

SCRIPTURE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST.
MATTHEW

CHAPTER 10

Mt 10:1. And when he had called (or summoned) unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power (or authority) against unclean (or evil) spirits, to cast them (or drive them) out, and to heal all manner (or every kind) of sickness and all manner (or every kind) of disease.

COMMENTARY

CHAPTER 10

(All of chapter 10 is 30 years plus 28 months)
The ministry of Jesus began when He was about 30 years of age.

It lasted approximately 3 years.

Chapter 10 takes place approximately 28 months after He began His ministry.

Mt 10:1. Verses 1 to 4 introduces the 12 apostles. The group of 12 **disciples** had come together sometime previously. They had been together learning from Jesus and witnessing the miracles He did. The word disciple means a student and also a person that is being taught by another.

Lk 9:1 is similar to Mt 10:1, except it adds that He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God.

Jesus had the power or authority to:

- (1) cast out (or drive out) unclean (or evil) spirits, and to
- (2) heal all (or every) type of sickness
- (3) and diseases.

Such power had never been revealed to mankind. This power both revealed and testified that this was indeed God, Who had come in the flesh.

Now, at approximately 28 months into His ministry, Jesus gives His 12 disciples the same power (or authority) regarding these three things. This would have included Judas, the traitor.

However, this power was not given to the many others that also followed Him.

Mt 10:2. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, (1) Simon, who is called Peter, and (2) Andrew his brother; (3) James the son of Zebedee, and (4) John his brother;

There were many more that did follow Him from the baptism of John. Their number was approximately 120, including Matthias, who later became an apostle, replacing Judas-ref Acts 1:23, 26.

A disciple is a follower of Jesus, a follower of God's Word.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:1**. And when he had called (or summoned unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power (or authority) against unclean (or evil) spirits, to cast them (or drive them) out, and to heal all manner (or every kind) of sickness and all manner (or every kind) of disease.

Mt 10:2. In verse one the **twelve** are called "disciples."

In verse two, after Jesus had given them power over unclean spirits and sickness, they are called "apostles."

This term means one sent or a sent one.

The number of the tribes of Israel was also **twelve**.

The number of stones on the high priests breastplate was **twelve**.

New Jerusalem has **twelve** foundations.

The tree of life has 12 manner or types of fruit.

The information given, regarding the apostles, is to the best of our knowledge.

The word "apostles" is used in the KJV approximately 60 times.

Regarding the 12 apostles, Peter is mentioned first. Judas is mentioned last.

It is noted that the names of the apostles are listed with 2 at a time or in pairs. Example Simon and Andrew. Then James and John.

Those that study God's Word are usually the most familiar with the first four.

It could be said that these were the ones that were the closest to Jesus.

The **first, Simon**, is also called **Peter**. Jesus had changed Simon's name to Peter. The first two apostles were brothers.

His name means a "rock."

He was the son of Jonas. He was the brother of Andrew. He lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum.

He was a fisherman, a Galilean, and was unpredictable. Andrew led him to Jesus ref Jn 1:40-42.

Peter had been in prison in Acts 12:5, but was freed by an angel.

He preached at Babylon and wrote 1st and 2nd Peter.

He had been married-ref Mt 8:14. Some believe his wife may have been crucified earlier.

His leadership or apostleship was not passed on to others. There was no successor to Peter, neither any of the rest of the apostles.

Some report that he was crucified at Rome in 68 AD, perhaps head down, but there is no biblical confirmation that he was ever at Rome.

Some "that say he was at Rome" are from the Roman Catholic Church. Since they believe their church was derived from Peter, they maintain Peter had to have been at Rome. Actually, the Roman church was derived from the Babylonian cult, which existed a long time before Jesus was born of Mary.

The **second** apostle listed is **Andrew**, who is Peter's brother. His name is mentioned in the King James Bible about 13 times. He was the brother of Peter, son of Jonas. He lived in Bethsaida and Capernaum with Peter. He was also a fisherman. He was born in Bethsaida. He was originally a disciple of John the Baptist. He preached mainly in Macedonia.

Some believe he may have taught in Russia, Scotland, Greece, and Turkey.

He was martyred at Achaia in Greece in the town of Patra. The Catholics believe it was on an x-shaped cross.

The **third** apostle mentioned is **James**, the son of Zebedee. This name is mentioned in the King James Bible about 33 times. John, who is mentioned fourth, was his brother. James and John were called the Sons of Thunder. He was also a fisherman.

His mother may be Salome. He may have gone to Spain. He may be a cousin to Jesus.

He lived in Bethsaida, Capernaum, and Jerusalem.

He preached in Jerusalem and Judea.

He was executed by being beheaded by King Herod Agrippa about 44 AD-ref Acts 12:1,2.

He was the first of the 12 apostles to die as a martyr.

Note, there are four people in the New Testament named James.

In addition to the apostle, there was also James, the father of Judas (not Judas Iscariot).

There was James, which was the Lord's half brother, who wrote the Epistle that bears his

Mt 10:3. (5) Philip, and (6) Bartholomew; (7) Thomas, and (8) Matthew the publican (or tax collector); (9) James the son of Alphaeus, and (10) **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

name. It is reported that he was also involved in establishing the early church.

There was also James the less.

The **fourth** apostle listed is **John**, the brother of James. He was the son of Zebedee. His mother may be Salome. He was the beloved disciple. He was a fisherman.

He lived in Jerusalem, Capernaum, and Bethsaida. He and James were called the Sons of Thunder. James was always mentioned first. He may have been a cousin to Jesus.

He was the only disciple that dared to stand at the foot of the cross, yet he allowed Peter to enter the tomb first.

He cared for the mother of Jesus. It is believed he died on Patmos. Some believed he was freed and died a natural death in Asia Minor.

Tradition says that Mary died at Ephesus.

He wrote the Gospel of John, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, plus the Revelation.

As has been said in **Mt 10:2**, Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, (1) Simon, who is called Peter, and (2) Andrew his brother; (3) James the son of Zebedee, and (4) John his brother;

Mt 10:3. The **fifth** apostle listed is **Philip**. This name is mentioned in the Bible 33 times.

He was from Bethsaida-ref Lk 3:1, and may have been a fisherman. Jesus told Philip to follow Him, in John 1:43.

Philip told Nathanael about Jesus.

Jn 1:45 reveals Philip had a good knowledge of the Scriptures.

He may have taught in France, Turkey, southern Russia, Asia Minor, India, and Phrygia.

He reportedly died in Hierapolis by hanging.

The Philip of Acts 6:5 may not be the same Philip that was an apostle. There is controversy on this subject.

The **sixth** apostle listed is **Bartholomew**. He is also referred to as Nathanael.

The name Bartholomew is mentioned in the King James Bible approximately 4 times.

Some believe he may have been of royal blood. He was introduced to Jesus by Philip. He was the son of Talmai. He reportedly lived in Cana of Galilee and taught in India, Turkey, Iran, and Armenia. He preached with Philip in Phrygia, Hierapolis, and Armenia. It is believed he was beheaded or crucified in India head down. Others report he was flayed alive with knives.

The **seventh** apostle listed is **Thomas**. His name appears in the King James Bible about 12 times. He was called Didymus (or twin) in Greek. He lived in the Galilee. It is believed he went to India, Parthia, Persia, and perhaps to China.

When Jesus appeared to the apostles after His resurrection, Thomas was not with them. Thomas was what might be considered as a skeptic. He would not believe Jesus was alive after the resurrection even after the testimony of the other apostles that had seen Him. Thus, he became known as "doubting" Thomas.

But then, that changed when Jesus appeared afterward and told Thomas to reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God**. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed

ref Jn 20:27-29.

It is believed that he was killed with a spear in either Persia or India.

Matthew means "gift of God." He is listed as **number eight**.

He was the son of Alpheus. He lived in Capernaum.

He was a publican, or tax collector.

Matthew gives us an example of faith such as few have. He was doing his job as a tax collector. He was a government employee. He would have had money that he had collected. He was on the road between Damascus and Accho just outside of Capernaum.

Jesus said to him, "Follow Me"-ref Mt 9:9.

How could he do what Jesus had asked him to do? First, he should turn in the money he had collected. Then he should give the government a notice he would be leaving his job and then given them time to replace him.

So what did he do? Did he make excuses to Jesus? No. Straightway, he forsook his job. He forsook all and followed Jesus. It appears he left the money behind. He would have left the job he was doing unattended. He was not afraid that the government might come looking for him to put him in jail.

How many people has Jesus called to follow Him? Are you one?

His name is mentioned in the King James Bible 5 times.

Tax collectors were despised in the land of Israel. Jesus was mocked because he ate and drank with tax collectors-ref Lk 7:34.

Jesus told the religious leaders in Matt 21:31- Verily I say unto you, That the publicans (which are the tax collectors) and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Tax collectors did well financially. Matthew had a banquet at his own house.

He reportedly preached in Parthia and Ethiopia.

It is believed he was martyred in the city of Madabah around 60 AD. He wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

The **ninth** is **James**, the son of Alphaeus (the lesser or younger). It is believed he lived in the Galilee, and his brother was Matthew. He is only mentioned in the lists containing the names of the apostles.

He reportedly preached in Persia, Egypt, and Palestine. Tradition says he wrote James.

Some believe he was killed by being sawed in pieces in Egypt, while others believe he was either crucified or stoned to death in Egypt.

The **tenth** is **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was **Thaddaeus**. It is believed that he is also known by the names of Jude or Judas (not Iscariot), and Trionius. He was known as a zealot.

He lived in the Galilee (Lk 6:16; Acts 1:13).

Some believe the KJV incorrectly translates Luke as saying this man (Judas) was the brother of James. (ref Lk 6:16; Acts 1:13).

He reportedly preached in Assyria and Persia. He may have also preached in Edessa, near the Euphrates.

He may have been killed with clubs and stones

Mt 10:4. (11) **Simon** the Canaanite (or zealot), and (12) **Judas** Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

in the city of Suanir in Persia by magicians or killed with an arrow at Ararat.

As has been said in **Mt 10:3**, (5) Philip, and (6) Bartholomew; (7) Thomas, and (8) Matthew the publican; (9) James the son of Alphaeus, and (10) **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Mt 10:4. The **eleventh** apostle listed is **Simon Zelotes**, or Simon the Zealot, the Canaanite. It has been said that the better manuscripts use the term "Cananean," which is a term used for the group of the zealots that wished to overthrow Roman rule in Palestine. They resisted the rule of Herod the great. Simon may have been a member before coming to Christ.

He is called the zealous one. He was from the Galilee. Reportedly he taught in Egypt and other parts of Africa. He may have been crucified in Persia.

The **twelfth** apostle listed is **Judas Iscariot**. He was the only one of the twelve that was not a Galilean. This is the traitor that betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. "Iscariot" may mean he was from Kerieth of Judah. He was the son of Simon. He was the treasurer, and he was also a thief. He always seems to be mentioned last.

After he betrayed Jesus, he hung himself. The area he hung himself can be easily seen in Jerusalem.

Matthias became his replacement.

The following is not listed in Matthew's Gospel.

The **apostle that replaced Judas**. (Acts 1:23-26). Matthias is the apostle that replaced Judas Iscariot. Reportedly, his name means "gift of God." He replaced Judas, which was the one that betrayed Jesus and afterward hung himself. Thus, he became one of the twelve as lots were

Mt 10:4 goes to Mk 6:7.

Mk 6:7 goes to Lk 9:1.

Lk 9:1 goes to Lk 9:2.

Lk 9:2 goes to Mt 10:5.

Mt 10:5. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city (or town) of the Samaritans enter ye not:

cast.

Reportedly, he was from Judah, near Jericho.

Matthias was of the men that companied with the others all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and went out, beginning from the baptism of John, unto the day that he was received up.

The one that was chosen had to be one that was a witness with the other apostles of the resurrection of Jesus.

As has been said in **Mt 10:4**, (11) **Simon** the Canaanite, and (12) **Judas** Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Mt 10:5. Verses 5 to 15 Jesus gives commands to the Twelve.

Jesus speaks on witnessing.

Back in verse one, Jesus had given the 12 disciples power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Now He commands them to go and preach.

He straightly commands them **not to go to the way of the Gentiles.**

There were **certain cities of the Greeks** in the Galilee area. The apostles were not to go to these.

They were also not to go to the **Samaritans**, which were half-breeds, part Jewish and part

Mt 10:6. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Gentiles.

Their origins began somewhere after 722 BC. At that time, Assyria succeeded in conquering the northern kingdom. They transported those of northern Mesopotamia to Israel. As a result, intermarriages took place, and the Samaritans came into being.

The number of actual pure Samaritans left in Samaria now is only a few. Some of the ruins of ancient Samaria can be seen by those that hire a special tour guide.

The Gospel is to the Jew first.

Mt 10:6. The twelve were to go only to the true Jews. They were to go only to the **lost sheep** or to the unsaved of Israel. Jesus identified them as being lost sheep, as they were headed to eternal separation from God. They were headed to a place called "hell," when their life on this earth ended.

As lost sheep, they had no one to lead them or direct them. It was as if they were in a thick darkness, wandering aimlessly.

SHEEP

It is estimated there are a little over one billion sheep in the world. There are over 1200 breeds and approximately 5 types of wool.

An adult female sheep is referred to as a ewe and an intact male as a ram or a tup. An ewe may weigh 100 to 220 pounds. A ram may weigh between 100 to 350 pounds. They may live from 10 to 12 years, but some have reached 20. Their vision can reach 270 to 320 degrees. A sheep can see behind itself without turning its head.

A castrated male is a wether,, and a younger sheep is called a lamb.

Mt 10:7. And as ye go, preach, saying (this message), The kingdom of heaven is at hand (or near).

Sheep are raised for their wool, meat, and milk.

A group of sheep is called a flock, herd, or mob.

The IQ of a sheep is just below a pig and about the same as cattle. They can remember faces for years. They can identify emotions through facial expressions. They can learn their names, if worked with patiently. They can be trained to respond to a clicker. They are capable of solving some problems.

They can recognize each other's communications.

At a later time, the apostles would go to the Samaritans and other parts of the world.

As has been said in **Mt 10:6**, But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Mt 10:7. THE FIRST MESSAGE was that they were to preach that the **kingdom of heaven is at hand**.

The Kingdom of Heaven is near.

This was the message that both Jesus and John the Baptist were preaching.

The Kingdom "of" Heaven is the Millennial Kingdom. It is the one thousand year Kingdom that Christ will set up after the Battle of Armageddon is concluded and all rebellion of mankind has been put down.

However, to accept the Millennial Kingdom, one **has to accept the King**. The King is Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

They wanted the Millennial Kingdom; however, the Jews refused to accept Jesus Christ.

They did not want God to reign over them.

They did not want to repent and follow after holiness.

They wanted to live just as they were living, in sin.

It is like today. People want and believe they will go to heaven when they die, but they will not trust God's way to enter heaven, which is only through following Jesus Christ which is the Bible.

It is the same today. Many claim they are a Christian, but they have no understanding what it means to repent of their sins. They have no understanding what it means to actually have the Holy Spirit dwell inside of them which through faith (which only comes from God's Word) gives them strength to overcome this present world and its wicked ways.

Their excuses are many when it comes to devouring God's Word and obeying it.

There is no salvation without Christ.

There is no salvation through trusting in the ways of Catholicism.

If a church is so ignorant of the Bible as to think **water baptism is by sprinkling**, how can they **ever** understand the more complex things, such as prophecy or the meat of God's Word: which is perfection?

There is no salvation trusting in what most (so-called) churches teach.

There is no salvation in Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, or any of the other approximately 25,000 ways that Satan has successfully created to deceive the whole world.

Muslims believe Mohammed is the way they get to God.

The Buddhists believe that god is in them. Hinduism worships many gods.

Then there are those that believe they can reach self-enlightenment or self-understanding, such as finding oneself by oneself.

Satan is working in every man's thoughts day in and day out. The world is so overwhelmingly deceived that most believe he does not even exist.

Satan has many names. Even in Christian churches, Satan is seldom spoken of; yet God's Word tells us that Satan deceiveth the whole world-Rev 12:9.

Often Satan comes to us in our thoughts, telling us to do this or that, and then makes the person believe it is God that is directing them.

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me-Jn 14:6.

Jesus, which is the truth, was and is hated.

Why don't people curse the name of Satan?

It is Satan that damns.

Yet people curse the name of Jesus, not Satan.

Jesus is love, while Satan is hate.

Jesus came to save. Satan comes to destroy.

Jesus is truth. Satan is the deceiver and father of lies.

Why did God create Satan?

He was created to do exactly what he does.
He was created to deceive.

As has been said in so many ways—God's Word, the Bible, gives us the truth.

Satan, in our thoughts and through situations, deceives the whole world, which may include you.

Very foolish people mock regarding sin.

Very foolish people make a joke regarding Satan. They bare in darkness as it is written.

In ignoring God's Word, a person is doing the will of Satan.

In going to an unbiblical church, a person is following Satan.

The Great Harlot, the Roman Catholic Church, is not a biblical church. Neither are multitudes of cults.

Some cults are listed on a tract called the Spirit of Truth and Spirit of Error.

Most follow Satan. In not obeying God's Word, a person is following Satan.

From numbers that are in the Scriptures, and through being able to statistically come up with a ballpark figure of the world's population at various times in its history, we can arrive at the conclusion that the percentage of people that receive eternal life with God is very, very small.

Will you be one of the "**few**" that will stand firm in God's Word, against the schemes and devices of the devil?

As already said, Satan deceiveth the whole world-ref Rev 12:9.

Mt 10:8. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers (or those who have leprosy), raise the dead, cast (or drive) out devils (or demons): freely ye have received, freely give.

As has been said in **Mt 10:7**, And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mt 10:8. The next things Jesus told them that they were to do are these: As the twelve went forth, they were to do the impossible as evidence they were sent from God.

#2-They were to heal the sick,

#3-cleanse the lepers,

#4-and even raise the dead.

#5-They were to cast out the devils from those that were possessed.

These miracles they were to do would prove they were sent from God, for no man on earth could do such things.

As they themselves had freely received, now they were to **#6-**freely give. They were to do this, asking nothing in return.

All that are called of God are called to follow and serve Him. The **FIRST** calling is to learn of Jesus. **Devour God's Word, which is the Bible.** Without the Bible as your foundation, you have no foundation. The Bible is Jesus, and Jesus is the Word. How can you tell others about Jesus, when you know almost nothing about what the Bible teaches?

So Satan does everything possible to keep a person busy with about everything imaginable, thus leaving a person no time to study the Scriptures.

As has been said in **Mt 10:8**, Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers (or those who have leprosy), raise the dead, cast (or drive) out devils (or demons): freely ye have received, freely give.

Mt 10:9. Provide neither (or do not take any) gold, nor silver, nor brass (or copper) in your purses (or money belts),

Mt 10:10. Nor scrip (or bag) for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes (or sandals), nor yet staves (or a staff): for the workman is worthy of his meat (or support) (or the workman is worth his keep).

Mt 10:9. #7-The twelve disciples were not to take any gold, silver, or brass (or copper) with them in their bags or belts. In other words, they were not to take anything of value.

The fold in the robe they wore could be used as a pocket.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:9.** Provide neither (or do not take any) gold, nor silver, nor brass (or copper) in your purses or money belts),

Mt 10:10. #8-The disciples were to **take nothing**, including a bag, or wallet. **#9-**They were not to take an extra coat or tunic, or **extra** shoes, or sandals, or staves (or staffs, or a stick).

For the workman is worthy of his food or keep, or we may say, a workman should be given what he needs.

However, Mark 6:8 indicates they could take a staff only; as it is written, "Take nothing...save a staff only"; however the word used here may give the indication they could only take a staff they already had.

God will provide what is needed.

They were workman being sent forth to preach "the Kingdom of God was at hand," and to do miracles which no other man in history had ever done. The miracles would authenticate the message they preached was of God.

As Jesus was, so His disciples were and are to be.

Jesus stated that the workman (which was them and those that follow Jesus) was worthy of his meat or of what would be given to them. God would provide all their needs. Their needs are often met through those that hear the message God has given them to preach.

That message is to be the same today; yet it has become very watered-down and distorted.

Many are afraid to step out and forsake all in order to preach the Gospel God has given them to teach. Their faith is small. Their faith is a type of faith that is full of doubts. They are double-minded.

Ja 1:6-8-But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

For those that truly believe God's Word in their heart, God does provide for them as they follow Him and obey His Word. Followers of Jesus are to walk by faith, not by sight.

As for the disciples of Jesus, their total trust was in God to provide as they had need.

A person might say that some preachers today in the pulpits and on television have many riches and even boast of the wealth and beautiful possessions they have.

The reply to that is this. Not all that preach the Gospel, obey the Gospel or walk by faith.

And also not all that preach Jesus, follow Jesus as they ought. Mt 6:19-21-Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt (or consume), and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt (or consume), and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Then there are also many that appear to be of

God, but **they are not of God**; as it is written: 2 Cor 11:13-15-For such are false apostles, **deceitful workers**, transforming themselves into the **apostles** of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his **ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

There are many deceitful workers, apostles, priests, ministers, clergy, and rabbi which appear on the outside to be of God, but are not of God. They even believe they are of God, for Satan has deceived them and blinded their eyes, so they do not understand.

A person that understands the Scriptures with a good and honest heart can recognize them by their fruits.

However, this is a generation in which people's Bibles collect dust, and they deceive themselves, thinking they will inherit eternal life; when, in fact, they shall inherit eternal damnation.

When such people are corrected (which seldom happens in this lukewarm generation) they usually get mad. This is further evidence they are going to perish.

Some television ministries and others also, seem to plead endlessly for people to give to their ministry. Some make statements like, "If "you" do not give a certain amount to this ministry, it will have to go off the air. Does this portray faith in God that He is in control, or faith in people?

Each of us is to walk by faith in God.

We are not to walk by sight. If we do that which is pleasing in the sight of God and in accordance with the Scriptures, God will meet

Mt 10:11. And into whatsoever city or town (or village) ye shall enter, inquire (or search) who in it is worthy; and there abide (or stay at his house) till ye go thence (or leave) (or go away).

our needs, but not necessarily all our desires.

Often our desires are not in harmony with God's Word.

Witnessing: Note

Lk 9:1-5.

Mk 6:7-13.

Lk 10:3-12.

As has been said in **Mt 10:10**, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

Mt 10:11. As the disciples of Jesus went forth into the cities or towns they were to ask or search of those they met to see who was worthy. This is instruction **#10**.

#11-And when they found someone worthy to receive God's Word, they were to give that home their greeting.

When they found someone that would welcome them and desired to hear God's Word, they were to make that house their temporary place of abode.

They were not to receive help from those that were against the message they preached.

From there they would go forth into the local area to teach the Words of Life.

There was a time many years ago, when missionaries could knock on people's doors and perhaps 1 in 20 or 1 in 30 might listen to God's Word.

Slowly over many years, this has decreased. Few, that is, very few, will receive the Gospel anymore. Some may go to church, but the churches usually bring forth a message that is somewhere between lukewarm to wretched.

Mt 10:12. And when ye come into an house, salute it (or give it your greeting).

Mt 10:13. And if the house be worthy (or the home is deserving), let your peace (or greeting of peace) come (or rest) upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace (or greeting of peace) return to you.

The love of many in this generation is cold. Few read and study their Bible faithfully; and as a result, most have no faith or a very little faith.

As the time of the Rapture approaches, that coldness will increase, and when the Translation occurs, few, that is very few, will be taken. In that day, many will cry out, "Lord, Lord, open to us," but Jesus will say, "I know you not." It seems the more conveniences people have to save them time, the less time they have for Jesus and His Word.

As has been said in **Mt 10:11**, And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

Mt 10:12. The disciples were instructed that when they came to a house, they were to greet it-#12. They were to greet the occupants. They had come to bring the Gospel, the words of God, that is the words of eternal life. They brought peace and the love of God.

Mt 10:13. #13. The love and peace of Jesus, that the disciples brought, was to abide upon that house that the disciples were to stay at. What an awesome blessing would be to that house that was worthy. It would be protected by God.

The peace spoken of here includes prosperity, plus blessing and well-being.

#14. However, if the house was not worthy (which means they would not receive the Word of God), that peace was to return to the disciples. The peace that can only come from God would not remain upon that house and its occupants.

The Bible teaches there are the fruits of the Spirit, and there are the fruits of the devil.

Gal 5:22, 23-But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, **peace**, (note the word **peace**) longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Eph 5:9-(For the **fruit of the Spirit** is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;).

It is noted that Gal 5:22 speaks of love and Eph 5:9 speaks of truth. The unworthy house is a house that does not and will not abide in love and truth. As a result, the peace the disciples brought, which is beyond all understanding, cannot abide there.

Phil 4:7 speaks of the peace which the disciples brought. It is a peace the worthy house will receive, but is a peace the unworthy house will reject. It is written: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace that comes from God is a peace that the worldly (or carnally) minded person cannot and does not understand. Neither can they receive it, unless they repent and grow in faith through the understanding of God's Word.

The people that are not worthy and will not receive the living Word of God, these people are, as it is written, in 1 Jn 4:5, 6-they are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

As has been said in **Mt 10:13**, And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Mt 10:14. And whosoever shall not receive you (or welcome you), nor hear (or listen to) your words, when ye depart (or go) out of that house or (that) city, shake off the dust of your

Mt 10:14. The disciples were instructed by Jesus that when they went to a house that rejected them and would not hear or listen to the words of

feet.

God,
and would not welcome them,

#15-they were to **shake off the dust** that was on their feet when they left that home or town or city.

This would be a witness or signify that the house, or town, or city was not worthy.

Acts 13:51-BUT THEY SHOOK OFF THE DUST OF THEIR FEET AGAINST THEM.

Mk 6:11-AND WHOSOEVER SHALL NOT RECEIVE YOU, NOR HEAR YOU, WHEN YE DEPART THENCE, SHAKE OFF THE DUST UNDER YOUR FEET FOR A TESTIMONY AGAINST THEM.

The very dust of that property now becomes a testimony and a curse to those that will not receive or hear the words of a person sent to them by God. It would be considered as a house or city that was despised, such as the cities of the heathen or Gentiles.

Shaking off the dust of your feet was a way of showing disdain or disgust, as for a pagan land.

Consider that God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

To reject that love, to reject that sacrifice that Jesus made, to reject the horrible pain and suffering and beating and being marred worse than any man that Jesus endured, is unthinkable. Yet the world has rejected Jesus. Much of the world curses, with hatred, the name of Jesus and God.

When the disciples went to a person's house, the gates of heaven were being opened to the occupants. When they rejected that love, the

gates of hell were at their door waiting for them.

It is the same today.

When a child of the living God knocks on a person's door, and the people of that house reject God's offer of love and eternal life, that household shall regret that decision for ever and ever.

And what of a good, internet Bible-teaching site? A person may click on it and begin reading God's Word. He invited God's Word into his house. But then he rejects it and clicks it off, as he sees the words, "Repent and believe the Gospel." He quickly goes on to another site, having rejected God's Word.

CURSING OR DAMNING

Some say they do not believe in God. They say they do not believe He exists.

Then why do they curse His name?

Does one curse or damn the name of someone or something that does not even exist?

Why do people curse the name of God?

It is because the devil (whom nearly everyone also does not believe exists) puts in their mind to do so.

As has been said in **Mt 10:14**, And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Mt 10:15. This verse is a promise that may be said to be terrifying.

This verse is addressed to those cities that would not receive the disciples, nor would they hear the Word of God that was being brought to them.

Mt 10:15. Verily I say unto you, (or I tell you the truth) (or truly I say to you) It shall be more tolerable (or bearable) for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city (or town).

This verse is addressed to those cities in which the disciples have shaken off the dust of their feet as a witness against them.

But it also applies to those people and cities that have been visited by God's disciples all the way up to this present time.

Jesus said, I tell you the truth:

The judgment that shall come upon these cities shall be worse than the judgment that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment.

It is written: 2 Peter 2:4-14-For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample (or example) unto those that after should live ungodly;

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children.

Those cities that reject the forgiveness that Jesus offers, which was a result of being tortured and marred worse than any man and then dying on the cross—the people of those cities shall be judged.

All that reject the incredible love of Christ, shall receive torment that is so bad, it is almost beyond comprehension. Eternal burning and torment with worms crawling all over you for ever, and ever, and ever is what lies ahead. In addition, a certain amount of stripes, which are eternal, shall be upon all the damned according to their sin, which will make the torment for eternity even worse.

As has been said in **Mt 10:15**, Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Mt 10:15 goes to Mk 6:8.

Mk 6:8 goes to Mk 6:11.

Mk 6:11 goes to Lk 9:3.

Lk 9:3 goes to Lk 9:5.

Lk 9:5 goes to Mt 10:16.

Mt 10:16. Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore (as) wise (or shrewd) as serpents (or snakes), and (as) harmless (or innocent) as doves.

Mt 10:16. In verses 16 to 23, Jesus tells the 12, He sends them forth and what to expect.

Jesus is telling both His disciples of that time, and also His disciples in the future that they are being sent forth as **sheep** in the midst of **wolves**. It is Jesus (the only begotten Son of God) that is sending them.

Wolves (that is, many people of this world) wish to devour the sheep. They wish to hinder, hurt, and destroy those that bring forth the good news of the Gospel. Acts 20:29 tells us, For I know this, that after my departing, shall grievous (or savage) **wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

The more the light of Jesus shines forth from a born again Christian, the more the opposition may be intent on putting out that light.

Wolves may kill and eat the **sheep**. They can be very vicious like a mad, uncontrollable dog that has no pity or compassion. This is the kind of people the disciples were to go to in hope that some might be saved.

Sheep have no way to defend themselves. They are, in some ways, like a **dove**.

However they (the sheep) do have a very wide angle of vision to see the wolves coming.

Doves are very **harmless** and very good at detecting approaching danger. They also have a wide angle of vision and are constantly watching for danger.

If you follow Jesus, if you follow and obey His

Word, you are a disciple of Christ. You are to be as a harmless sheep that is surrounded by wolves that are bent on destroying them.

YOU are commanded to be as wise or clever as **serpents** (ref Gen 3:1-Now the serpent was more subtil (or crafty) (or shrewd) than any beast of the field.

Try to catch a snake. It can be difficult. It can move very swiftly to find a hiding place, and it can seem to change direction in the blink of an eye. And when one searches for it, it sometimes seems to have vanished into thin air.

Yet you are commanded to be as innocent, or harmless, or pure as **doves**.

Sometimes it is the religious people, that are without Christ, that can be the most threatening, dishonest, accusing, arrogant, and hateful of all people.

Jesus could have easily destroyed those that crucified Him, but He did not. When He was about to be arrested, the multitude that came to arrest Him were hit by some force that knocked them to the ground.

This was showing them that they could not arrest Him, unless He allowed it to be so.

It is written, Jn 18:3-8-Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

Mt 10:17. But beware (or be on guard) of (or against) men: for they will deliver you up (or hand you over) to the (local) councils (or courts), and they will scourge (or flog) you in their synagogues.

As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:

As has been said in **Mt 10:16**, Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Mt 10:17. Jesus is warning, both His disciples that were with Him and those that would follow Him in the future, that difficult times were ahead for them.

Jesus is telling those that follow Him, that councils, or courts of law, as well as beatings even in the synagogues lie ahead. Unbelievers are skilled at lying and bringing false charges.

Of the 12 disciples that followed Him, it is reported that all died a violent death except John.

His apostles were delivered up to councils. Many were scourged or tortured. Many were falsely accused. As it is written: But beware of men.

From Adam and Eve, man by nature is sinful, deceitful, and self-centered.

Only through Jesus Christ can he be declared righteous.

The more a Christian's light for Jesus shines, the more he may be falsely accused, persecuted, or hindered.

Many that go forth knocking on doors to witness about Jesus have found themselves being falsely accused. Some people make up lies about them. Sometimes the police are called. Sometimes they are put in jail.

Ps 35:11-15-tells us-False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother. But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:

However, those that are "stay at home" Christians and do not let their light shine before men, may fine they suffer little or no persecutions. It may be said that if they do not bother the unsaved, which are the followers of Satan (which is even the whole world), the world may not bother them.

Secret Christians, that is, those that are afraid to confess Jesus is their Lord and Savior, or do not witness for Jesus because of fear, these will find they are rejected at the Judgment. They will not be raptured.

Mt 25:6-12-Regarding the Rapture, some will be left behind as their light for Jesus went out. It is written: And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom (which is Jesus) cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins (or we may say, Christians) arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish (or we may say, foolish Christians) said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. (In other words, their faith failed. Their light for Jesus went out.) But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. (Jesus came and raptured those that

were ready, but those whose light for Jesus had gone out were left behind). Afterward came also the other virgins (or Christians), saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Lk 13:23-28-Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are. Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

God's Word is clear. Persecutions in many forms await those that follow Jesus. As it is written: Mt 10:17-But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues.

Incredible, as it may seem, it says they will scourge you or whip you in the synagogues, or churches, or religious institutions.

Regarding most churches, Jesus is on the outside looking in. Many churches are everything from entertainment centers to sports centers.

Most churches are no longer places where the Word of God is brought forth, so it cuts the sinner to the bone; and they fall down crying, "GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME A SINNER."

Most churches "in these latter days" are no longer places that preach on:

sin,
the judgments,
hell,
and the lake of fire, and

Satan which deceiveth the whole world, and how he is working in our thoughts continually, and through situations.

Satan understands the things that be of men, that is, he knows what people desire. This is why Jesus tells us to deny ourselves and pick up our cross daily and follow God's Word, which is Jesus.

Churches, in these latter days, also seldom preach on:

holiness,
Bible prophecy—the soon coming Rapture, Tribulation, Armageddon, the return of Jesus, the Millennium,

New Jerusalem, the New Heaven and Earth, and

picking up one's cross,
forsaking all,
and following Jesus, Who is the Word of God, Who came to this world in the flesh. Churches seldom preach on

the meat of God's Word, which is **perfection**. Most churches, to our knowledge, do not even know that "perfection" is the meat of God's Word. Very few people in this lukewarm generation are ready for such teaching.

Few preach that nearly all go to the lake of fire, and few shall be with Jesus.

There are far more churches that are walking contrary to Jesus (that is Jesus is on the outside looking in), than those that have Jesus on the

Mt 10:18. And (on my account) ye shall (even) be brought before governors and kings for my sake (as witnesses), for a testimony against (or to) them and (to) the Gentiles.

inside, and the people are broken for their sins.

The Revelation speaks of the Great Harlot or Great Whore that is headquartered in Rome. It will eventually be burned with fire by the Antichrist during the Tribulation.

It has been a great persecutor of born again Christians that love Jesus during much of history.

As has been said in **Mt 10:17**, But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues

Mt 10:18. As a born again Christian obeys the Bible, they may find they will have the opportunity to testify and be a witness for Jesus. In some cases, it may be before people in high places or even courts of law.

On their part, they may be arresting you or seeking to scare you, so you will stop witnessing and serving the Lord.

But be not hasty in speaking. Be slow to speak, and slow to wrath, and wait for the Holy Spirit to give you what to say.

On your part, it can give you an opportunity to witness to them about Jesus. It can give you the chance to tell them to FEAR GOD AND DEPART FROM EVIL.

The Scriptures say ye shall be brought before: governors, or, we may say, people in high places,

and kings, or, we may say, public officials, or all sorts of people and rulers.

The Gentiles are mentioned.

These would include Roman governors and Herodion kings.

Many that witness on the streets or knock on doors have found themselves falsely accused of

all manner of things.

Some accuse them of breaking or damaging things.

Some accuse them of attacking them.

Some accuse them of trying to break doors down.

Some accuse them of saying things which are false.

Some may accuse them of stealing things off their porch.

Some may accuse them of scratching up their car.

The list is almost limitless.

The hatred of many against the Bible and God is such that multitudes curse the name of God and Jesus Christ many times a day.

John the Baptist was arrested and put in prison, even though Herod did many things which John the Baptist said.

As it is written: Mk 6:20-For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

So which is the true God in a world that has many gods?

So which is the true Christ in a world that has many that claim they are the "Christ."

So which is the true church in a world that has so many denominations?

The answer is in God's Word, for those few that will take the time to read and obey it.

As has been said in **Mt 10:18**, And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Mt 10:19. But when they deliver you up (or arrest you), take no thought (or do not become anxious) (or do not worry) how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Mt 10:20. For it is not ye that speak, but (it is) the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in (or through) you.

Mt 10:19. When the police or officials arrest you and take you to places you may not desire to go, and when opportunities arise to testify of Jesus, do not shrink back or be fearful. Do not have preconceived thoughts regarding what you will say, or how you will say it.

The reason is, when the time comes for you to speak or bear witness of Jesus, the words will be given to you regarding what you are to speak.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:19**, But when they deliver you up (or arrest you), take no thought (or do not become anxious) (or do not worry) how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

Mt 10:20. The Holy Spirit, at this time did not dwell in people. This would come after the resurrection.

The Spirit of God, Who is within you, will speak through you.

1 Jn 4:4-6- Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

The Spirit of truth is the Holy Spirit. The spirit of error is the devil.

Regretfully, most people are so biblically illiterate, words such as these are not understood. They have no concept that, much of what they do, is a result of thoughts that are put into their mind from Satan.

Incredible

We have been a firsthand witness of horrifying lies and accusations being brought before the authorities against a brother in Christ.

The accusations were of such a nature as to shock nearly anyone.

This person was completely innocent.

As a matter of record, he was not even in this country when the accuser said he did some of the things he was accused of, but the accuser did not know that.

His name was made as mud. His good reputation was gone.

This took place in America not long ago.

For those that follow Jesus, there may be some difficult times ahead, even in these latter days.

It is written: 1 John 4:1-3-Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God**: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 John 7-For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

As has been said in **Mt 10:20**, For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in (or through) you.

Mt 10:21. And the brother shall deliver up the

Mt 10:21. Judas betrayed Jesus. His name,

brother to death, and the father the (or his) child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

for many, has become the first name one thinks of when betrayals are mentioned.

Since that time, many have followed in his footsteps and have betrayed those that love and follow Jesus.

The names of Jesus and God have become hate words, when a person gets mad and swears; yet Jesus is the greatest symbol of love the world has ever had.

As the world hated Jesus, so the world hates those today that follow Jesus and have their light burning brightly.

Jesus continues to forewarn those listening of what shall come.

This verse is dealing with the Tribulation, but also applies, to some degree, to times past and the present in some countries.

Brothers shall oppose brothers.

The unsaved shall deliver the saved to death.

The wicked shall deliver the just (or righteous) to be killed. This has already happened many times in many cases over the centuries. It happens in some Muslim countries as this is being written.

The follower of Jesus brings love.

The followers of some other religions bring forth hate and even murder toward any that do not choose to believe as they do.

In these latter days, the Scriptures tell us that violence shall increase.

Just before the Tribulation, the Rapture takes all that follow Jesus.

But, as a result of the teaching of 144,000 male, virgin Jews, many that were left behind will come to **trust in Jesus**; however, death by decapitation lies ahead for many of them.

Indeed, the brother shall betray his brother to have him put to death. The father will betray his own children and have them put to death. The children will turn against their own parents and have them put to death.

What lies ahead is much spiritual darkness.

Even today, the teaching of many churches has deteriorated greatly from what it was 100 years ago. Most are very ignorant of these things.

Many today enjoy the lukewarm, watered-down, non-convicting teachings going on in many churches along with the entertainment and nice atmosphere.

It is teaching that leads one to believe they need never pick up their Bible.

It is teaching that leads many to believe obeying God's Word is not necessary.

It is teaching that leads many to believe all they have to do is say a sinner's prayer and then they are eternally secure.

It is teaching that often omits a requirement to be saved. That is, repentance and faith.

Water baptism by full immersion is a command after repentance and trusting in Jesus.

Water baptism prior to trusting in Christ and repentance is no baptism at all.

Sprinkling baptism is Satan's counterfeit.

Woe to those that appear to be God's

Mt 10:22. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake (or because of me): but (it is) he that endureth (or stands firm) to the end (who) shall be saved.

ministers, but teach a very shallow, people-pleasing, non-committal Gospel.

This is all leading to the time when the "caught up" or Rapture, also called the Translation, shall happen and most that believe they will be taken, will be left behind saying, "Lord, Lord, Open to us."

Then the horrible Tribulation will follow, and betrayals shall be common, and hate shall abound.

As has been said in **Mt 10:21**, And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Mt 10:22. During the **Tribulation**, those that follow Christ shall be hated of all men.

Persecutions and betrayals shall be a way of life. It will be difficult to follow Jesus, and death by being beheaded lies ahead for many that do. Bibles will have to be hidden. In some Moslem countries right now, those that follow Jesus have been horribly tortured and then killed.

But consider right now.

At this time, people ignore their Bibles. They collect dust.

The time is coming when people will be crying out for a Bible, so they might know what lies ahead, and what to do, and how to be saved.

Only those that endure to the end and do not shrink back, shall dwell with Jesus forever. Under the threat of death and persecution, many do turn aside for fear and to avoid being killed. Their faith fails.

If a person is a lukewarm Christian now, they should be easily persuaded under the threat of

Mt 10:23. But when (ever) they persecute you in this city (or place), flee ye into another (or the next): for verily (or truly) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), Ye shall not have gone over (or finished going through) the cities of Israel, (un) till (or before) the Son of man be come (or comes).

being persecuted to turn aside completely from Christ and His Word. Faith to withstand persecutions comes only from hearing and reading God's Word. Churches now-a-days preach little of God's Word, and few people read their Bible faithfully and obey what it says.

If a person is so deceived now that they are a "now and then" Bible reader, it will be easy under the threat of persecution to persuade them to stop reading the Bible altogether. And since their faith will be lukewarm, they will be left behind when the Rapture comes, and then they will probably hate God as they cry out: Lord, Lord, open to us. Thus, Satan gets the victory in their life, as he does with most people.

Few endure to the end through faith in this lukewarm, pleasure-filled, generation, where there never seems to be enough time to do the things a person wishes to do.

A person's life is a time of being tested. The main question that confronts people is this—Will a person follow Jesus (Who is the Word of God), or will they follow this world?

As has been said in **Mt 10:22**, And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Mt 10:23. These verses apply to the disciples in Israel, but they also are for us today.

The first word of this series of warnings is back in verse 17. That word was "BEWARE."

Again, this verse is speaking of the **Tribulation**, which we know is **soon** to come by the signs of the times that the Bible gives us.

This is after the Rapture, and these witnesses may be part of the 144,000 male, virgin Jews that come forth, as well as those that come to faith through their teaching.

Mt 10:24. The disciple (or student) is not above his master (or teacher), nor the servant (or slave) above his lord (or master).

This verse reveals there will be great persecutions against those witnessing for Jesus. The persecutions will be so intense that they will have to flee from one city to another to avoid being arrested and possibly killed.

Jesus, which is called the Son of Man, returns at the time of Armageddon, which is immediately after the Tribulation of those days.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:23**, But when (ever) they persecute you in this city (or place), flee ye into another (or the next): for verily (or truly) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), Ye shall not have gone over (or finished going through) the cities of Israel, (un) till (or before) the Son of man be come (or comes).

Mt 10:24. In verses 24 to 25, Jesus explains about a disciple.

1 Jn 4:17 tells us, AS HE IS, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD.

In the biblical order of things, the disciple and master can have a dual meaning.

The disciple may refer to a follower of Jesus, or even an employee of a company.

The disciple (or worker) is not above (or over) those over him.

NIV-A student is not above his teacher.

A servant is not above his master.

The worker is not above the foreman,

or the foreman over the superintendent,

nor is the superintendent over the board of directors,

nor the board of directors over the owner.

The lay person is not over the elder,

and the elder is not over his minister,

and the minister is not over his Lord, Who is Jesus.

There are positions of authority, and they are often ordained by God.

In a family, the children are never to be over their parents, nor is the wife to be over her husband. It is not God's order of things.

Children that dominate their parents, or a wife that dominates her husband is like an employee dominating their boss, or a child of God trying to be over God's Word, even over God Himself, which is reflected by their disobedience. Indeed, many are a god unto themselves in this world, as they refuse to let God's Word reign over them.

In heaven, it is the same. There are ranks among the angels. Jesus was not over His Father. The Father is over the Son.

There are some that do not want anyone or anything to rule over them. Such are in spiritual trouble, for God resisteth the proud or the self-centered.

1 Cor 3:10-11...I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Pe 5:5, and 6-Likewise, ye younger, **submit** yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and **be clothed with humility**: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

All need to learn about authority, and being humble, and becoming a servant.

Regarding authority and becoming a servant, it is written: 1 Cor 3:10, 11-According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Mt 8:9, 10-The centurion said: For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

As has been said in **Mt 10:24**, The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

Mt 10:25. The Scriptures tell us: 1 Jn 4:17-As he is, even so are we in this world.

It is enough for the disciple or follower of Jesus to become as their Lord. To become more like Jesus means a person needs to hear and study God's Word with the heart of a child. A person needs to absorb God's Word as much as possible. As a person grows in the wisdom and knowledge of the Scriptures, they need to conform to the image of Christ and be transformed through daily repentance. They can change from the inside out. This is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit, Who resides within all that are truly saved, as reflected by their fruits.

Regretfully, in a world full of distractions,

very few have the desire to conform to Christ.

Mt 10:25. It is enough for the disciple (or student) that he be as (or like) his master (or teacher), and the servant (or slave) as (or like) his lord (or master). If they have called the master (or head) of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them (the members) of his household?

Very few will spend the time in God's Word that they should.

Very few will do what God's Word tells them to do.

Some will hear God's Word, but it seems to go in one ear and out the other.

Jesus taught nothing but the words of God.

The apostles preached the Word of God.

Paul preached the Word of God.

However, in most pulpits in these latter days of lukewarmness, most use little Scripture. Rather, they use lots of worldly stories and even some jokes. Few in this generation have conformed to the image of Christ. Very few have become as their Master. Very few even understand what the meat of God's Word is.

Most preachers seem far more interested in having and keeping their congregations and adding to it, than they are of having those in their church growing in faith and obedience to the Gospel, with some running out the door.

The second part of the verse indicates to us: If people have called the **master** of the house **Beelzebub**, or, we may say, if they have associated the name of Jesus with the devil, how much more will they associate those that follow Jesus with the household of the devil.

For those that do associate the followers of Jesus with being followers of the devil, **they are, as we may say, on very thin ice.** There are those that have gone too far, and they have committed the unforgivable sin, which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

Beelzebub is mentioned 7 times in the Bible. He is called the prince of the devils.

The name is also associated with:

the lord of the flies,
the name of a demon,
and another name for Satan.

The name is linked with the Canaanite god Baal,
the lord of the heavenly dwelling,
the god of Ekron, a city of the Philistines,
and the prince of the demons—Lucifer.

All people are born under sin, thus under the control of the devil.

The devil is the master of all, until that person breaks free through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Few ever do.

Those that do place their trust in Christ have the power from the Holy Spirit to overcome all things. Yet Satan, which is the tempter, is constantly on the doorstep trying to get the repentant Christian to turn back to their being in the mud.

The Scriptures

There are many names used in the Scriptures for the devil. Here are most, as well as things associated with him.

Accuser-Rev 12:10
Beelzebub-Mt 10:25
Desolate-Gal 4:27
Devil-Rev 20:10
Enemy (your enemy)-1 Pe 5:8
Evil one-Mt 5:37 NLT
Father of lies-Jn 8:44
God of this age-2 Cor 4:4 YLT
God of this world-2 Cor 4:4
King of Tyrus-Ez 28:12
Liar-Jn 8:44
Lucifer-Isa 14:12
Murderer-Jn 8:44

Prince and power of the air-Eph 2:2
Prince of this world-Jn 14:30
Prince of Tyrus-Ez 28:2
Satan-Job 1:6
Serpent-Gen 3:1
Son of the morning-Isa 14:12
Spirit-Eph 3:2
Tempter-Mt 4:3
Thief-Jn 10:10

(Satan):

He abode not in the truth-Jn 8:44
He beguiles-Gen 3:13
He binds with sickness-Lk 13:16
He blasphemes-Rev 13:5,6
He buffets-2 Cor 12:1
He deceives-Rev 20:10
He desires-Lk 22:31
He destroys-Jn 10:10
He devises-2 Cor 2:11
He does not have in mind things of God-Mt 16:23
He enters people-Lk 22:3
He fills thine heart to lie-Acts 5:3
He goes to and fro in the earth-Job 1:7
He has in mind the things of men-Mt 16:23
He has lusts, the lusts of your father ye will do-Jn 8:44
He hinders-1 Thes 2:18
He is a thief-Jn 10:10
He is the father of it (of lies)-Jn 8:44
He is the power of darkness-Gal 1:13
He leads the world astray-Rev 12:9 NIV
He masquerades as an angel of light-2 Cor 11:13
He opposes-2 Thes 2:4
He persecutes-Rev 12:13
He provokes-1 Chr 21:1
He puts people in bondage-Lk 13:16
He resists-Zech 3:1
He schemes-Eph 6:11
He seduces-Acts 10:38
He sinned from the beginning-Jn 8:44
He snares-2 Tim 2:26
He steals-Jn 10:10

He tempts-Mt 4:1,3

He...there is no truth in him-Jn 8:44

He was a murderer from the beginning-Jn 8:44

He wiles-Eph 6:11

He works in the children of disobedience-1 Jn 3:8

1 Jn 3:8-He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Ez 28:2-19 (in part). Say unto the prince of Tyrus...Because thine heart is lifted up and thou hast said, I am a god.

I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas...There is no secret they can hide from thee. With thy wisdom and thine understanding, thou hast gotten thee riches...thou art full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering...in the day that thou was created. Thou art the anointed Cherub...Thou was perfect in thy ways, from the day thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Thine heart was lifted up because of thine beauty. Thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by means of thy brightness...I will bring forth a fire from the midst of thee.

It is written in Isa 14:12-15-How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Warning

As somewhat mentioned previously, people

Mt 10:26. (So) Fear them not therefore (or don't be afraid of them): for there is nothing covered (or concealed), that shall not be revealed (or disclosed); and hid, that shall not be (made) known.

need to be **very careful** what they speak. For some have committed the unforgivable sin, which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. **This shall never be forgiven.** As it is written: Mt 12:31-Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

As has been said in **Mt 10:25**, It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Mt 10:26. In verses 26 to 33, Jesus explains about being a disciple and don't be afraid.

Jesus is telling those that are persecuted for the Gospel's sake to not be afraid of those that persecute them.

Fear not also appears in verses 26, 28 and 31.

Do not be afraid to preach the Gospel as Jesus did.

I would suspect that every true preacher of God, has experienced times when they are about to speak the Word of God against sin, that there is an uptightness that forms in their stomach. Then thoughts appear in their mind, telling them to not speak what they were about to say. Many preachers in this latter day generation water down their messages, so as to please the people.

Gone, for the most part, are those that preach against sin and warn their flocks about the judgments to come, and hell, and the lake of fire.

Indeed, the preaching in this last generation before the Rapture is such that it is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. As already said, those of this last generation are at best

lukewarm, and such will perish.

Few even know what the "caught up" is, neither do they even have a hint about the soon coming Tribulation, in which more than one-half of the world's population will die, and many that do place their faith in Christ will be beheaded.

Most people right now that claim they are saved, if they were faced with being beheaded, they would renounce their faith in order to save their life. Such are the many lukewarm Christians of this age.

The day is coming that nothing will be hidden. Nothing shall be covered. Not the slightest, most insignificant thing possible shall be kept secret.

Even the smallest matter shall be openly revealed.

Every word spoken in the most secret of places, in the most secret ways, will be exposed.

Everything a person does that is hidden, so they cannot be found out, shall be made known.

The most secret things you have ever said, and done, and hid, and even your thoughts, shall all be openly revealed, so that absolutely nothing shall be hidden at the judgments (that is, the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment).

Even a person's most secret of motives that prompted them to do this or that shall be totally and completely exposed.

It will be a very terrifying day for some. But it will be a day of joy for others.

Knowing these things, what sort of person should you be?

Mt 10:27. What I tell you in darkness (or in the dark), that speak ye in light (or daylight): and what ye hear (whispered) in the (or your) ear, that preach ye (or proclaim) upon the housetops.

Do you believe because something is not exposed now, it will turn out all right later?

Have you not read: Heb 10:31-It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God?

As has been said in **Mt 10:26**, Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

Mt 10:27. What Jesus tells you in darkness (or what Jesus tells you in secret, or in your spirit), you are to speak in the light, or in the open. You are not to hide it.

Speaking on the housetops (or from places where the crowds could easily hear) was not uncommon, as they were often flat.

Jesus taught in the synagogues, in people's houses, out in the open, on boats and wherever His Father directed.

What Jesus reveals to you—that which is not known to others, or what you hear in your ear, or is whispered in your ear—you are to teach openly. Whatever Jesus reveals to you, you are to proclaim to all that you can reach, by whatever means He gives you.

However, Satan can put false teachings in our thoughts.

Regretfully, much teaching on the radio, on the TV, and from the pulpits can be found to be incorrect or very watered-down, if examined with the Bible in these last days. God does speak to His people; as it is written, MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE AND I KNOW THEN AND THEY FOLLOW ME-Jn 10:27.

The Bible (the Word of God) judges all a person says.

Mt 10:28. And fear not (or do not be afraid) (of) them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear (or be afraid of) him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:27**, What I tell you in darkness (or in the dark), that speak ye in light (or daylight): and what ye hear (whispered) in the (or your) ear, that preach ye (or proclaim) upon the housetops.

Mt 10:28. Followers of Christ can expect persecutions.

They can expect the unsaved, and sometimes even those that are saved but lukewarm, to try to hinder them from teaching what Jesus (or the Holy Spirit, or the Scriptures) reveal to them to teach.

Jesus tells His followers and those that will follow Him in the future to not be afraid of those which kill the body.

Satan's tactics are to hinder those which teach God's Word.

His tactics include making people afraid, sometimes very afraid.

The fear Satan can put into your heart through "what if" thoughts does sometimes work on those whose faith is weak.

His tactics include turning your family, your friends, your relatives, people in authority, and even the whole world against you.

His tactics include persecutions of all sorts.

His tactics include jail, and unlimited torture, and death.

Jesus says do not fear them, because they have no power to kill or destroy the soul.

The One you are to fear is He that has the power to destroy both your soul and your body in hell.

In other words, fear God-ref Mt 10:28.

Ps 89:7-God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

Note the words that God is not to just be feared, but to be feared greatly.

It is a terrible thing that the fear of God is seldom taught in most churches anymore.

Some may incorrectly say the word **fear** only means reverence.

THIS IS NOT TRUE.

In some cases, it means great fear, such as God is greatly to be feared.

In some other cases, it means reverence, as to be in great awe of one that has the power to end your life in one minute; or be in great awe as one should have standing before the God that can speak a word and create the universe.

Again, it is written: Ps 89:7-God is **GREATLY to be FEARED** in the assembly of the saints (that is, in the churches or gatherings of born again believers), **AND** to be had in reverence of **all them** that are about him.

Jere 5:22-**FEAR YE NOT ME?** saith the Lord: will ye not **tremble** at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

23 But this people hath a stubborn and a rebellious heart; they have turned aside and are gone.

24 And they **say not in their heart, Let us**

now fear Jehovah our God, that giveth rain, both the early and the latter, in its season; who preserveth unto us the appointed weeks of harvest.

25 Your iniquities (or sins) have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden from you what is good.

Who is it that does not fear God? It is the unrepentant, the sinful, the make-believe Christians, and the lukewarm, plus others. This is the church age that does not fear God as they ought.

Who is it that does not teach the fear of God as it ought to be taught?

It is the vast majority of teachers today.

However, it was not this way in the good churches of a hundred years ago, and neither was so in the days of the apostles. They greatly feared God.

Sometimes the greatest opposition to the Gospel are the religious people, and the unsaved priests, and ministers.

Many there are that sit in dead churches or religious institutions much of their life.

They never know what it is like to be in one of the few churches that bring forth the whole Gospel without compromise.

But they never hear most of the Gospel.

They may never hear about the judgments, hell, the lake of fire, accountability, sin, or God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints.

Let this question be asked. Are you in a church that has a very religious atmosphere,

Mt 10:29. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing (or a cent) (or a penny)? and (yet) one of them shall not fall on the ground without (or apart from) (the will of) your Father.

much pomp, and the priests dress in beautiful garments, but you and all that attend are biblically ignorant?

The reason people go to hell is not the fault of God. It is their own fault.

Our heavenly Father sacrificed His only begotten Son, so that whosoever will can receive eternal life by repenting and trusting in Jesus.

As one might say—you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink.

It is each person's personal decision whether they wish to take of the water of life freely. It is written: I WILL GIVE UNTO HIM THAT IS ATHIRST OF THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE FREELY. 22:17-AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME. AND LET HIM THAT IS ATHIRST COME, AND WHOSOEVER WILL, LET HIM TAKE OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.

As has been said in **Mt 10:28**, And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Mt 10:29. A farthing is said to have been the value of 2 mites. This was said to have been the smallest of the copper coins. Its value may have been about one-half of a penny. The value of two sparrows was a farthing or a very small amount.

Sparrows can be seen in much of Israel, yet God is aware of all things. How much more is He aware of each person?

Jesus tells us that not one sparrow shall fall to the ground without your Father, or apart from the will of your Father-NIV, or without your

Mt 10:30. But (even) the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

father's consent-JNT.

God knows all things down to the smallest detail. It appears this is beyond human understanding. He knows the future also. Again, this is beyond human understanding.

The skeptic.

However, consider the following.

God gave us at least 365 prophecies that would take place after Israel would be reborn, which happened on May 14, 1948. Of those, nearly everyone has come to pass between 1948 and right now.

Two remain to be fulfilled before the Rapture (or caught up) should happen.

What was once a huge skeptic regarding the Bible, has now become a person that can prove the Bible is true beyond any doubt.

Mt 10:30. God knows everything.

Jesus tells us that even the hairs on your head are all numbered. God, even to the smallest detail, knows all things including the number of hairs on your head; and He knows this regarding billions of people.

In keeping with this, He also knows everything regarding the universe. He created it. And by Him and for Him were all things created-Col 1:16.

THE EARTH

God Himself that **formed the earth** and made it;

He hath established it,

He created it not in vain,

God is light. In Him is no darkness at all-1 Jn 1:5.

He formed it **to be inhabited**-ref Isa 45:18.

Ps 90:2-God says: **I AM THE LORD**; and

THERE IS NONE ELSE.

PLANETS

This term is used in the Bible in 2 Ki 23:5. "AND TO THE PLANETS."

Some planets are small, and some are huge. Some are called dwarf planets.

Some **planets** have no atmosphere, while others have atmospheres of poisonous gases.

Some planets have moons, and some have rings of debris. Saturn is well-known for its rings, which can be seen with a small telescope. Uranus has 13 known rings and 27 known moons.

In our solar system, there are 13 planets, including the dwarf ones. Beyond the orbit of Pluto are Haumea, Makemake, and Eris. Between Mars and Saturn is Ceres.

These rotate around a sun.

THE SUN

Our sun is about 93,000,000 miles away. Light travels at about 186,000 miles a second.

The light from our sun reaches the earth in about 9 minutes.

The planets rotate around the sun. The inner planets, like Mercury, circle the sun more quickly.

The outer planets take much more time to circle the sun.

SOLAR SYSTEM

Then there are **solar systems**, which can include groups of planets and moons, and perhaps asteroids.

STARS OR SUNS

In most cases when a person looks into the

sky at night, they see many specks of light. These we call stars. In reality, most are suns that are very distant.

On a very clear night, away from all lights, it is estimated that about 6000 stars can be seen with the naked eye.

Ps 147:4, tells us, He determines (or telleth) the number of stars and calls them each by name-NIV.

The number of stars is difficult to fathom and impossible to calculate. Yet some astronomers have tried to estimate how many suns there are. The latest number is 70,000,000,000,000,000,000 which is 70 sextillion. The total number of words in the English dictionary would only be able to name a very small fraction of this amount, yet God calls them all by names. Ps 147:4-He telleth the number of the stars. He calleth them all by their names.

A GALAXY

A **galaxy** may be defined as a huge number of stars (of which some have planets), gas and dust, ranging in diameter from 1500 light years to 300,000 light years across.

These rotate around a central point.

Galaxies come in many shapes.

The number of **galaxies** seem to be beyond numbering.

In addition, some galaxies do collide with each other.

There are huge numbers of galaxies that make up the universe. The universe seems to be expanding outward about every direction.

There is an estimated 100 billion to 400 billion **SUNS** in our **Milky Way galaxy** and some have **planets** rotating around them. Has God put life on other planets? This is not known.

Some of the **stars** (or, we may say, suns) that one looks at in the night sky are not stars at all. Some are entire **galaxies** with hundreds of millions of stars (or suns) in each, but they are far, far away, so they look like a single star, until one uses a good telescope. Each galaxy is bound by gravity.

HEAVENS

It is written in Isa 45:18-For thus saith the LORD that **created the heavens**;

LIGHT YEAR

A light year is the distance light travels in a year (earth time) at the rate of approximately 186,262 miles a second. The nearest star to us is about 4 light years away. As already said, the light from the sun reaches us in about 9 minutes.

At this speed, it takes the light from one side of our Milky way galaxy to reach the other side, about 100,000 earth years.

THE UNIVERSE

The universe contains all the galaxies. God created the universe. The best science man has cannot even begin to calculate the number of galaxies, and stars, and gas clouds and other objects that exist in the universe with any certainty, which is all God's creation. Also some are blocked from our view.

Observations of the universe appear to tell us it is expanding at an ever increasing rate.

Ps 147:4 tells us: He determines (or telleth) the **number of stars** and calls them each by name (NIV).

The significance of this cannot be overstated. Not only does God know every person on earth and the number of hairs on their heads, but He knows their inner most thoughts and every thing they do, even in the most secret of places. Nothing is hid from God. Jesus knew the actual thoughts of those around Him, and He knew in advance all that would happen.

He also knew what was in the hearts of men.

TIME

Time is also relative to the speed of light for human beings.

If a person could travel at the speed of light to the nearest star (app. 4 light years away), the time on earth that would pass would be 4 years.

However, the time for the person making the trip would be very short, as he is traveling at about 186,000 miles a second.

On earth, 8 years would pass, but for the person making the trip at the speed of light, he would only age a very little.

Two airplanes traveling around the earth in opposite directions would find their atomic clocks will not be the exact same time afterwards.

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all-1 Jn 1:5.

If a person can understand the properties of light, its speed,

and other things associated with it,

but then consider that the Scriptures do not say that God emits light, but rather HE IS LIGHT.

Isa 42:5-Thus saith God the Lord, he that

Mt 10:31. Fear ye not therefore (or don't be afraid), ye (or you) are of more value (or worth more) than many sparrows.

created the heavens, and **stretched them out**; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

Isa 45:18-For thus saith the Lord that **created the heavens**;

God himself that **formed the earth and made it**;

He hath established it,
He created it not in vain,
He formed it to be inhabited:

I am the Lord; and there is none else.

As has been said in **Mt 10:30**, But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Mt 10:31. This goes back to verse 28 which says "Fear not them that kill the body but are not able to kill the soul."

A person is to not fear, because God is in control.

Don't be afraid.

Each person is of more value (or worth more) than many sparrows and God takes care of the sparrows. Trust in God.

The value of man is such that Christ died a horrible death so that those that trust in Him would not perish.

During the soon coming Tribulation, multitudes of people that turn to Jesus shall be greatly persecuted and killed.

Persecutions are very common to many that witness and teach the Gospel as Jesus and His disciples did.

This fear can also apply to survival.

Many are afraid to witness to friends, as they may lose their friends.

They may be afraid to let their light so shine before men, because of the possible consequences.

If a person is ashamed to tell others about Jesus now, so Jesus shall be the same toward them at the Judgment. They will perish. It is written, "Fear ye not therefore." Trusting in God's Word, drives fear away.

In Mt 10:24-26, Jesus seems to indicate these things that He has been speaking about are to those that believe in Him.

Ro 9:22-23-What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.

God forbid, mankind aborts and murders unborn babies, and yet God came to this earth and gave his life a ransom for many, so that they might live forever. God puts a great value on life. Man often does not.

As has been said in **Mt 10:31**, Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Mt 10:32. Verses 32 and 33 covers confessing Jesus.

Those that believe in Jesus are not to hide this belief.

They are not to be a secret Christian.

They are to be a living witness for Christ and not be afraid to speak of Him to their friends and

Mt 10:32. Whosoever (or everyone) therefore (who) shall confess (or acknowledge) me before men, him will I (also) confess (or acknowledge) also before my Father which is in heaven.

relatives. They should not be afraid to confess Jesus before people.

Yes, when a **new Christian** desires to speak of Christ, big lumps can be expected in his stomach. He may be filled with fear. Fearful thoughts seem to surround him. This is Satan trying to make him afraid. For the weak in faith this may work. For the **strong in faith it does not.**

By faith and through the knowledge of God's Word, a person is to repent and change.

Their life is to become a reflection of Christ. They are to hear and/or read His Word.

They are to be transformed.

They are to be renewed.

They are to conform to the image of Christ.

A Christian's life no longer belongs to himself.

He has been purchased with a price, and that price is the blood of Christ.

To those that come to Christ, but go back to walking in sin and wallowing in the mud as a washed pig does, to those that trample the blood of Christ under their feet, these will have a most severe judgment.

Christians are not to be silent regarding confessing Jesus as their Lord and Savior before people.

Jesus is to become their life. They are to die to themselves and deny themselves.

They must be reborn (or be born again). They are to pick up their cross daily and follow Jesus.

They are to confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior before people, and, in return, Jesus will confess them before His Father which is in heaven.

It is written: REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERYONE OF YOU-ref Acts 2:38.

So many Christians sit at home watching hour after hour of programming on their television,

or they sit hour after hour at their computer,

or they hold their handheld device in their hands communicating with others, or looking up things, or playing games. However, when it comes to devouring God's Word, they just never seem to have enough time. Actually, they do not desire to be with Christ, for a person can be with Christ through His Word right now, as the Word is Jesus.

The fact is that their TV, or computer, or handheld device, or job, or some hobby, or some other thing is more of a god to them than the Bible.

They are usually unaware that the Bible teaches that not one Christian, that is only lukewarm, will be in heaven.

Some are absolutely positive they are saved, but when the Rapture comes, Jesus will not take them.

Jesus is not to be a part of a person's life. He is to be "your" life. Few people's lives fit this description.

After the Rapture, most church buildings will find 100% of their people still here. Even in the few good Bible-teaching churches, most will be left behind. Have you not read regarding those that are saved: these few must have repented and they must have followed Christ, Who is the Word of God?

These must enter through the the narrow way and strait gate.

They must do the will of God. It is not an option.

It is the will of God that you devour God's Word, and you do what it says.

And when the difficulties, and hardships, and persecutions, plus all sorts of distractions and enticing things come, the Christian must stand firmly on the Word of God. The Word, which is the Rock, is that which keeps them from being swept away.

Few can stand on the Word of God, as they do not spend much time hearing or reading it.

Many are swept away through the many cunning and crafty devices Satan uses to deceive.

Satan understands the things which people desire. He uses the enticing things of this world to deceive. Satan is the one that puts in your thoughts—you can have the good things of this world and enjoy all of its glamor, and still go to heaven. Satan tells a person they do not have to deny themselves and pick up their cross and follow Jesus. Satan is a liar and the father of it.

Remember, Satan is a master at getting a person to blame God for the things Satan himself does.

Many curse God's name. Few praise Him.

Why is it no one curses the name of Satan, even though it is he that is the destroyer?

It is written, Satan which deceiveth the whole world-Rev 12:9. This may include you.

How is it that a born again Christian is going about business as usual?

Then he has a thought to witness to a person he sees.

Mt 10:33. But whosoever shall deny me (or disown Me) before men, him will I also deny (or disown) before my Father which is in heaven.

Then, suddenly, a great fear comes upon him. This fear suddenly came upon him, as a result of Satan putting fearful thoughts into his mind. The whole world underestimates their enemy the devil and the power he has been given by God to deceive and cause a person to be afraid.

Life is a test. Satan was created to do exactly what he is doing—he deceives, and brings fear, and fights against God.

This fear first came upon man in the Garden of Eden after mankind had sinned. All have sinned, and all now need the forgiveness of their sins, which is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ

As has been said in Mt 10:32, Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Mt 10:33. Verse 33 addresses the opposite view of Mt 10:32 in saying: whosoever shall deny me (or disown Me) before men (or people), him will I also deny or disown before my father which is in heaven.

Many might say they have never denied Jesus.

A person can deny Christ in many ways.

It can be done with a person's words.

It can be done through their actions.

It can be done through a lack of love.

They can deny Him through their sinful lifestyle.

It can be done through cursing the name of Jesus.

Any person that thinks they are saved by any way other than faith in Jesus Christ, is denying Jesus, for Jesus saith...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me-Jn 14:6.

God's Word is Jesus. Jesus is God's Word. They cannot be separated-ref Jn 1:1.

A person that has little interest in being in the Bible is likewise not in Jesus Christ.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

John 1:1-2-In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

If a person believes in evolution, they are denying what the bible says. By Him (which is Jesus) and for Him were all things created-ref Col 1:16. Thus to believe in evolution is denying Jesus, Who is the Word.

If a person believes in some idol, such as Hinduism, they are denying Jesus.

Any person that puts their trust for salvation in any one, any god, or anything, other than Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone, Who is come in the flesh, is denying the only begotten Son of God and the words which He spoke.

Such people shall be denied before God the Father and shall perish.

People that truly believe in Jesus Christ in their heart, and do crave the words of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, these do love the Bible far, far, far beyond any other book.

And they should read and study the Bible faithfully, for they want to learn more of Jesus-ref Mt 11:29. It is written...learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Jesus is the Word, and the Word is Jesus.
These two cannot be separated.

Here is something few people consider or comprehend.

If a person says they love Jesus, then they also **have to love His Word.**

If a person says they want to be with Jesus, then they also **have to want to be in His Word—the Bible.** They cannot be separated.

A person that occasionally reads their Bible does not want to be with Jesus except occasionally.

If a husband loves his wife or a wife loves her husband, each wants to be with the other. Don't you understand?

If you love Christ, you would want to be with Him. You can be with Him right now by being in His Word.

You may say, well, it is not the same.

If a person does not believe that Jesus Christ is the living Word, then, yes, they can say it is not the same, but if a person believes the Bible is truly Jesus speaking to them, then they should crave God's Word.

Unbelievers and lukewarm or nominal Christians may not understand what has just been said. But spiritual Christians should.

Again, a person that does not crave God's Word, also does not crave to be with Jesus, as the two cannot be separated. They are one.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

There is no way a person can get to "know" Jesus except through **His Word**.

There is no way a person can "understand" God's will except through **His Word**.

Regretfully, preachers that water-down His Word, usually have watered-down Christians in their congregation.

They deny Jesus by not enduring sound doctrine as has been said previously. It is also written (para.): 2 Tim 4:3-5-For the time will come (which is right now) when they (the people) will **not endure the truth of God's Word** which is **sound doctrine**. They will, according to their own desires and lusts, heap up (or gather) for themselves teachers, that will say what their itching ears (or ears itch for) or seek to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (or storytelling, or myths of all sorts).

Jere 9:3-And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord.

There are only a very, very few people that have placed their trust in Jesus Christ, **AND** their fruits,
their attitude,
their lifestyle,
yes, and even their very life is a reflection of Jesus (which is God's Word),
and their life is not a reflection of loving this world and the things that are in this world.

As has been said in **Mt 10:33**, But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Mt 10:34. Think not (or do not suppose) that I am come to send (or bring) peace on earth: I came not to send (or bring) peace but a sword.

Mt 10:34. Verses 34 to 42 covers divisions and rewards. The sword is the Word of God. It is hated by many. It is loved by a few. Divisions

between family members, and churches, and even nations happens when it comes to the Bible.

What does it mean when it says that Jesus did not come to send peace on earth, but a **sword**? It means that there is a division between those that believe on and follow Jesus, and those that do not. **The "sword" is God's Word.**

It is written in Heb 4:12-For the **word of God** is quick, and powerful, and **SHARPER** than any two-edged **sword**, piercing even to the **dividing** asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a **discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Eph 6:17-And take the helmet of salvation, and the **SWORD of the Spirit**, which is **the word** of God:

The Word of God is like a **sword**. It is the "sword" of the Spirit.

The Word of God, unlike any other words that may be uttered, **DIVIDES** people.

Some cry and may jump for joy at God's Word.

Others may get **angry** and begin to cuss and swear when God's Word comes forth.

Others in certain countries may try to kill anyone that dares to actually speak God's Word from the Bible.

As the verse said: I came not to send peace, but a sword, or it may be said, a division between people.

Talking **about** God's Word does not bother people anything like the actual words of God from the Bible does.

Talking "about" God's Word does not convict people of sin.

Talking "about" God's Word does not make people face the reality of God's judgment, and the reality of life after death, and that most people will perish to hell and then the lake of fire.

Thus **MOST PREACHERS USE LOTS OF STORIES AND LITTLE SCRIPTURE.** God's Word can make people uneasy as they sit in the church.

The actual words of God (that is the Bible) can fill a few people with joy. But it can make most people feel uneasy and uncomfortable. It can fill some people with hate.

There is something about the actual Word of God that is hard to explain.

It irritates most people greatly.

It makes them angry.

Most Bibles collect dust. Only some are read at all, and even less are studied faithfully daily.

Consider the following.

A minister was teaching a large audience.

He was talking about himself, his friends, his family, and his plans and some church buildings they wished to build.

The audience was very receptive. They gave a large offering.

Then, all of a sudden, he began using **nothing** but the **Word of God with power.**

He spoke of sin,
of judgment,
of hell and the lake of fire,
and eternal damnation,
of denying oneself,
of repentance, and
of totally surrendering to Jesus.

By the time he reached the end, there were many empty seats.

Stories about God's Word can make people leave the church with smiles on their faces.

However, God's Word is like a two-edged sword. It can bring out love in some, while many others can become angry, and even hostile.

The Word of God:

It is **loved** by a few, but is **hated** by most.

It is **embraced** by a few. It is **ignored** by most.

It is **obeyed** by a few. It is **disobeyed** by most.

It is **read** by a few. It is **mocked** by others.

It is **desired** by a few. It is **burned** and destroyed by others.

Teaching God's Word as Jesus did, is a very, very, very rare thing in this latter day generation.

It is said that more houses have a Bible than any other book in the world. Yet many Bibles are left unread.

It is the bestselling book of all times. Yet it also the most controversial book of all times.

From the time Jesus came, to the time He will return, is a time of testing for people. People are born, most grow up and live for so many years, and then die.

During this short time most try to live and enjoy life as much as they can.

Yet their life has a purpose that few are aware of. That purpose is to see if they will believe, and trust in, and obey Jesus Christ (which is the Word of God) as their only hope of salvation or not.

That decision alone will determine where they will spend eternity.

Every person has an eternal existence. The question of where each person will spend eternity is answered by their response to the Word of God.

There are only two choices.

One is in the eternal lake of fire.

The other is with Jesus.

Jesus said: Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. As already stated, the sword that Jesus brought is the Word of God.

The Word of God divides people, families, friends, households, and even nations.

Good Bible-teaching churches use a lot of God's Word and rightly divide it.

Lukewarm Bible-teaching churches and dead churches use only a little of God's Word and may also not rightly divided it.

And this is the generation that **does not desire sound doctrine.**

Rather, this generation seeks to listen to those that do not use sound doctrine, but teach what their **unrepentant ears desire to hear.**

And have you ever heard of ministers that believe they are of God, yet they use **NO SCRIPTURE AT ALL?**

There are some famous ones in these latter days. Some preachers have turned to using **psychology**, which sounds good to the unrepentant, but leads them to the lake of fire.

This last church age before Jesus returns can be identified by several words. These are lukewarm, wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

This last church age, which is **right now**, can be identified with Jesus standing on the outside looking in and knocking on the door, and saying, Let **ME** in. Throw all your storytelling in the garbage and **Preach My words.**

But, today's churches **do not** have ears to hear or eyes to see and understand. So it is written, and so it is-ref Rev 3:14-22.

Mt 10:35. For I am come to set (or turn) a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

When the Rapture (or caught up, or translation) comes, the Bible clearly teaches the vast majority that are **positive** they will be taken, will instead be left behind crying: Lord, Lord, open to us. But Jesus says to them that He does not know them.

As has been said in **Mt 10:34**, Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword.

Mt 10:35. Jesus is saying, I AM COME.

Then He tells us the results of His coming will be divisions. These divisions come in various forms through verse 39.

God's Word causes divisions and disagreements between sons and fathers, between daughters and their mothers, and daughters in law against mothers in law.

God's Word causes divisions between people, and even between the best of friends.

These divisions come between the saved and unsaved.

God's Word divides people.

This does not mean that the saved person does not love others. Just the opposite occurs—the saved person grows in love.

The unsaved, however, often does not wish to be around the committed Christian as it makes them uncomfortable.

The saved person seeks the things that be of God.

The unsaved seeks the things that be of men and of this world.

God's Word causes divisions from within the

church and between churches and denominations.

These divisions come between the lukewarm and the very few that are grounded in God's Word.

These divisions can come between those that use only the milk of the Word (BASIC DOCTRINES) and those very, very few that are gone onto the meat of the Word, which is perfection.

Jesus is love. As a person grows through God's Word, his love for God and the brethren in Christ should grow. And if his light for Jesus shines forth in his deeds and conversation, those that do not love God's Word will most likely become irritated.

The unsaved may persecute the saved and try to get the saved to return to the way he was.

Jesus indicated that He came and that, as a result, there would be divisions between a father, the daughters, or a mother and her daughters and daughters in law and their mother in law.

The unsaved will try to cause those that are trusting in Christ to stop doing so.

And the saved will try to get the unsaved to be converted by repenting and having faith in Christ.

When it comes to Christ, the whole world is divided. The unbelievers are just that—unbelievers. Those that trust in Christ, He is alive, and real, and sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven right now.

The hatred of some against Jesus Christ and those that follow him may be best described by the following.

Jesus never sinned. He did no wrong at all. He raised the dead. He healed the sick. One way to describe Jesus is the word "love."

Yet many wanted to kill Him.

When the governor asked the crowd, what evil has Jesus done, they never answered. They couldn't answer, because Jesus had never sinned.

Rather, they just kept shouting, "Let him be crucified," but, again, they never gave a reason.

Then the Jewish people made a very, very stupid statement because of their intense hatred toward Jesus, Who is God.

They said in Mt 27:25-**His blood be on us, and on our children.**

Their words did come to pass as the nation of Israel was destroyed within 40 years, and what was left of the Jewish people was dispersed throughout the whole world.

v. 24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Pilate himself called Jesus a "just" person.

v. 26 Then...he...had...Jesus scourged and then, he delivered him to be crucified.

Jesus was far more than a just person. He is God, manifested in the flesh.

That hatred toward "true, practicing" born again Christians can be clearly seen in Muslim countries.

It can also be seen around the world, if a born again Christian lets their light, or their life and witness for Jesus shine forth.

Man by nature rebels against God's Word. Man does not want God's Word to reign and rule over him. He wants to have his own way. Example, there are very, very few people in the world that will always tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth all the time. Man often omits things, or adds things to make himself look good.

Jesus comes forth and says to be perfect, even as His Father in heaven is perfect. That perfection begins with the word: love everyone, even your enemies.

As a result, when a family member repents, and receives Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and begins to study and obey God's Word, other family members usually don't like it at all. They are uncomfortable. This is greatly magnified when the Christian begins to tell family members about sin and repentance and their need of a Savior whose name is Jesus.

The more the new Christian begins to be transformed to be like Jesus, the more other family members may hate him, as their sins become more exposed in the presence of someone that lives to please Christ.

The more a born again Christian acts like other family members (or unbelievers), the more the unbelieving family members and the Christian can usually get along with each other.

God's Word demands **repentance, even though many churches no longer seem to use this word.**

Repentance, trusting in Jesus, and obeying the Bible leads to life everlasting.

God's Word teaches that those that love this

Mt 10:36. And a man's foes (or enemies) shall be they (the members) of his own household.

world, the love of God is not in them-ref 1 Jn 2:15.

As has been said in **Mt 10:35**, For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mt 10:36. Because one family member follows Christ (that is, the Bible), the more those of his own household may be his foes or even become his enemies. There will be a division.

The hatred that can be in a person's heart that is unsaved, often comes forth when a born again person lets their light so shine before those of his own household.

That division is often stronger than family ties.

It can happen between parents, their children, relatives, and the best of friends.

However, few Christians, in this latter day generation, experience this division as much as it once was because their light for Jesus is like a flashlight with very weak batteries.

Their love and enthusiasm and obedience to the Gospel is small. This is because their Bible reading and study is hindered with the cares of this world, the lusts of all sorts of things, the deceitfulness of riches, and the pleasures of this life. These choke God's Word and cause a person to be unfruitful or usually, at best, lukewarm.

This can also happen among church members in the church itself. Because someone strives to be more like Christ, other church members who do not agree with this, may become his foes.

Sometimes that division is subtle, and other times, it can explode; yet, that division is there.

To whom are you accountable? Does your answer line up with Scripture or the world?

JESUS IS LOVE.

Mt 10:37. He that loveth or (loves) father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth (or loves) son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

But many churches can be anything but love.

In the name of religion, many have been killed. Even among Muslims there are divisions, and there are killings and hatred between certain groups. The two major groups of Muslims sometimes war with one another, each believing the other is an infidel.

The way to God is through Jesus Christ. It is written 1 Tim 2:5-FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.

As has been said in **Mt 10:36**, And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Mt 10:37. The message here is clear. Any one that loves any other person more than Jesus is **not worthy of Jesus**.

Jesus created all things. Every person that exists is a result of Jesus, for by Him and for Him were all things created.

All that follow Jesus should love Him more than they love anything He created.

Nevertheless, most people do not believe on Jesus, and of those that do, few love Him as they ought.

Few people immerse themselves in God's Word as they ought. One reason is that many things of this world are more important to them than Jesus.

So few people ever understand that LIFE IS A TEST, until they are at the Judgment and receive the results of their life and actions.

What a person's attitude should be may best be described by John the Baptist.

Who is worthy of Christ? John the Baptist said:

Mt 3:11-He that cometh after me is mightier than I, **whose shoes I am not worthy to bear.**

Acts 13:25-whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose.

Mt 8:8-The centurion...said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof.

The Jesus that is preached by many today is a Jesus that is often not the Jesus that the Bible presents.

How much should we love Christ?

Deut 6:5-And thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deut 11:1-Therefore thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway.

Mk 12:30-And thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy mind, and with **all** thy strength: this is the **FIRST COMMANDMENT.**

Mt 22:37,38-Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

A person's love for God can be measured by their **desire to be in His Word** and by their **obedience to the Gospel.**

Jesus died a horrifying death. He was beaten horribly. His beard was ripped off His face. His face was so badly battered, that it is a miracle He could even talk. The full hatred of Satan toward Jesus was transmitted through His enemies that killed Him.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:37**, He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of

Mt 10:38. And he (or anyone) that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mt 10:38. The Bible clearly teaches that only a few people will inherit eternal life.

Now Jesus tells each person that seeks eternal life to **take up their cross** (which is whatever God puts before them) and follow after Him. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus. **Follow God's Word.**

Any person that will not do this, that is, any person that will not obey God's Word, is not worthy of Jesus. Jesus is the Word.

Following Jesus, or following God's Word, can and does lead to persecutions and, in some cases, torture and death.

Most people that think of themselves as a Christian are Christian in name only. They do not take up their cross. They do not read or study God's Word. They do not obey God's Word. Christ is not in them. Such are not worthy of Christ.

Can a person follow God's Word without hearing or reading it?

Many deceived people think that just going to church and trying to be a good person is sufficient. However, faith, which is required, can come only from God's Word. **FAITH COMETH BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD-Ro 10:17.**

Jesus **LEARNED OBEDIENCE** by the things which He suffered-Heb 5:8, and Christians learn obedience the same way. How many so-called Christians have ever suffered in any way for their faith in Jesus? Indeed, few there be that find it.

Following Jesus BEGINS WITH devouring

God's Word, as if it was more necessary than their necessary food. This begins in your home or wherever you may be located.

Does your Bible go with you wherever you go?
Does your Bible go with you on vacations?
Does your Bible go with you in your vehicle?
Do you find reading novels or other books more satisfying than devouring God's Word?

Do you find listening to the radio in the car more satisfying than listening to the Bible?

Do you find listening to the radio on your job (if permitted) more satisfying than hearing God's Word?

Many claim they are saved, and nearly no one believes they will go to hell, yet most do. The world deceives itself. Hell is filling up right now, but much of the world does not even believe it exists.

(THE BIBLE)

In the beginning when a person is first saved, much of the Bible is not easily understood. As a person faithfully reads it or listens to it, this slowly changes. A person that has read the Bible once should understand it more than the person that has read only one chapter.

A person that has read the Bible twice, should understand it more than the person that has read it once.

The increase in understanding God's Word never ceases for those that obey what they understand.

10:38-Immerse yourself in His Word and obey it without hesitation or excuse. Your foundation is God's Word.

Who is not worthy of Christ? Two things are listed. The first is taking up his cross.

This is the first time Matthew mentions the cross.

It was a practice that a person that was to be crucified was to **carry their own cross**.

It was also a warning to those that considered following after Jesus both then and now.

To follow Jesus, one needs to follow the Bible which is Jesus.

The shallow message of today's church, which sometimes teaches to accept Jesus Christ and no further commitment is mentioned, leaves many uninformed and unprepared as to what to do and what to expect.

Taking up his cross is taking up the burdens of Jesus.

It is preparing to go through the hardships, difficulties, and tests that Jesus went through.

It is preparing to walk even as Jesus walked.

It is preparing to have your faith and trust tested.

This all begins with first laying the foundation.

The only foundation a person can lay is faith or trust, which only comes as a result of hearing and reading God's Word. This is the beginning of being tested. Distractions of all sorts are at the door to hinder a person from doing so.

A person might pick up their Bible to study. Then a relative knocks on the door. The baby begins to cry. Thoughts come into your mind of things that have to be done right now.

Would a person that receives Christ as their Savior, be willing to suffer as Jesus did? Would

they be willing to die for Christ? Sadly to say, very few would. Few that believe on Christ are willing to study the Bible and then go forth doing the works for Christ that they are called to do. They will not take up the cross as Jesus did. They will not lay up a foundation centered on immersing oneself in the Bible.

The second part of the verse relates to following Jesus. It refers to going forth and having your trust in Christ tested.

Each person that receives Christ as their Lord and Savior will be tested to see, if they will follow after Christ as His disciples did. If a person is not a disciple of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

If a person does not faithfully dwell in God's Word as he is called to do, in other words, if a person does not follow Christ, Who is the Word, then he is not worthy of Jesus.

To follow Christ may mean becoming a missionary. It may mean knocking on the doors of many people to bring them the Word of God. It means dwelling in God's Word, and then going forth as Jesus opens the door and gives you direction.

As a person goes forth doing whatever Jesus has called them to do, they can expect numerous road blocks and tests to prove their faith genuine.

The verse ends with the words "not worthy of me."

Only a few will be found worthy of Christ. Only a few will inherit eternal life.

ONLY A FEW DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOVE FOR CHRIST BY DESIRING TO HEAR HIS WORDS, AND DWELLING IN HIS WORD FAITHFULLY, daily, weekly, and yearly.

Only a few obey His Word as He said: Learn of

Mt 10:39. He that findeth (or has found) his life shall lose it: and he that loseth (or has lost) his life for my sake shall find it.

me for I am meek and lowly in heart-Mt 11:29.

Meek can mean: humble, or patient, or submissive, compliant, tame, gentle, or kind.

Lowly can mean: humble, or low in position, manner, or degree, or softly, or modest.

How many professing Christians would deny Christ, if their life depended on it? Those that would die for Christ are the real Christians, because they have trusted in Him and have already died to themselves.

This may bear repeating. As it has been said in **Mt 10:38**, And he that taketh not his cross, and **followeth** after me, is not worthy of me.

Mt 10:39. Most people seek after the things of this world. Their life is centered in the **cares** of this life, trying to get more **money**, the **lusts** of the flesh and of **other things**, and the **pleasures** of this life.

Their life is found and centered around their job and their family or perhaps some hobby or activity. These have found their life in this world, but they will lose their life, as they will die in their sins.

"Findeth his life" is relating to their personal or natural life.

But those few that **forsake** this world and the things thereof, those that **lose their life** through faith in Jesus Christ and follow God's word, **these shall find their life**. The life they will find will be eternal life through faith in Christ. Anyone that loses their life (or forsakes all, or denies themselves), for Christ's sake, shall find it for eternity.

Missionaries in certain countries of the world can certainly identify with this.

Some are killed for bringing forth the Gospel.

Some followers of Christ are persecuted and

Mt 10:40. He that receiveth (or receives) you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him (the one) that sent me.

live in deplorable conditions.

Some travel to countries and areas of the world and endure great hardships, no electric, extreme heat, unusual bugs, and creeping things, and wild animals.

As has been said in **Mt 10:39**, He that findeth (or has found) his life shall lose it: and he that loseth (or has lost) his life for my sake shall find it.

Mt 10:40. The verse relating to a person "finding his life shall lose it" is followed by receiving Jesus Christ and finding it. Note: it does not say "accepting" Him as many teach.

There is a difference between accepting and receiving. Many accept Jesus as their Savior. Few receive Him and surrender their life to God's Word. Jesus is **THE** Word.

To **receive** one that Jesus sends is the same as receiving Jesus.

The one that Jesus sends is an ambassador sent to bring the words of Jesus, that is the Gospel.

To reject the words of Jesus is to reject God, and to reject God is to perish to hell and then the lake of fire.

To receive Jesus is a commitment. To receive Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Savior is to also receive the Father, Who sent Jesus.

To commit one's life to Christ is to commit one's life to God, the Father.

To persecute a person God sends is to persecute God, and **many have done this**. They will perish to the same place as those that hung Jesus on the cross.

Reference verses to this are as follows:

Mt 10:41. He that receiveth (or receives) a prophet in the name of a prophet (or because he is a prophet) shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man (or because he is a righteous man) shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Mt 10:42. And (if) whosoever (or anyone) shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water (to drink) only in the name of (a disciple) (or because he is my disciple), verily (or truly) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), he shall in no wise (or he shall not) lose his reward.

Deut 30:17,17; Job 10:14; Ez 3:7; Mt 12:30; Mt 18:5; Lk 9:48; Lk 10:16; Mk 6:11; Mk 9:37; Jn 8:47; Jn 12:48; Jn 13:20; Jn 15:20; Jn 18:37; Acts 3:23; 1 Ro 15:7; Jn 4:6.

Mt 10:41. To receive a prophet of Jesus Christ is synonymous with receiving Jesus Christ, as he comes in the name of the Lord. Exactly what the reward is that is spoken of is not clear, but whatever a prophet receives, so these shall also receive.

Also the difference between a righteous man's reward and a prophet's reward is also not made clear. What is clear is a reward shall be given.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:41**, He that receiveth (or receives) a prophet in the name of a prophet (or because he is a prophet) shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man (or because he is a righteous man) shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Mt 10:42. A person that gives even a very small thing or does some small kindness or favor to one of these little ones (a believer, a follower or disciple of Christ), he will certainly not lose his reward.

Only a very few demonstrate their love for Christ by treating those that follow Him, as they should treat Jesus.

A person may say they surely would give Christ a cup of cold water, but then someone comes to their house in the name of Christ to witness to them. Will they welcome him and give a cup of cold water, or will they shut the door in his face?

There is nothing that shall be hidden in the Day of Judgment.

As it has been said in **Mt 10:42**, And (if) whosoever (or anyone) shall give to drink unto

If you have now read all the commentary for the previous chapter, consider returning to the beginning of the chapter and read just the verses again. Each verse should now have much more meaning to you.



one of these little ones a cup of cold water (to drink) only in the name of (a disciple) (or because he is my disciple), verily (or truly) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), he shall in no wise (or he shall not) lose his reward.

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