 22:14). One thousand years after Abraham, David would make that mountain his capital city. David's son Solomon would build the temple there (2 Chronicles 3:1). Two thousand years after Abraham named that place, John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). God the Father sent His only begotten Son to earth to carry the wood of His sacrifice to the place where He was crucified.

I-2 D. The Law of God

The Ten Commandments of the Old Testament act like a "school teacher" to bring us to Christ. We are brought to Christ by them because we realize that we have not kept them. Just as the Law brought the Israelite to the doorway of the Tabernacle with a lamb to offer for their sins; so the Law points us to Christ, the One who was pictured by the Tabernacle.

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-18

And God spake all these words, saying,

I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that

love me, and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not murder.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

The Ten Commandments may be divided between 1) Commandments that deal with our relationship to God (the first four commands); and 2) Commandments that deal with our relationship to others (the last six commands). [This division will be used later for the New Testament commands of the Lord Jesus]. God calls His people to love Him and to love others:

Mark 12:28

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 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. "And the second, like *it*, *is* this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Commandments of the Old Testament are still important for use in evangelism. They remind us that "all have sinned" against the Holy God. They also teach us morality, and in this way they are always important for believers.

I-2 E. Prophecies of the Messiah

Centuries before the birth of Jesus, God spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament and they prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, 700 BC), that He would be born at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 685 BC), that He would be God in flesh (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The prophets spoke of His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Zechariah 9:9, 520 BC). They prophesied that He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12). They prophesied His Death, Burial, and Resurrection (Isaiah 53, 700 BC; Daniel 9:25, 550 BC; and Psalm 22, 1000 BC).

The prophets spoke not only of His mission of salvation with His first coming, but also of His second coming to judge the world in righteousness (Isaiah 61:1-3, Daniel 7:13-14).

When the Kingdom of Judah was cut down like a tree, the prophets spoke of Jesus as the coming “Branch” from the line of David:

700 BC Isaiah 4:2	(The Beautiful Branch)
700 BC Isaiah 6:13	(The Branch from the stump of Judah)
700 BC Isaiah 11:1	(The Branch from Jesse's household)
	(On the community of the Branch--Isaiah 60:21 & 61:3)
600 BC Jeremiah 23:5-6	(The Righteous Branch)
600 BC Jer 33:15-16	(The Righteous Branch)
590 BC Ezekiel 29:21	(The horn that will "sprout")
520 BC Zechariah 3:8	(My Servant the Branch)
520 BC Zechariah 6:12	(The man whose name is The Branch)
Matthew 2:23	(He shall be called a <i>Natsarene</i> ¹)
Acts 24:5	(The <i>Natsarenes</i> —followers of Jesus)

Hundreds of prophecies were given anticipating His coming. Every time in the New Testament that Jesus is called “Christ” it is a reference to His fulfillment of all that the prophets foretold.

I-2 F. The Letter to the Church at Rome

The first letter written to any church in the New Testament... the longest letter written to any church in the New Testament is the book of Romans. The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul when the church at Rome was in its infancy. Paul wrote to them about the most important topic: How to be saved. Reading this letter in the New Testament is like walking down the road of salvation.

Do you remember the altars of Cain and Abel? Cain tried to approach God through good works represented by the fruits and grains on his altar—but there is nothing that we can do to save ourselves. Long ago the Apostle Paul left behind this salvation road in the Word of God. The

¹ Jesus the Nazarene does not signify "Nazarite"—because it is not a "z." The Greek equivalent to "z" (ζ) leads us at first to think of Hebrew "z" = ז (*zayin*). While Hebrew has a "z," Greek did not have a "ts" consonant. Hence in Greek they rendered the Hebrew (צ) "ts" as the Greek "z" (ζ). Hence we read in English, "He shall be called a Nazarene" when it should be understood, "He shall be called *Natsarene* [i.e. "the Branch"]."

letter to the church at Rome in the New Testament details an approach to God that is exactly like the approach of Abel in the Old Testament. From the beginning of the history of worship, Abel came to God through simple faith hoping in the grace of God.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Matthew 11:15)

The Golden Road of Salvation

Romans 1:15-17

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 3:10-23

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

I-3. The Call of the Gospel: Repentance and Faith

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

A Sinner's Prayer

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner.

I am sorry for my sin.

More than sorry—I am willing to turn from my sins and follow Jesus.

I believe that He died for me, and was buried, and was raised from the dead.

So I call on His name: *Save me Lord Jesus. Please forgive me of my sins.*

Father, thank You for saving me through faith in Your Son.

Lord Jesus, help me—now that You have saved me—to follow You.

Holy Spirit, please fill me and use my life for Christ's glory.

In Jesus' name I pray,

Amen.

Questions:

- 1. What is the most important concept when it comes to God's nature?**
- 2. What does holy mean?**
- 3. How has God revealed Himself?**
- 4. What is the Gospel?**
- 5. Why did God receive Abel's offering and not Cain's offering?**
- 6. What are the steps along the "Golden Road of Salvation" found in the Letter to the early church at Rome?**
- 7. How can anyone be made right with God?**

PART II

BAPTIZING THEM

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh, precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow.
No other fount I know—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

II-1. What can Wash away my sin?

Baptism does not save—it cannot save. Washing the body cannot cleanse the soul. In the Old Testament, God told Moses that atonement came through the blood of the sacrifice. In Leviticus 17:11, God said to Moses, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” All of the sacrifices of the Old Testament pictured the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The New Testament makes clear that we are justified—made right with God—by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 5:1-2, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

II-2. The Command of Christ

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.

II-3. The Form of Water Baptism

The Lord Jesus commanded immersion because it pictures death and resurrection. While baptism doesn’t save us, it is important to obey the Lord Jesus.

Romans 6:3-6

Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized** into Jesus Christ were **baptized into his death**? Therefore we are **buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was **raised**

up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been **planted together in the likeness of his death**, we shall be also in **the likeness of his resurrection**: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Colossians 2:11-13

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickened together with him**, having forgiven you all trespasses.

The New Testament was written in Greek. If Jesus had meant something else, then He could have used some other word; for in the Greek language there are words for sprinkle, pour, or some other form. The word “baptize” meant immerse. Outside of the New Testament, the Greek word “baptize” was used to describe the process of dying cloth, making pickles, tanning leather, and even sinking ships.

II-4. Water Baptism Pictures the Historic Nature of the Gospel

When a new believer is immersed, it pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Every time it is a testimony to the faith of the new believer and it is a witness to any who are there to see it. This is a way for the new believer to witness—to tell others about their faith in Christ.

As they are baptized, they are: 1) bearing witness to the historic death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus; 2) proclaiming that they are dying to an old way of living and rising to follow Jesus in a new way; and 3) picturing the truth of the future resurrection of the body of the believer.

Just as Jesus died, was buried, and rose again—so, one day, in the resurrection, Jesus will raise their mortal body.

II-5. A Brief History of Baptism

II-5 A. The *Mikveh*

Before the coming of Jesus, there were various ritual washings performed by the Jews. Besides washing hands and feet, there were quite a few occasions when they would be washed in a “*mikveh*.” A *mikveh* (plural, *mikv'ot*) was a small pool for ritual immersion. There were purification rites prescribed by the law for converts to Judaism, for lepers if they had been cleansed, priest in the temple before service, for women monthly, for men on the eve of *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) and on other occasions before the feasts of the Jews.

II-5 B. Baptism in the New Testament

Baptism of John the Baptist

Mark 1:5

Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

The baptism of John the Baptist was a “baptism of repentance” (Acts 19:4) to prepare the multitudes for the Messiah. After John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God, it was not long before the disciples of Jesus were baptizing many more than John.

Baptism Jesus Commanded in Water: Believer's Baptism

The story of the conversion of the man from Ethiopia is found in Acts 8:36-39.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, **If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.** And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: **and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch;** and he baptized him. And when they were **come up out of the water,** the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

The man from Ethiopia had been reading the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He was reading Isaiah 53, the prophecy of the death and resurrection of Jesus written by Isaiah 700 years before Jesus' birth at Bethlehem. Philip preached the Gospel to him and he believed. After he believed, he wanted to follow the Lord Jesus' command about baptism.

There was a qualification for baptism. Philip told him: **“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.”** The Eunuch made a profession of faith and then was allowed to be baptized. The same qualification holds true today. Believer's baptism fulfills the command of Christ.

Baptism Jesus Performs with the Holy Spirit

The prophecy of John the Baptist is recorded that Jesus would bring the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in all four Gospels and the book of Acts.

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mark 1:8

I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16

John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:33

"I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 1:4-5

"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

The baptism of the Holy Spirit happens at the moment of salvation. A new believer normally does not have any sense that it is happening to them. At the moment of repentance and faith, the Lord Jesus immerses them in the Holy Spirit and they become part of the spiritual "body of Christ."

Paul wrote to the Corinthians who were divided over matters of water baptism:

(1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? or Were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:** not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

To this church that was divided over the matter of baptism, Paul wrote of the baptism they had in common. No matter who baptized them in water, all of them had been baptized by the Lord Jesus at the moment of salvation:

1 Corinthians 12:13

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

Paul also taught that this is not the same thing as "speaking in unlearned languages." While this sign accompanied the Holy Spirit's presence on four occasions in the book of Acts, it was in each case a sign to the Jews. This sign, however, did not normally accompany the baptism of the Holy Spirit as may be seen later in the same chapter. In the same chapter that Paul taught that "all" were baptized by one Spirit into one body, he also taught (by asking a series of questions that all have a negative answer) that not all speak with unlearned languages.

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? **Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"**



The Jordan River



Mikveh: An Ancient Ritual Bath (Judaism)

II-6. Baptism in the Early Church

*From Jerusalem to England:
A List of Some of the Early Baptisteries for Immersion
According to the Ancient Practice
By the Command of Jesus Christ*

The Jordan

Jerusalem

Mikva'ot

Palestine

Jabaliya, Gaza
Shivta
Mampsis (Mamshith)
Avdat
Petra
Capernaum
Tabga
Mt. Nebo

Syria

Dura-Europas
Aquileia

Africa

Carthage (*Bir Ftouha*)
Koptos
Sbeitla, Tunisia

Asia Minor

Alahan, Isauria
Ephesus
Basilica of St. John's
Church of the Virgin
Nemea
Constantinople: Hagia Sophia

Greece

Salona
Ohrid, Macedonia
Orman, Macedonia (Plaosnik)
Philippi, Macedonia
Stobi, Macedonia

Italy

Rome: The Lateran Baptistery
Florence
Milan
Pisa
Ravenna
Verbiana

France

Aix
Fréjus
Naples
Nice-Cimiez
Riez
St. Jean in Poitiers

Albania

Butrint

Ukraine

Chersonesos, Uvarov Basilica

England

Canterbury
Wiltshire: Converted Roman
Villa



Jerusalem: A *Mikveh* south of the Temple



Capernaum



A *Mikveh* in the Temple Precinct



Mampsis



Avdat



Shivta



Petra



Philippi, Macedonia



Alahan (Isauria) Turkey



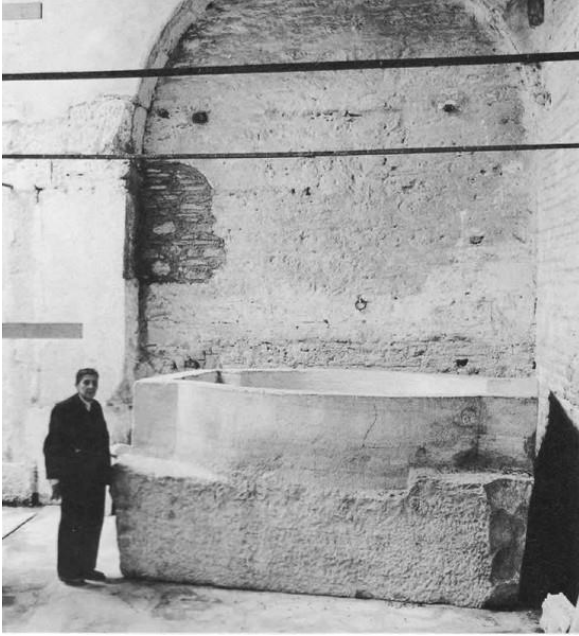
Ohrid, Macedonia



Sbeitla, Tunisia



Stobi, Macedonia



Hagia Sophia (Istanbul, Turkey)

Early Baptisteries at Ephesus



Church of the Virgin Mary, Ephesus



Basilica of St. John's, Ephesus



Ephesus



Baptistery at Nemea

Italy



The Lateran Baptistery, Rome

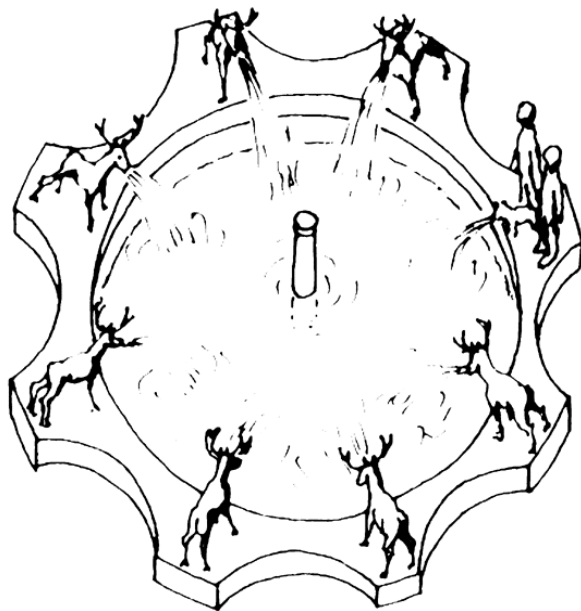


Diagram of the octagonal baptismal pool in the Lateran Baptistery
30 meters wide and waist deep



Milan, Early Baptistery
*Found while working on the subway.
This is like the baptistery at St. John's Lateran, Rome*



5th Cen. Baptistery, Verbania, Italy

Questions

- 1. What can wash away sin—water or the blood of Jesus?**
- 2. What was the meaning of the word “Baptize” in the language of the New Testament (Greek)?**
- 3. When should baptism occur in the life of a believer?**
- 4. What was the mode of baptism for Christians for the early history of the churches?**
- 5. What three things does water baptism picture?**
- 6. What is necessary for a candidate to be baptized (Acts 8:36-39)?**
- 7. When Jesus Christ was immersed by John the Baptist in the river Jordan, He was communicating to His Father in Heaven that He understood His mission was to die, that He would submit Himself to death and burial, and that He trusted that His Father would raise Him from the dead. What was the response from heaven upon Jesus’ immersion in the river Jordan?**

PART III

TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS...

A new believer begins his spiritual journey as a new birth. Prayer is our spiritual life-breath from that moment forward. Next a new believer should become hungry for the Word of God. Just as a new infant needs protection and provision, the new believer needs to be part of a church family of faith.

After being saved the new believer should be baptized and then should seek to learn and to obey the commands of Christ. The Ten Commandments of the Old Testament (Exodus 20) may be divided between commandments that deal with our relationship to God and commandments that deal with our relationship to others. In the same way, here, all of the commands of Jesus in the New Testament are divided. The Lord Jesus taught us the two greatest commandments:

Mark 12:29-31

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. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.

May the Lord help you in learning His commands and give you joy in doing what He commanded.

III 1. FOLLOW ME: A CALL TO DAILY SELF-DENIAL

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow Me**."

Mark 8:34

When He had called the people to *Himself*, 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**."

Luke 9:23

Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and **follow Me**."

Matthew 9:9

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "**Follow Me**." So he arose and followed Him.

Luke 5:27

After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "**Follow Me**."

John 1:43

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "**Follow Me.**"

John 21:19

This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "**Follow Me.**"

III 1 A. Come to Jesus for Peace

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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.

III 1 B. Abide in Jesus to Bear Fruit

John 15:4

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.

Apostolic Commands

1 Corinthians 9:24

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

1 Corinthians 14:20

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

Philippians 4:9

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Colossians 2:6

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.

James 1:19

So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

2 Peter 1:5

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge.

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

2 Peter 3:18

... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

1 John 2:24

Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father....

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

III 2. Observing Christ's Commands that Affect Our Relationship to God

III 2 A. Loving and Worshiping God

Matthew 22:37

Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "

Mark 12:29

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. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.

Luke 4:8

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

John 15:9

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

Apostolic Commands

Romans 15:11

And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"

1 Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 14:12

Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.

Ephesians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

1 John 2:15

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.

1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen

Jude 1:21

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

III 2 B. Reconciliation with Others

Matthew 5:24

... leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:25

Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

III 2 C. Giving

Matthew 6:1

Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

III 2 D. Prayer as Natural as Breathing

Matthew 6:5

And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Matthew 6:34

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (see also, Luke 11:9)

Prayers offered in faith

Mark 11:22

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

Luke 11:2-3

So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread.

Supplication

John 4

"Pray ye the Lord of the harvest...

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Apostolic Commands

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

1 Thessalonians 5:18

... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 John 5:16

If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin *which does not lead* to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not *leading* to death. There is sin *leading* to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.

III 2 E. The Bible as Spiritual Food

Matthew 4:4

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

Apostolic Commands

2 Thessalonians 2:15

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:3

You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:14

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.

III 2 F. Priorities and Seeking God's Kingdom First

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Apostolic Commands

Colossians 3:1-2

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.

III 2 G. Calling Us to Holiness

Matthew 5:48

Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 7:6

Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Apostolic Commands

Romans 6:12

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.

1 Corinthians 5:7

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Corinthians 7:2-3

Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

1 Corinthians 15:34

Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

Colossians 3:5

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Do not quench the Spirit.

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

1 Peter 1:16

...because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

1 John 1:5-10

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

III 2 H. Warning Us to Watch

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. (see also: Mark 14:38).

Matthew 24:42

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:43

But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Luke 12:15

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."

Luke 17:32

Remember Lot's wife.

Apostolic Commands

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

2 Timothy 4:5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions,

James 1:13

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

James 5:8

You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

2 John 1:8

Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

III 2 I. Supplying Us with Wisdom

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.

Apostolic Commands

Ephesians 5:15-16

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, for the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5

Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time.

1 Thessalonians 5:21

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

James 1:5

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. James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

James 3:13

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

III 2 J. Disciplining Us through Tithing

Matthew 6:2-4

Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Apostolic Commands

1 Corinthians 16:2

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.

III 2 K. Preparing Us for Persecution

Matthew 5:12

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

Matthew 5:39

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Matthew 10:19

But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak.

Matthew 10:23

When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Matthew 24:15-16

Therefore when you see the “abomination of desolation,” spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mark 13:11

But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Apostolic Commands

Romans 12:14

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

Romans 12:20-21

Therefore If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Peter 4:16

Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

1 John 3:13

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

III 2 L. Warning Us about the Danger of Oaths

Matthew 5:37

But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No" be "No." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Apostolic Commands

James 5:12

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes," be "Yes," and *your* "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment.

III 2 M. Instructing Us about the Covenant of Marriage

Matthew 19:6

So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

Mark 10:9

Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.

Matthew 19:12

For there are eunuchs who were born thus from *their* mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept *it*, let him accept *it*.

Apostolic Commands

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.

Ephesians 5:33

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.

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

III 3. Observing Christ's Commands about My Neighbor in the World

III 3 A. Loving My Neighbor

Matthew 22:39

And *the* second *is* like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 5:39-42

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also... Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Luke 6:27-31

But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Matthew 7:1

Judge not, that you be not judged.

Matthew 7:12

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Luke 6:37-38

Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

John 7:24

Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

Matthew 18:15-17

Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

Luke 17:3

Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Mark 9:50

Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.

Apostolic Commands

Romans 12:19

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 13:8

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:9

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Ephesians 4:28

Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

James 2:1

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality.

James 2:8

If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well.

1 Peter 4:15

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

1 Peter 3:10

For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

III 3 B. The Call to Witness

Matthew 4:19

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:41

And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:17

Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 5:19

However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

Mark 6:10

Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.

Mark 16:15

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Luke 9:5

And whoever will not receive you, when you go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet as a testimony against them.

Apostolic Commands

James 5:20

... let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

III 3 C. The Poor and the Gospel

Luke 14:12-13

Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite *the* poor, *the* maimed, *the* lame, *the* blind."

Apostolic Commands

James 2:5

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

III 3 D. Receiving Children in His Name

Matthew 18:10

Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 19:14

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Mark 10:14

But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:16

But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Apostolic Commands

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Colossians 3:21

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

III 4. Observing Christ's Commands about My Neighbor in the Church

III 4 A. Setting an Example for Leadership in Christ's Church

Matthew 20:26

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

Matthew 20:27

And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.

Matthew 23:11

But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mark 9:35

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."

Mark 10:43-44

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

Apostolic Commands

Galatians 6:6

Let him who is taught the Word share in all good things with him who teaches.

Apostolic Commands

Acts 20:28

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

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

III 4 B. Giving Instructions for Fellowship in Christ's Church

Apostolic Commands

Acts 10:15

And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."

Romans 14:13

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.

Romans 14:15

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 died.

Romans 15:2

Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

1 Corinthians 10:24

Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's *well-being*.

1 Corinthians 16:2

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.

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Galatians 5:13-16

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. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Ephesians 4:25-27

Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

Philippians 2:2

... fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus... [humility]

Philippians 2:14

Do all things without complaining and disputing,

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

1 Timothy 5:1

Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers.

1 Timothy 5:3

Honor widows who are really widows.

1 Timothy 5:4

But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

1 Timothy 5:16

If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

Hebrews 13:1

Let brotherly love continue.

James 5:9

Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

1 Peter 1:22

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 Peter 2:17

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

III 4 C. Ordaining the Memorial Supper

Matthew 26:26-27

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

Luke 22:19

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

Apostolic Commands

1 Corinthians 11:24

... and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:28

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

III 4 D. Preparing Us for Christ's Second Coming

Mark 13:33

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Mark 13:35-37

Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming -- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning -- And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!

Luke 21:34

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.

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Apostolic Commands

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

III 4 E. Warning Us about the Coming of False Teaching

Matthew 24:4

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you."

Mark 13:5

And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you."

Matthew 7:15

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 16:6

Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."

Matthew 16:11

How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread? -- *but* to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mark 8:15

Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

Apostolic Commands

Romans 16:17

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Galatians 1:8

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:7

But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

Titus 2:1

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 John 1:10

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him.

III 4 F. Warning Us about the Leaven of Hypocrisy

Matthew 6:2-3

Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing...

Matthew 7:4-5

Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Matthew 23:3

Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

Luke 12:1

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first *of all*, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Apostolic Commands

1 Peter 3:3

Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward -- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel.

III 4 G. Warning Us Not to Trust in Wealth

Matthew 6:19-20

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:25

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?

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Luke 12:22

Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on."

Apostolic Commands

1 Timothy 6:17

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.

III 4 H. Commanding Us to Respect the Government Ordained

Matthew 22:21

They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Mark 12:17

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.

Apostolic Commands

Romans 13:7

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

Romans 13:3

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.

Titus 3:1

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work.

III 4 I. Giving Us an Example to Work for a Living

Apostolic Commands

Ephesians 6:5

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ.

Ephesians 6:9

And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Colossians 3:22

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

III 4 J. Comforting Us in the Face of Death

Mark 5:36

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

Apostolic Commands

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **Wherefore comfort one another with these words.**

III 4 K. Calling Us to Obedience and Joy

Matthew 11:15

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 13:9

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 13:43

Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Mark 4:9

And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Mark 4:23

"If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

Matthew 28:9

And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

Apostolic Commands

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Rejoice always.

1 Peter 4:13

... 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.

Questions:

- 1. Did the Lord Jesus say that it would be easy to follow Him?**
- 2. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?**
- 3. What is the greatest commandment?**
- 4. Breathing spiritually refers to what?**
- 5. Our spiritual food is what?**
- 6. What does it mean to "watch and pray"?**

7. Lists at least ten ways to witness to your family members, friends, and others with whom you come into contact day by day.

Witnessing ideas

1.

2.

3.

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Luke 17:10

So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, “We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.”