

# *My Favorite Verses*

*(Volume IV ... November 2016 – February 2017)*



*... a collection of brief commentaries  
on some of the Bible's most beloved  
(and least understood) passages,  
parables, verses & sayings*

*via Scaughdt*  
an (i)am publication

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## *An Introduction to what Follows*

I think it goes without saying to anyone who has even briefly glanced at the contents of a Bible that it is a marvelous collection of language -- that regardless of one's religious bent (or complete lack thereof), the Bible is a tome literally filled with passages that are both mysterious & moving -- that it is a collection of writings literally overflowing with metaphoric drama, symbolic violence, profound wisdom, and good old fashioned common sense ... Of course, it is getting folks to take even that first glance that is often the problem. The vast majority of Christians & Jews refuse to do anything other than cast a cursory look at the Bible; preferring instead to blindly accept the often extremely limited interpretations thereof provided by their preachers & pastors, reverends & rabbis. Just as troubling, the majority of the non-religious (often in response to being "damned to Hell" by the well-intended ignorance of a conservative Christian or two) tend to vehemently discount the contents of the Bible's texts without ever reading any of them for themselves.

For roughly the first 15 years of my life, I belonged to the former group -- condemned by friends and strangers alike as "unworthy"; labeled an ignorant "heathen" by those in my community who ironically were just as misinformed about the contents of the Bible as I myself admittedly was. Then, in direct response to such crystallized callousness, I joined the latter group for the next two decades thereafter -- loudly blasting Christianity (& its Bible) as "ridiculous" & "unethical" & "primitive"; and doing so with the same arrogant, indignant vigor with which its followers had blasted me.

Then one day in 2004, I decided to actually read the Bible for myself. And lo & behold, once I did so it became flagrantly apparent that "the Good Book" didn't say half the horrible things I had been told it said -- and that even the horrible things it *did* sometimes offer were often mixed in metaphor or swaddled in symbolism. In essence, after almost four decades of living in the rank shadows of its man-made religion, I finally had the humility & the courage to read the Bible for myself --- to discover for myself the brilliantly beautiful and potently pragmatic Truths wrapped within its pages. After having lived so long bridled by hatred for its mythical madness, I was able to set aside all bias & preconception, and I fell madly in Love with what I found thereafter therein.

And ever since, I have been on a mission to reawaken Christians & non-Christians alike to the wonders of its texts. Most Christians I know remain blind followers of a dogma that completely ignores the far greater God of a far greater Love residing within the passages of their own holy tome --- and most non-Christians I encounter still choose to arrogantly discount the same words; and thus remain equally ignorant of the profound & practical psychological truths that rest therein ... What a tragedy this remains!

And as such, I decided to periodically share some of the profound Biblical interpretations that I have personally tested to be True; doing so in various shorter books & articles, and also doing so within the loose confines of the shorter commentaries that follow herein ...

May you all come to know the Great Peace such interpretations embody, and may you all enJOY accordingly!

***Scaughdt***

(September 2017)





*“The Bible has noble poetry in it... and some good morals ... and a wealth of obscenity ... and upwards of a thousand lies.” ~ Mark Twain*

*“The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we truly understand, we will be obliged to act accordingly.” ~ Soeren Kierkegaard*

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*“The real thing is not a path. The real thing is the authenticity of the seeker. Let me emphasize this. You can travel on any path, and if you are sincere and authentic, you will reach your destination. Some paths may be difficult, some may be more comfortable, some may have greenery on all sides, and some may have you moving through deserts, and yet if you are sincere and honest with the yearnings of your Soul – if you are authentic to the urgings of your conscience – if you are true to the summons of your True Self, then every path will lead you to your goal. So it simply can be reduced to one thing: that authenticity of Soul-Self is the path. And thus the opposite is also true: that no matter what path you choose, if you do not authentically reflect your Soul-Self, then you will not get anywhere. It is your authenticity and your authenticity alone that brings you back home, nothing else matters. Imitation cannot lead you anywhere. Imitation means that the ideal comes from elsewhere, and as such is not happening within you. You have a seed within you; and if you are only imitating others that seed will ever remain dormant.” ~ anonymous*



***Luke 12:56-57 ... Knowing what is Right***  
(11/14/2016)

“Know how to interpret the present time ...  
Judge for yourselves what is Right.”  
~ Jesus (Luke 12:56-57)

First and foremost, when Jesus seems to use the verb “judge” here, he certainly does not mean “condemn” or “label” or “criticize” or even “determine.” He actually means “distinguish” or “discern” – a definition much more in harmony with *krinete* (Strong’s #2919), the Greek word actually written in this verse’s ancient manuscripts (unlike the Greek word *katedikazo* found in [Matthew 12:7](#) & [Matthew 12:37](#) & [Luke 6:37](#), a term which did indeed mean “to condemn” – see Strong’s #2613).

And the only way to accurately “interpret the present time” is actually to refuse to judge it at all; to immerse in it fully & indiscriminately instead – to humbly See each moment as a gift from the Divine, and to honor that moment accordingly by doing what we can to make it even more Beauty-full, to make it even more Peace-full, &/or to make it even more Joy-full. And this is the only way to do “what is Right” – this is the only way to “judge for our Selves” how we can potently cherish the priceless moments we have be given.



## ***Romans 14:14 ... Nothing unclean***

(11/15/2016)

“Nothing is unclean in itself; but is only unclean for anyone who thinks it so.” ~ Paul (Romans 14:14)

On the one hand, Paul is strengthening a common temptation in this verse – telling us all (quite incorrectly) that it is fully acceptable to receive with open arms whatever is offered us, regardless from where it comes and regardless of whatever dysfunction or suffering such a receiving might entrench. Indeed, in this particular chapter of Romans, Paul quite clearly tells his followers to accept whomever comes their way, and to do so regardless of the particular morality behind the habits or beliefs or behaviors of those others ...

Yes, it is indeed a Good Thing to not judge another person for who he or she is (Jesus agrees in [Matthew 7:1-2](#), where he tells us quite clearly that we are to refrain from condemning or criticizing others for who they are), and yet we are most certainly *not* called to cast a conveniently blind eye upon the choices those others might make that clearly harm either the innocent or themselves (see [John 7:24](#), where Jesus tells us that we are indeed to “discern with sound judgment” when examining the deeds of ourselves and others). And it is in this latter regard that Paul errs greatly in this particular passage.



On the other hand, Paul is (albeit probably unwittingly) expressing a very deep Truth with this particular verse – namely, the Truth that everything *is* inherently sacred; and that it is only our flawed perceptions of people, places, things &/or events that says otherwise. And interestingly enough, the only way to avoid the former temptation is the same way required to cleanse the latter perception – namely, by purposefully & consciously shifting the intentions of our actions’ from focusing on ourselves to centering upon the other; by purposefully & consciously choosing to move into each moment and flow with all that is present therein – and solely doing so in order to bring even the smallest measure of additional harmony to the same.

## *Acts 10:34-35 ... Questioning with boldness* (11/16/2016)

“Question with boldness even the existence of God, because if there is One, [He] must more approve the homage of reasonable doubt than that of blind-folded fear.”

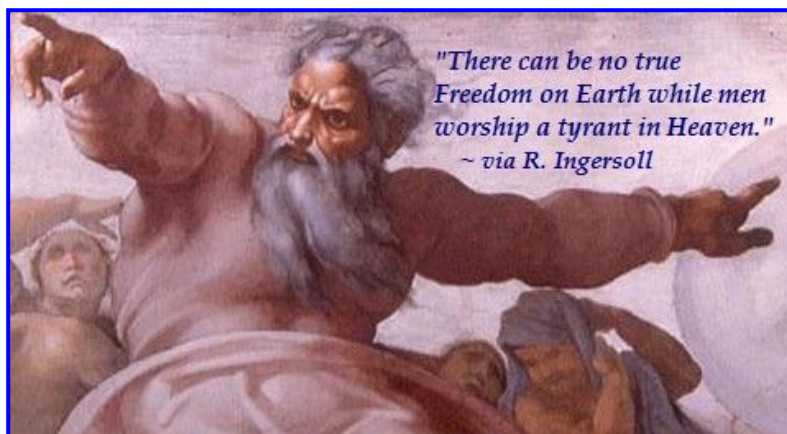
~ Thomas Jefferson

This quote from Jefferson need not be read as a rejection of God or a call to atheism (though Jefferson himself was a Deist, and thus much closer to rejecting the Christian godhead than he was of accepting the same). Indeed, when we read this quote on its face, it merely shares the quite simple Truth that any God who creates His creations ill (i.e. lacking in objective knowledge and full of superstitious fears) and demands that they somehow make themselves well is a God not worth worshipping at all – indeed, that the raw capriciousness of such a God actually borders on being downright evil.

And interestingly enough, Jesus himself seems to agree – noting as he does that his Father is not at all the damning type; that his “[heavenly Father](#)” (remembering that “[Heaven](#)” for Jesus was an *internal* Kingdom, not a stratospheric one – see [Luke 17:20-21](#)) was an embodiment of pure & perfect Love (see [Matthew 5:48](#)) and that such a Love was actually completely fearless and utterly lacking in any semblance of judgment ([Matthew 7:1-2](#), [Luke 6:36](#) & [Matthew 8:21-22](#) et al) and completely devoid of the ability to punish others as well (see [1 John 4:18](#)).

As such, any such wholly gracious and non-condemnatory God would quite clearly much more appreciate an atheist who honestly and humbly seeks for Truth than an arrogantly ignorant Christian who boldly claims to know the things he or she quite clearly cannot – and that this would be especially true if that atheist was one who happened to dedicate his or her life to Caring for others, while that Christian dedicated his or her life to condemning them.

“I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but rather that in every nation anyone who reveres Him by doing what is Right is acceptable to Him.” ~ Acts 10:34-35



## ***Revelation 2:10 ... Receiving the Crown of Life*** (11/17/2016)

“Be Faith-full to the point of death,  
and I will give you the Crown of Life.”  
~ unknown (Revelation 2:10)

Most Christians focus on the word “faithful” in this verse (which is the way the term is written in most English biblical translations), and this is why most Christians are so often and so easily misled thereby ...

Now let me begin by noting that I am not claiming that the author of Revelation (who remains unknown to this day – in all probability *not* John the disciple at any rate, who would have died many decades before this tome was penned) believed any differently. For it is indeed possible that he (or she) did indeed mean that those who maintained a staunch, conservative, religious belief in Jesus as the only Son of God would receive a heavenly reward after their physical demise. And even though such a celestial system of constrained & conditional reward is quite obviously patently unjust (and actually evidences a godhead who is both capricious & cruel), this might very well end up being the actual case.

All that aside, what I *am* attempting to share here is a far deeper Meaning embedded within this verse – a Meaning that reveals itself when we have the humility to re-examine the word “faithful” and see it instead as **Faith-full**; indeed to redefine it in a way that harmonizes fully (and somewhat ironically) with the teachings of Jesus Christ. For you see, in a much more “enlightened” reading (and in a much more reasoned one as well), “the Crown of Life” cannot come merely to “the worthy” after their death, but instead must be offered to all who are earnestly **Faith-full** – to all those who have exhibited both the humility and the courage required to live the selfless Love of Christ; even “to the point of



*Faith & Reason always meet at the  
Crossroads called "Selfless LOVE" ...*

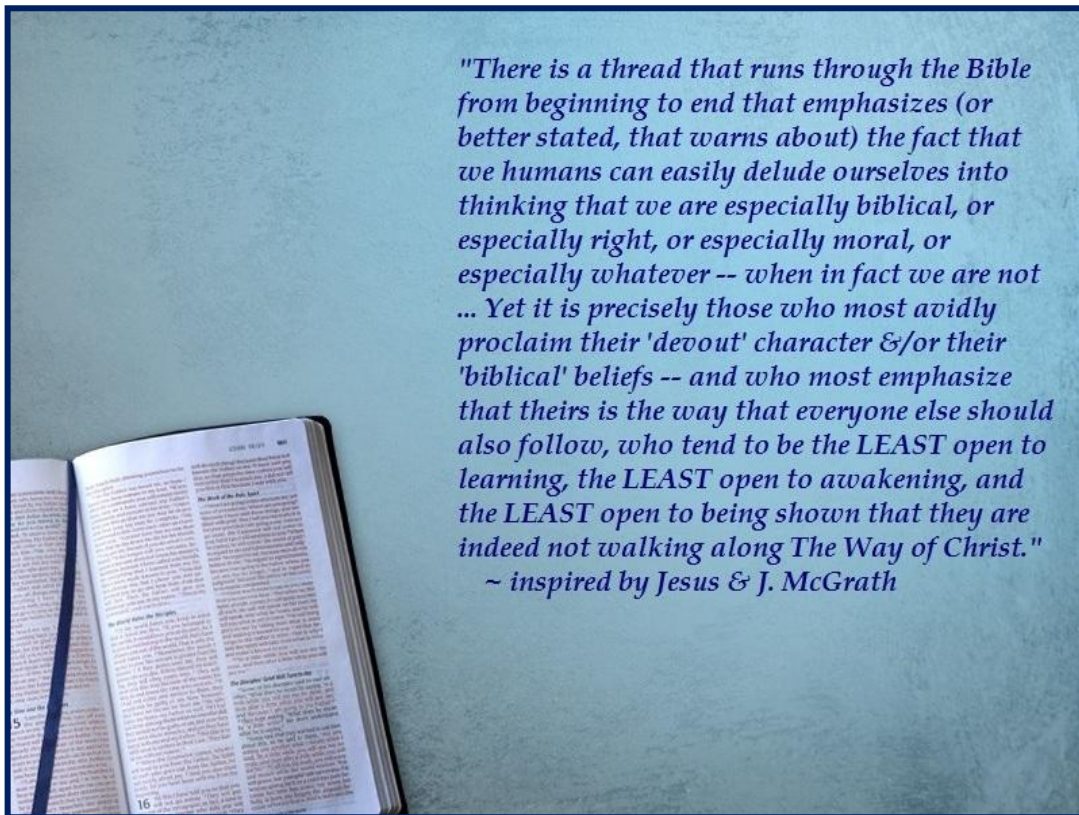
**death**” (i.e. to all who are not only willing to sacrifice their own comfort for the benefit of others, but to those who actually do so) ... Remember, for Jesus at least, “Belief” was a verb (see [John 13:15-17](#) & [John 14:12](#) et al), and as such, it makes consistent sense that he would view Faith similarly – that he would view it like “James the Just” viewed it (see [Gospel of Thomas 1:12](#) & [James 2:14-17](#)) – that he would view it in harmony with the fundamentally pro-active, fully service-oriented, unconditionally Loving teachings of all his sermons and every one of his parables as found in the Gospels to this day.

## ***Thomas 1:23 ... One from a Thousand***

(11/18/2016)

**“I will choose You, one from a thousand and two from ten thousand, and You will stand together as a single One.” ~ Jesus (Thomas 23)**

This is one of my favorite sayings of Jesus – not because he definitely said it (indeed, it is quite possible he didn't) – but rather because of the deep-seated Faith it evinces and the deep-seated Persistence it inspires ... You see, anyone who has ever set forth onto a path of selfless service knows that most folks are simply not interested in the same – not interested in accepting the gifts such a path offers, and certainly not interested in affirming that path (much less the humble courage required to join the one sharing it). In short, The Way of selfless Love is ever a path walked mostly in solitude, and almost always a way flanked by denigration and apathy.



*"There is a thread that runs through the Bible from beginning to end that emphasizes (or better stated, that warns about) the fact that we humans can easily delude ourselves into thinking that we are especially biblical, or especially right, or especially moral, or especially whatever -- when in fact we are not ... Yet it is precisely those who most avidly proclaim their 'devout' character &/or their 'biblical' beliefs -- and who most emphasize that theirs is the way that everyone else should also follow, who tend to be the LEAST open to learning, the LEAST open to awakening, and the LEAST open to being shown that they are indeed not walking along The Way of Christ."  
~ inspired by Jesus & J. McGrath*

And to make matters even more challenging, it is a Way that also bears little to no Good Fruit that can be readily witnessed. And because the ones who have set forth on that path are by nature individuals who deeply Care for all of humanity – and because the vast majority of humanity tends to ignore or reject or even ridicule the Great Gifts offered by such “Peace Pilgrims”, this is a Way of Living that can become quite frustrating after even a short period of time.

Indeed, this frustration was seen in Lao Tsu, who supposedly had given up on the ethically bankrupt citizens of his homeland and was actually leaving them to live his final days as a hermit when he paused on the way to pen the now famous (and quite brilliant) *Tao Te Ching*. And a similar frustration was seen in Jesus Christ when he did everything but get on his knees and beg his followers to make the necessary leap of Faith into living (and thereby finally truly understanding) his teachings on selfless Love. Indeed, Jesus' frustrations with the abject selfishness of the masses that followed him became so acute that his regular, peace-seeking, solo-treks to various mountaintops no longer sufficed, and he ultimately departed from Judea after a ministry that only lasted three years. And yet before he did so, he offered them this particular gem (among many hundreds of similarly brilliant sayings & parables) – a beacon of simple Truth that reminds us that we are not to worry or fret when the vast majority of our listeners reject our teachings – that we are only seeking to awaken those sleepers who are already on the verge of awakening; the 1% of the 1% of those still slightly slumbering who will willingly Hear our Way's Wisdom, who will willingly open their eyes thereto, and then who will then willingly set forth to enliven the same – to thereafter deeply feel its undeniable Truth for themselves ... We are to share our Truths with the rest of humanity as well, of course – seeing as how indeed *all* have been so Called (even though very few will choose to answer). And yet when we see that the sleepers will not awaken, we need not fight with their slumber. Rather, we must simply kiss them gently on their foreheads, snugly tuck them into their chosen drone of dream-steeped ignorance, and wish them well as we depart ... We do so knowing that at the latest on their deathbeds they too will rise UP from their drowsiness, though we pray as we depart that another will come and help them awaken well before that terminable (and often most terrible) time.



## ***Luke 17:20-21 ... All-ready Within***

(11/19/2016)

“The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ...  
For, in fact, the Kingdom of God of which I speak is already within you.”

~ Jesus (Luke 17:20-21)

This is an extremely important biblical verse; indeed one of the most important ones in the entire New Testament. And the reason it is so important is that it fully quashes the highly dysfunctional belief held by most Christians that Heaven is some sort of eternal reward for the few who qualify as worthy enough for the same; that Heaven is a place somewhere other than Here to which only the “true believers” are allowed to journey at some point in the future after their physical deaths.

Jesus, of course – at least to the degree that he truly did comprehend Divine Morality & Divine Justice & Divine Love – wanted nothing to do with such nonsense. For Jesus, “[the Kingdom of God](#)” was a Bliss-filled state of being available to each & every sentient being in each & every moment of their lives. It was accessed not by worshiping God correctly (or bowing to Jesus devoutly or publicly outing oneself as a “sinner” or being baptized correctly by a priest) but rather by simply having the humility and the courage to reach out to others in need – especially when least wanting to do so, and especially to those deemed “least deserving” of the same (see [Matthew 5:40-44](#), [Matthew 10:7](#), [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al).

And indeed, it is ***this*** Heaven and this Heaven alone that harmonizes with the heavenly Father of Christ whose Love is without end or measure ([Matthew 5:48](#)) – it is ***this*** Heaven and this Heaven alone that harmonizes with that God whose mercy is over-arching ([Luke 6:36](#)), and it is ***this*** Heaven and this Heaven alone that resonates with a God whose Forgiveness lives without end ([Matthew 8:21-22](#) + [1 John 4:18](#) + [Luke 15:11-32](#), the Parable of the Prodigal Son et al).



## *2 Corinthians 10:7 ... What already IS*

(11/20/2016)

“Look at what is already before your eyes.”

~ Paul (2 Corinthians 10:07)

On its face this verse reminds us to humble ourselves, to consciously dismiss all familiarities & preconceptions in order to truly *See* our lives as if for the first time – to acutely notice and thereby clearly *See* the Wonders that are ever around us. And yet – much like life itself – there is more to this verse than immediately meets the eye ... Indeed, this verse happens to be taken from a section of [2 Corinthians](#) where Paul is actually using passive-aggression to persuade his listeners – to convince them of *his* greatness, not the greatness of life – to laud *his* humility and *his* "righteousness", not inspire them to awaken their own ... And this reality reflects a deeper biblical Truth still: namely, the Truth that the vast majority of Paul's biblical writings do *not* reflect The Way of Christ at all, but are actually enabling reflections of the opposite.

\*Where the Way of Christ would have us see ourselves as equally worthy Children of God, Paul's teachings would have us demote ourselves as being innate & inevitable sinners ... \*Where the Way of Christ would have us openly embrace our enemies as brothers & sisters, Paul's teachings enable us to denigrate and even condemn those who do not believe as we do ... \*Where the Way of Christ would have us reach out in acts of self-sacrificial Love in order to attain “the Kingdom of Heaven” (see [Luke 17:20-21](#) & [Matthew 10:7](#)), Paul's teachings tell us over & over again that thought & word are enough – that we merely have to believe in our minds that Jesus is the only Son of God (and profess



the same with our mouths) to be “saved” ourselves ... As such, it seems that Paul himself would benefit the most from actualizing his own words here; that Paul himself should close his mouth & put down his pen – that Paul himself should stop trying to convince others to save themselves, and instead look for the opportunities already resting before his own eyes -- opportunities to set aside the "frightening" and the "familiar" and the "beneficial" and the "boring" and seek to selflessly Care for all those nearby instead.



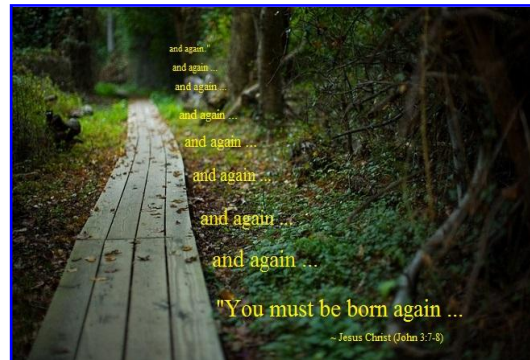
## ***John 3:3-8 ... To be Born Again***

(11/21/2016)

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can See the Kingdom of God without being born anew ... No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water & of Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is Born of the Spirit is Spirit ... The Wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it -- but you know not where it comes from nor where it goes. So it is with everyone who is Born of The Spirit.” ~ Jesus (John 3:3+6+8)

How many times have I heard (indeed, quite proudly) from Christians who profess to have been “Born Again,” and how many more times have I heard from those same Christians that being “Born Again” is required for anyone to be allowed into Heaven after death ? For such believers, being “Born Again” means that one has mentally chosen to claim that Jesus is the one & only Son of God, and has publicly proclaimed his or her absolute allegiance to the same ... And to this I say: fair enough. For it is indeed possible that such a limited and capricious godhead *is* in charge from "on high"; just as it is possible that He will indeed throw all those who do not appropriately fawn over Him into an eternal pit of fiery torment. Of course, I want nothing at all to do with such an unjust & indeed diabolical deity if He does exist (no truly Moral Person would), and yet exist He very well might ... And yet, where these “Born Again Christians” utterly fail is in claiming that **Jesus** supports such immoral nonsense, for – as this passage quite clearly shows – he most certainly did *not*. Indeed, what Jesus says in these verses (the only passage in the entire Bible where Jesus speaks to the “Born Again” state of Being, by the way) is the following –

**A)** that we must indeed be “born anew” to “See” the “Kingdom of God” (not to enter it or reside in it at some point after our death, but to See it *in our current life*); a Kingdom that – for Jesus at least – existed internally within each of us (see [Luke 17:20-21](#)), and a Kingdom that could be accessed only via selfless acts of radical Caring & Kindness (see [John 13:15-17](#) & [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al) ... and **B)** that being “Born Again” is not some merit badge that we earn with a single epiphany or pin on with a single utterance. It is not at all a reward that we need earn but once and then carry with us for the rest of our lives. To the contrary, Jesus makes it quite clear in this passage that becoming “Born Again” is as flowing as the wind; that we must choose it to experience it in that moment – and then that we must ever choose it again & again & again & again; that we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven as often as we wish for the rest of our lives, and yet that we must ever renew our choice of selfless Love – our status of being thus “Born Anew” – in order to do so.



## ***1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 ...To Do Good***

(11/22/2016)

“See that no one repays evil for evil, but always seeks to Do Good for one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God.” ~ Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18)

This passage is intriguing for several reasons – **Firstly**, because it (like so many of Paul’s sayings) exposes Paul’s own hypocrisy. For while Paul talked a great game as far as being Kind to others was concerned, he was often anything but Kind to those who challenged him or who believed differently than he did (see 1 Corinthians 16:22, 2 Corinthians 10:4-6, Galatians 5:12, Philippians 3:18-19) ...

**Secondly**, while this passage does well to claim that God would have us be Kind to our enemies (and while this particular belief does indeed harmonize fully with Jesus’ own beliefs about the “perfect”, fully unconditional, and ever-non-condemning nature of his heavenly Father’s Love -- see Matthew 5:48 + 1 John 4:18 + Luke 6:36 + Matthew 8:21-22 et al), such a claim does *not* harmonize with Paul’s own beliefs about Paul’s own God – a God who thinks not twice about casting unbelievers into eternal damnation; a God who demands petty subservience from all His followers



before affording them any measure of post-mortem solace (see Romans 5:21, Romans 9:27, Romans 11:21-22, Romans 12:19, 1 Corinthians 5:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Corinthians 10:5) ... **Thirdly** & finally, this passage encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances – something Jesus did indeed fully fulfill (see his utterance of Psalm 22:1 to his listeners -- while nailed to a cross, no less!), and yet a Truth that Paul himself found frequently difficult to exude (see 1 Corinthians 4:9-13 & 2 Corinthians 6:4-5) ... In essence, Paul is here once again the epitomical "false prophet", one of the spiritual charlatans of whom Jesus warned us – one of those (at least in this case) who evidences the Truth that we are to emulate what such "zany zealots" mean to say, not what they actually say or do (see Matthew 23:3).

## ***James 1:25 ... The Law of Liberty***

(11/23/2016)

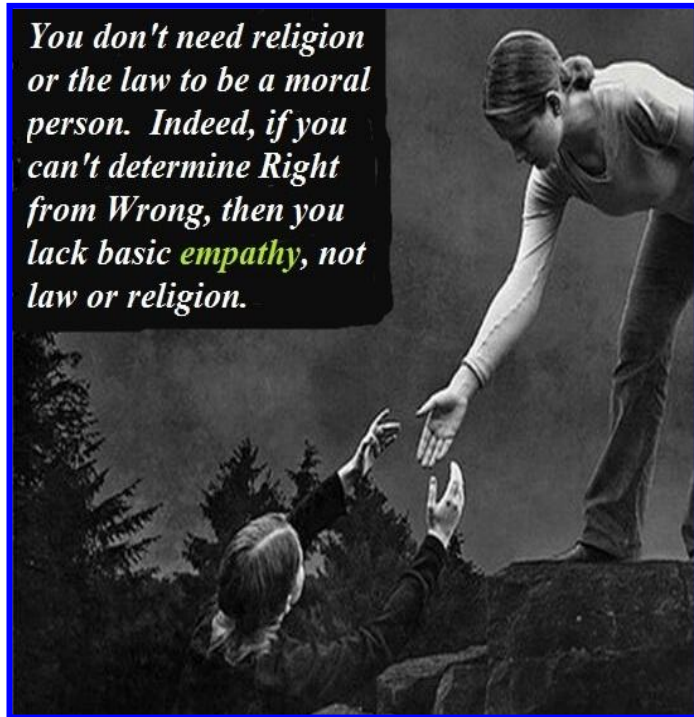
“Those who gaze into the perfect Law; the Law of Liberty, and persevere therein – being not hearers who forget but ***Doers who act*** – they are Blessed during their Doing.” ~ James (James 1:25)

Yet another very important verse, this saying perfectly encapsulates not only how James felt about the relationship between faith & works (i.e. that the former was always essentially meaningless without the presence of the latter), but also how Jesus felt about the workings of Salvation ... Indeed, it was Jesus’ belief that we are not inevitably subject to the will of the authorities in our lives (neither the man-made “leaders” who try to regulate our everyday lives, nor the celestial “rulers” who try and manipulate our Hereafters). Rather, Jesus too believed in an ultimate “***Law of Liberty***,” a Law essentially stating that – no matter what happens to us in life; no matter what difficulties come our way or which enemies cross our paths – we are always free to choose ***Love anyway***.

Similarly, Jesus made it clear that championing Goodness & Love in a world ruled by greed & fear would always be met with resistance (see [Matthew 5:10](#) et al), and yet he also knew that those who persisted in Caring for others despite that resistance (indeed, especially *for* those doing that resisting) would always receive the reward of Bliss for the same (see [Matthew 24:13](#)).

Finally, and by far most importantly, Jesus regularly noted that the key to entering his “***Kingdom of Heaven***” was choosing to actively serve others – not necessarily in times of their greatest need, but rather in times of our own (see [Matthew 5:40-44](#), [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al). For those who are willing to sacrifice their own comfort & wealth for the betterment of the downtrodden would always enter that ***Kingdom***, and indeed it was only these Noble Few who would ever wholeheartedly be able to do so.

***You don't need religion or the law to be a moral person. Indeed, if you can't determine Right from Wrong, then you lack basic empathy, not law or religion.***



***Revelation 1:8 ...The Alpha & the Omega***  
(11/24/2016)

“I am the Alpha & the Omega.”  
~ unknown (Revelation 1:8)

First & foremost, it is crucial to realize that the book of **Revelation** as a whole is a highly misunderstood tome. While it has been used by the Christian church to support the claim that Jesus will “come again” in the future, it was actually an anti-Roman revolutionary text that was speaking of its own contemporary time & place ... And while many a Christian uses **Revelation** to show that Jesus is ultimately a deity of wrath & judgment, sincere students of the Bible know that it is not Jesus at all who utters such wicked words in that book (but actually one of the *Elohim* -- a “fallen angel” -- who does so), and indeed that the “Jesus” mentioned therein repeatedly and quite specifically **contradicts** everything for which Jesus himself lived and everything he himself taught in the Gospels.

That having been said, this verse *does* offer a glimpse of Truth nonetheless; namely the Truth that Love – like God (and the Universe, and the Soul) – is far beyond every “beginning”, and thus that true, selfless Love indeed has no end.



## ***2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ... Unveiling the True Faces***

(11/25/2016)

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, Seeing the Glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image – from one degree of Glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)

In my humble opinion, this is one of the most enlightened verses in the entire New Testament, and the probable fact that Paul was completely unaware of the reasons why does not alter that assessment one bit ... Indeed, those who have read & studied the biblical epistles of Paul (especially in their chronological order of completion – first **1 Thessalonians**, then **Philippians**, then **Philemon**, then **Galatians**, then **1 Corinthians**, then **2 Corinthians**, then **Romans** & finally **Colossians**) are quite aware of the fact that **A**) Paul was an extremely dysfunctional human being, that **B**) Paul taught and proffered a unique, self-made theology very different from those offered by most of the New Testament’s other authors, and that **C**) Paul understood very little of The Way, the Truth, or the Life of Jesus Christ.

That having been said, Paul *did* regularly stumble upon the latter – he *did* every now and then pen verses that at least inadvertently reflected the far deeper Truths offered by Jesus in the Gospels. And this passage reflects one of those times, and it does so for the following *seven reasons*:

**01)** It equates the Spirit of God with “**freedom**” – implying that the perfect Love of God must be given volitionally in order to be given at all; that the Will of God can only be satisfied in our lives when we are Loving others freely – not out of any sense of obligation or to fulfill a promise or to uphold a commitment or to enliven a duty or even to satisfy an expectation ...

**02)** It makes it quite clear that the **glory** of which it speaks – the ability to be reborn; to transform ourselves from mere “**Sons of Adam**” into glorious “**Children of God**” (see **Galatians 5:12-14** & **Galatians 3:26-27** – along with **John 14:20**) is innate in “**all of us**” ...

**03)** It implies that we are essentially blind until we do so; that it is only with radiantly humbled, “**unveiled faces**” that we can truly See – and thereby fully embrace – the same glory in others that resides in God Himself ...

**04)** It emphasizes that the “**Glory of the Lord**” that we then see with our freshly untainted vision is the same as our own – that in the moments we See Love in others, we see that true nature “**as though reflected in a mirror**” ...

**05)** It notes just as clearly that in clearly **SEE**ing them as such – and in acting accordingly thereafter – we become “**transformed into the same [holy] image**” ...

06) Indeed, it notes that we were always Divine to a certain degree – that we were always worthy of Love and thus always able to See that Love in others and give that Love to them – that awakening to the Truth of others’ divinity (and thereby our own as well), we are not becoming something that we were not before, but rather are simply evolving “*from one degree of glory to another*” ...

07) And finally, this passage reminds us that these awakenings are not to be sources of the same pride that kept us thickly veiled in the first place, but rather that we are to ever remember that it such enlightenments always ultimately blossom from within; always ultimately “*come from the Lord, the Spirit.*”

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***James 2:18 ... Showing the Faith***

(11/26/2016)

“I, by my Works, will show you my Faith.”

~ James (James 2:18)

This verse reflects a Truth of which Jesus was also aware: namely, that real Faith by its very nature cannot be harbored within, but must be *exuded* without ...

Indeed, quite contrary to popular religious belief, real Faith is not believing with any degree of certainty in things that cannot be seen or known (indeed, believing in such a constraining way actually *limits* the majesty of the Divine and evidences more doubt than Faith) ... No, real Faith is a conscious & willing not-knowing; not knowing with any certainty that one’s beliefs are correct – not knowing with any certainty that Heaven awaits one’s Soul after death – not knowing with any certainty that one has chosen to worship the “true God” in the “right way” at all ... Indeed, real Faith is definitively **not** knowing any of these things, and yet going forth and choosing to shower others boldly with the selfless Love of Christ anyway. And ironically, when one does so – when one decides to Love others without any hope of heavenly reward or any expectation of divine intervention or any fear or consternation related to a possible damnation eternal – then these same purely Loving Deeds evidence, and indeed foster, the blossoming forth of real & viable **Faith** – along with the deep-seated Peace that always accompanies the same.



## ***John 3:17 ... How it is Saved***

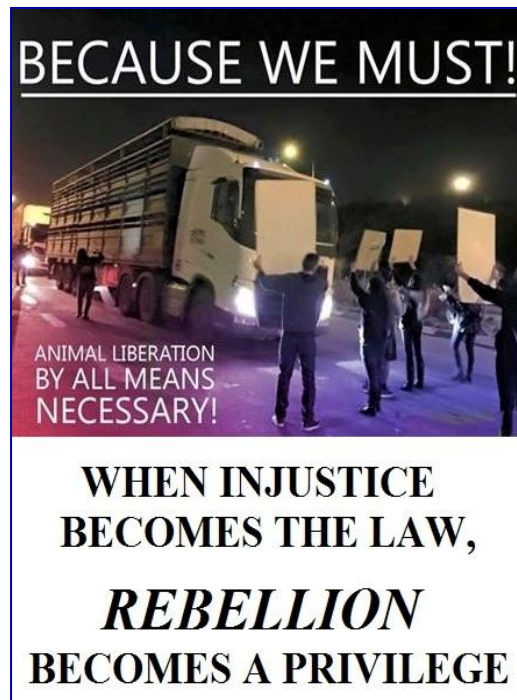
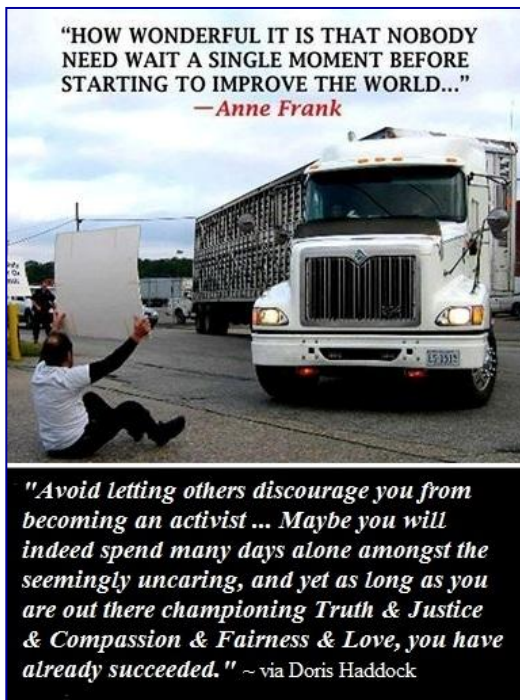
(11/27/2016)

“God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but rather that the world might be saved by his Way.”

~ Jesus (John 3:17)

If Jesus is arrogantly speaking in the 3rd person here – if he is indeed speaking about himself (in direct contradiction of his own teachings about God and worship and humility – see [Matthew 18:3-4](#), [Matthew 23:12](#), [Mark 10:18](#), [John 12:44-47](#), [John 14:20](#) et al), then even so he must be professing a profound gentleness thereby – a perfect Love that is perfectly in harmony with the Love of his heavenly Father (see [Matthew 5:48](#)) and a perfectly non-condemning nature in alignment with the perfect Love of the same (see [1 John 4:18](#)). And that having been said, in all likelihood that is **not** what Jesus is saying here. In all likelihood (if we are going to do him the most honor while interpreting his words) Jesus is speaking not of himself as “**the Son**”, but rather is speaking of “**the Son of Man**” within all of us (see [Matthew 8:20](#), [Matthew 9:6](#), [Matthew 16:28](#), [Matthew 26:64](#) et al). Indeed, “**the Son of Man**” was a term that was almost exclusively used by the authors of the ancient biblical manuscripts to refer to *all of humanity* – **not** solely to Jesus Christ. As such, when read in this more Christ-appropriate context, Jesus is saying here that God did not send **us** into the world to condemn the world, but rather sent **us** into the world to be a source of its salvation – via courageous acts of Love (see [John 13:15-17](#), [John 12:44-47](#), [John 14:12](#) et al) – for all those living therein.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.





## ***1 John 2:6 ... To abide in Him***

(11/28/2016)

“Whoever says ‘I abide in Him’ must walk just as He walked.”

~ unknown (1 John 2:6)

And how did Jesus walk? He walked ***humbly*** (Mark 10:18 + Matthew 23:12) – and he walked ***selflessly*** (Matthew 4:1-10 + John 6:15) – and he walked ***courageously*** (Luke 9:22 + Luke 24:7 + Matthew 5:40-44) – and he walked ***lovingly*** (Matthew 25:35-40 + John 13:15-17) ... As such, if we are to lay any claim to worshiping him or revering him or honoring him or even worshiping him, we must do so *with our actions* more than our words – and we must do so with actions that mirror his own!

**Note:** Whoever walks as Jesus walked cannot openly claim to abide in him! Walking as Jesus walked means humbly living as Jesus lived – a humility that is mutually exclusive with the hubris required to publicly proclaim that one is doing the same. In essence, the only thing that is certain is that those who are proclaiming that they are living his Way are the ones who are most certainly *not* doing so.



*There are "Christians" who arrogantly  
preach judgment & intolerance &  
condemnation, and there are true Followers  
of The Way of Christ who humbly share  
Forgiveness & Acceptance & Love.*

*Know the difference ...  
... Choose the latter.*

## ***Matthew 18:21-22 ... Seventy times Seven times***

(11/29/2016)

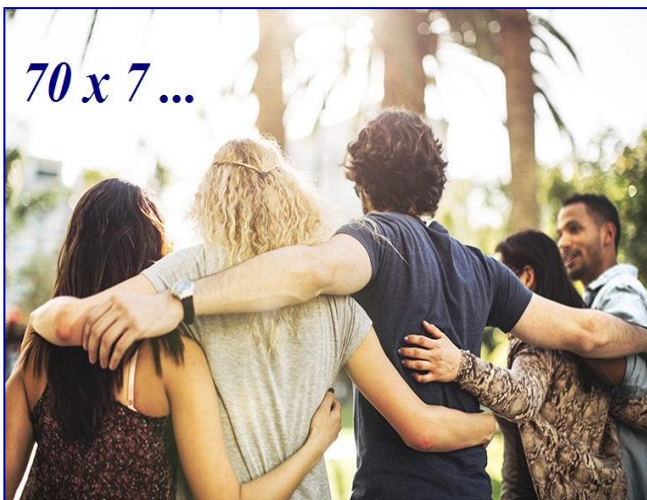
“Lord, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ And Jesus said to him: ‘Not a mere seven times, but ... seventy times seven times [shall you forgive].’”

~ Jesus (Matthew 18:21-22)

This passage has been traditionally interpreted to mean that we are to forgive others frequently (especially our friends), and that we are to do so primarily with our thoughts & our words. Of course, as is so often the case, the traditional interpretation of the Scriptures leaves almost everything to be desired ... For Jesus is definitely *not* trying to inspire us to forgive in ways typical or comfortable or standard – neither here, nor anywhere else in the Gospels. Indeed, nothing about Jesus’ teachings was ever anything less than a full-on demolition of the traditional approaches practiced and preached by the religious leaders of his day, and this passage in Matthew is no exception.

For starters, the phrase “**seventy times seven**” is found in only one other verse in the entire Bible – a verse in **Genesis** that speaks to the severe vengeance that would be unleashed on Lamech for his crimes, if not the severe condemnation that would be unleashed upon all those who similarly sinned (see **Genesis 4:24**) ... And in typical fashion, Jesus not only alludes to this Old Testament verse, but he does so in a way that turns it completely on its head – telling us that we are not to condemn trespassers “**seventy times seven times**”, but that we are actually to *forgive* them to that same remarkably massive degree.

And yet even more significant here are the meanings intended with the mention of the numbers “**seventy**” and “**seven**” -- for Jesus is most certainly not commanding us to forgive others exactly 490 times before condemning them anew thereafter. No, he is telling us not only to forgive our friends & family, but for us



to forgive *everyone* (see the “**seventy**” nations encompassing *all of humanity* in **Genesis 10**), and he is telling us not only to forgive them verbally or partially or conditionally, but to forgive them absolutely & unconditionally & *completely* -- the symbolic meaning of the number “**seven**” recognized by religious leaders & biblical authors alike!

*Amen* ... Let it be so.

## ***Luke 7:50 ... To GO in Peace***

(11/30/2016)

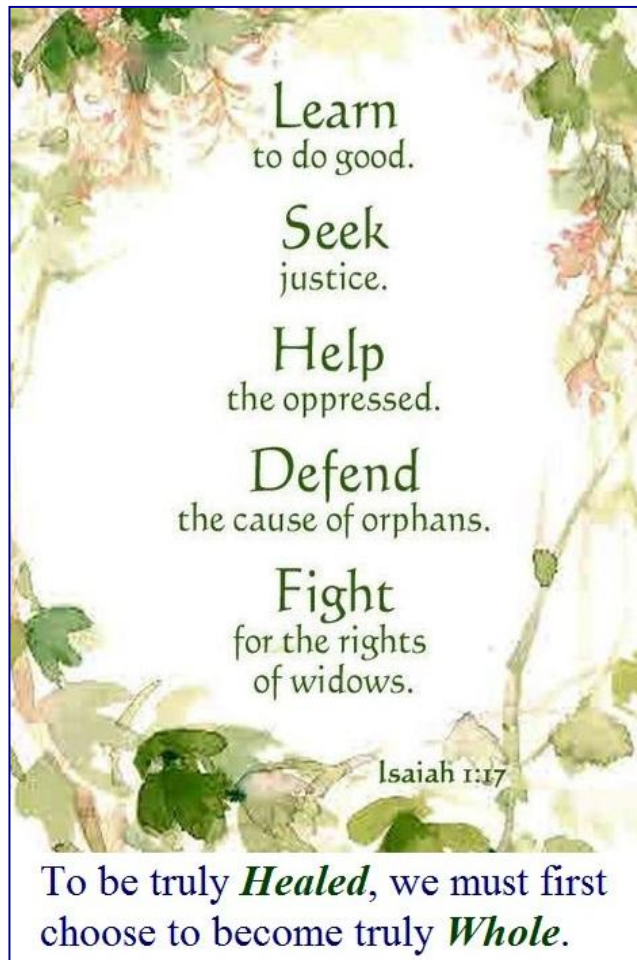
“Your Faith has saved you – Go in Peace.”

~ Jesus (Luke 7:50)

So often the poor and the maimed and the ill came to Jesus to be healed, and every single time he told them that he had nothing at all to do with their subsequent wellness (see [Matthew 8:5-13](#), [Mark 5:34](#), [Mark 10:52](#), [Luke 7:50](#), [Luke 17:19](#) et al); that it was no miracle that had been performed by him, but rather that it was ***their*** Faith-full Belief that had effectuated the same – a Belief that became so much more than mere belief; a Belief that had become a resolutely courageous action; an action that had been stripped of all pride & all fear and become soaked in humility & courage instead.

Indeed, it is no miracle that the human body heals itself. Yes, its healings do seem to be miraculous when they take place in unusual ways &/or in unusual tempos, and yet healing is what the human body does, and it does its healing much more efficiently when its fears and its despairs and its rigidities have been removed from the mind of the one needing healing ... Jesus obviously knew this, of course, and he tried desperately to communicate the same – tried desperately to share with those followers The Selfless Way that brought implicit health & flowing wholeness alongside every act of unconditional Love.

Engage in real Love and fear has no choice but to flee ... Losing that fear intensifies one's emPowerment – and allows for the greater Healing to occur in ways that often appear to be miraculous.



## ***Ephesians 4:24 ... Clothed in the New Self***

(12/01/2016)

“Clothe yourselves with the New Self;  
created according to the likeness of God.”

~ unknown (Ephesians 4:24)

Note here that it is not humankind that has been physically created in the image of the Divine (as though any over-arching godhead would ever have a human-like form), but rather that it is the internal, conscient, moral, spiritually awakened ***True Self*** that mirrors the same (at least in all the moments our bodies choose to enliven that same Selfless Essence).

And, as an intriguing (and possibly important) aside, it was not GOD (the Hebrew “YHWH” &/or “Adonai” – read as “LORD” in English translations of the Old Testament) who made man in His image, but rather a group of many “**godS**” (the Hebrew plural “Elohim” – read incorrectly as the singular “God” in English translations of **Genesis**) who made humankind in “**our image**” ... This means that it was



actually the **Elohim** – essentially the fallen angels; incomplete and less than fully moral spiritual beings – who created humanity as “**man and woman**” (see **Genesis 1:26-27**); as beings who were incomplete and flawed and fearful and desirous.

And this is why it is so difficult (and so powerful – an therefore so deeply important) for us to set those originally sinful inclinations aside in favor of “**clothing ourselves with the New Self**” – the Soul Self; the True Self – the Self that wishes to Love instead if to be loved; to Give instead of be given to; to Serve instead of being served.

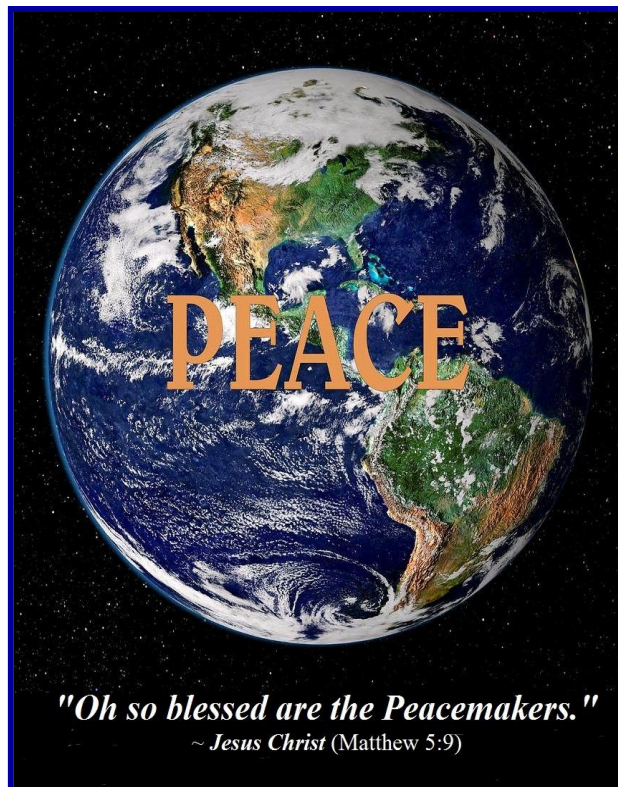
***Isaiah 49:6 ... A Light to the Nations***  
(12/02/2016)

“I will give you as a Light to the nations;  
that my Salvation may reach to the ends of the Earth.”  
~ unknown (Isaiah 49:6)

I have three observations of note regarding this particular Scripture ...

**First**, this verse comes from the portion of the book of **Isaiah** known by biblical scholars as “**Isaiah II**” (the portion of **Isaiah** that was written by the second of **Isaiah**’s three authors, comprising **chapters 40-55** of that scroll), which just so happened to be one of **Jesus**’ favorite (or at the very least most often quoted) Old Testament works. In essence, if **Jesus** carried around any Scripture to help motivate his ministry or catalyze his Calling, then **Isaiah II** would have been the scroll in his back pocket. It is from **Isaiah II** that we hear “**make straight the way of the Lord**” (**Isaiah 40:3**), and “**Do not fear, for I am with you**” (**Isaiah 41:10**), and “**I will give you as a Light to the nations**” (**Isaiah 49:6**), and “**Do not fear the reproach of others, and do not be dismayed when they revile you**” (**Isaiah 51:7**), and “**How beautiful are the feet of the messenger who announces peace; he who brings good news and who announces salvation**” (**Isaiah 52:7**) . And it is from **Isaiah II** as well that we hear “**but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD**” (**Isaiah 55:8**) ... **Second**, please note that “**the nations**” mentioned here implies that this verse is intended for **all** of humanity (see the 70 nations of humankind mentioned in **Genesis 10**; the inspiration behind **Jesus** calling on us to forgive others “**70 times 7 times**” in **Matthew 8:21-22**) ... And **finally**, please remember as such that we are **all** the keepers of the Light herein mentioned – as **Jesus** intimates elsewhere in the Scriptures with both regularity and vehemence (see **John 1, John 3, John 8, John 9, John 12, John 14** et al).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



## ***Luke 4:12 ... Putting God to the Test***

(12/03/2016)

“Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”

~ Jesus (Luke 4:12)

This verse too contains much more Meaning than originally meets the mind ... **Initially**, it is important to realize the implications of this verse’s direct ties to [Matthew 4:1-10](#), the portion of the Gospels where Jesus three times resisted the three great temptations of Satan – sustenance, power, and immortality. And while [Luke 4:12](#) only references Jesus’ response of resistance to the third temptation (immortality), the implications of his rejection are far greater than one would first assume. For unbeknownst to many, one of the only times (if not *the* only time) that the term “[Son of Man](#)” was used to reference the sole Davidian Messiah (as opposed to merely referring to all of humanity – like it does in [Matthew 8:20](#), [Matthew 9:6](#), [Matthew 11:19](#), [Matthew 16:28](#), [Matthew 20:28](#) & [Matthew 24:27](#) et al) is in [Daniel 7:13-14](#), where that Messiah openly receives the very same temptation-rewards that Jesus *rejects* here in [Luke 4](#) (and in [Matthew 4](#) as well) – meaning that this verse indirectly supports what Jesus himself directly states a number of times in the Gospels; namely, that he is **not** the Messiah at all; at least not any more than the rest of us could ever choose to be.

**Secondly**, it is important to realize that it is impossible to put an all-Loving YHWH to *any* test – for the simple reason that an all-Loving heavenly Father



cannot by His perfectly Loving nature ever take offense at anything we do or say, just as the ever fear-full and oft-jealous [Elohim](#) are wont to react aggressively & indeed violently to even our smallest hints of betrayal ...

**Thirdly**, this verse essentially states that we are not to use personal prayers to satisfy our own desires, but are rather to pray either for the Highest Good of all to take place &/or to give thanks for our lives and the implicit ability we all have to serve Love & bring Peace therein no matter what happens to us or for us ... And, **fourthly** & finally, [Luke 4:12](#) reminds us to regularly & repeatedly rescind all our selfish temptations and to replace them with virtuous acts of Generosity & Kindness.

## ***Matthew 6:22 ... The Lamp of the body***

(12/04/2016)

“The Eye is the Lamp of the body. So, if your Eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of Light.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:22)

While it is indeed our eyes that most directly connect our consciousness with our surroundings, it is the combination of all 9 senses\* that form "The Eye" mentioned here – the totality of our sensations that combine to form the overarching interactive Awareness of our lives.

And indeed it is this *Eye* that looks constantly for subjects to serve – indeed it is this *Eye* that always finds those subjects (in various manifestations of need or desire) – and indeed it is this *Eye* that then inspires us to courageously engage the same with selfless acts of Kindness ... And this is how a healthy *Eye* interacts with its environment – and this is how a healthy *Eye* fills its transporting body-mind with the Light of Love.



\*The 9 senses are -- sight, hearing, smell, touch, taste, electro-magnetic resonance (the basis for much of Feng Shui), limbic resonance (the basis for all empathy & innate understanding), intuitive resonance (the source of all hunch & deductive prediction), and conscient resonance (the foundation of all moral awareness & ethical integrity).

## *Thomas 1:82 ... To be near Fire*

(12/05/2016)

“Whoever is near Me is near Fire”  
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 82)

First & foremost, it is crucial to remember than each & every New Testament reference to “fire” is actually a reference to *cleansing*, **not** a reference to punishment – is a reference to the discomfort that comes from breaking free of old attachments and outdated fears, **not** to the suffering that comes from literally writhing in a lake of flames (a la [Revelation 20:14-15](#) & [Revelation 21:8](#)) ... And this interpretive model is not only supported by the other times Jesus mentions “fire” in the Gospels (see [Matthew 13:42](#), [Matthew 18:8](#), [Mark 9:47-48](#), [Luke 12:49](#), [Thomas 1:10](#)), but also by the way he describes his heavenly Father as an innately non-punishing God of perfect Love (see [Matthew 5:58](#) + [1 John 4:18](#)), and as well by the way he describes the fundamentally selflessly Loving Truth of the Way of his Life (see [John 13:15-17](#), [John 14:12-26](#), [Matthew 5:40-44](#), [Matthew 25:35-40](#) et al).

As such, if we are to do Jesus (and others; indeed even God Himself) the most honor, it is critical for us to err on the side of seeing the best in his words, not their most dysfunctional ... This is the way to worship their essence most purely, and this is the way to comprehend (and thereby come to emulate) their Way of Love most perfectly. And this is why Jesus says that those who come near him will be “near Fire” – not that they will begin to “burn” themselves via his mere presence, not that they will “catch fire” from speaking with him or speaking of him or listening to him or even worshiping him. No, those that choose to come “near him” (in our case, those who choose to open themselves humbly to -- and enact courageously -- what he preaches in the Gospels) will simply come near the purifying flames of his selfless, ego-incinerating Way – nothing more, nothing less.



The flames of Christ do indeed “glow”, of course, they do indeed illuminate a radiant selflessness that all those witnessing can choose to See and then emulate them, and yet the only way for anyone to “catch fire” – the only way for anyone to burn purely like Jesus burned – is to depart from his presence (see [Matthew 26:31-35](#)), focus away from him, look towards others in need, and then actively self-sacrifice in order to bring Peace &/or Joy to the same.



## ***Matthew 19:6 ... No longer two, but ONE***

(12/06/2016)

“So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 19:6)

Please note first and foremost that this verse does ***not*** support traditional marital fidelity in the way many assume. For not only was polygamy still socially acceptable in Jesus’ day (see [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](#)), but this verse and its surrounding passage were actually talking about when it was acceptable to *divorce*, ***not*** what made for an acceptable marital partnership (see [Matthew 19:3-9](#)).

In addition, please note that Jesus’ views on sexual union were similarly staunch (see [Matthew 19:12](#)). As such, this verse speaks to something far deeper than mere marital fidelity or sexual monogamy ... Indeed, as with most of his other admonitions in the Gospels, Jesus is encouraging us to deal with each other in the most intimate way possible; to cherish our friends as Soulmates – to honor strangers as Friends – and to treat all enemies as Family. Indeed, on a far deeper level, Jesus is reminding us here that we “become One” during *every* encounter; “One in the flesh” with *every* handshake & *every* embrace, “One in the mind” with *every* discussion heard or *every* conversation engaged, and “One in the Soul” with *every* transgression forgiven and *every* act of willing self-sacrifice provided.

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



## *Thomas 1:36 ... Never a worry*

(12/07/2016)

“Do not be anxious, from morning to evening and from evening to morning,  
about what you will wear.” ~ Jesus (Thomas 36)

The true depth of this verse can best be comprehended by realizing that there are many ways in which we are “clothed” (e.g. [Matthew 6:25](#) & [Romans 13:14](#) & [Colossians 3:12](#) et al) ...

**First** and foremost, we are sometimes **clothed** by clothes for warmth &/or protection, and this verse reminds us that we need never do so out of fear for injury or frost; that those who live their lives for Love will automatically be immersed into the lives they Love – and that immersion provides its own measure of protection & warmth ... **Secondly**, we are often (at least in the First World) **clothed** by a sense of “style” – to be perceived as beautiful by others and thereby welcomed into their fold. In this vein this verse reminds us that such worries, too, can be easily tossed aside – that those who appreciate us for such superficialities are not those who will ever truly Care for us in times of need; that it is always better to have Faith in the omnipresent Goodness of those many who still refuse to judge a book by its cover, much less judge a person by the quality or effect of their coverings ... **Thirdly**, we are in every moment subconsciously **clothed** by the imprintings of our younger days – “**clothed**” by the emotional memories from our childhood, by the ways we dealt with our traumas & our wounds – and “**clothed**” by the individual personality that developed as a result. And here too this verse in-  
**Courages** us to have Faith – to know that we need never be anxious about revealing the gentle, noble, vulnerable Beings we truly are; that defense mechanisms are for the weak – and that “self defense” is only for those who will be ultimately vanquished. No, we are to have **Faith** instead – Faith in our innate Goodness; Faith in our ability to thrive on Love after tossing aside our fears; Faith



in the True Self within us (the true Child of God) who has already survived traumas disastrously painful; Faith in our ability to let go of fear and let Love rule again ...

**Fourthly** & finally, our Souls are “**clothed**” not only by a fleshly body, but also by a radiant Spirit – and as such, this verse reminds us that it is always Wise to sacrifice the former to let the latter shine forth bright and true.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.

## *1 Corinthians 13:8 ... LOVE always Is*

(12/08/2016)

“Love never ends.”  
~ Paul (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Real unconditional Love only exists in the Here&Now; in this moment and this moment alone. As such, it is true indeed that it cannot ever “end” -- because it never need begin. Essentially, Love cannot ever “end” because Love always **IS** ...

And while it might be obvious to some, it is very important to understand that this verse says **LOVE**, not "lovers" – that it is Love itself that never ends, not the relationships that often serve as vehicles for the same. Indeed, relationships end all the time (always for the same, single reason: a lack of Love from one or more parties), and yet while relationships do end, the Love that is given during those interactions – by its very nature – cannot. For if we are choosing to Love, then we are choosing to focus solely on Giving the same to the other – and this, over & over & over again regardless of how he or she responds to the same. As such, as long as we are choosing to Love, our Love can never end.

In addition, every single Loving act we ever enliven emits an energy that can be neither stopped nor diminished nor destroyed – a rippling, glowing frequency that brings a measure of the harmonious to everything it touches as it radiates forever out into the Cosmos. And every sentient being touched by that Love passes at least a portion of it on to another – and they to another – and those to others; with each one of those myriad interactions booming a measure of its originating **LOVE** onward into eternity ... In this way, too, Love truly never ends.

*Amen* ... For it **IS** so.



## ***Luke 18:42 ... To Receive our Sight***

(12/09/2016)

“Receive your Sight; your Faith has saved you.”

~ Jesus (Luke 18:42)

There are a few important points to consider with this verse as well ...

**First**, note that the **Faith** that saves is the active, humble **Faith** that gently yet firmly dismisses its counterpart – mental, pious “faith.”

**Second**, note that turning mere “faith” into a verb (**Faith**) allows not only for salvation of the Soul, but clarity of the Self.

**Third**, note that any true Clarity of Vision (e.g. the ability to see the innate Goodness of Life; the ability to see the innate Goodness of others; the ability to see the innate Goodness of one’s Self & the Selves of others) is a profound manifestation of Salvation – at least in those moments when it inspires accordant action.

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



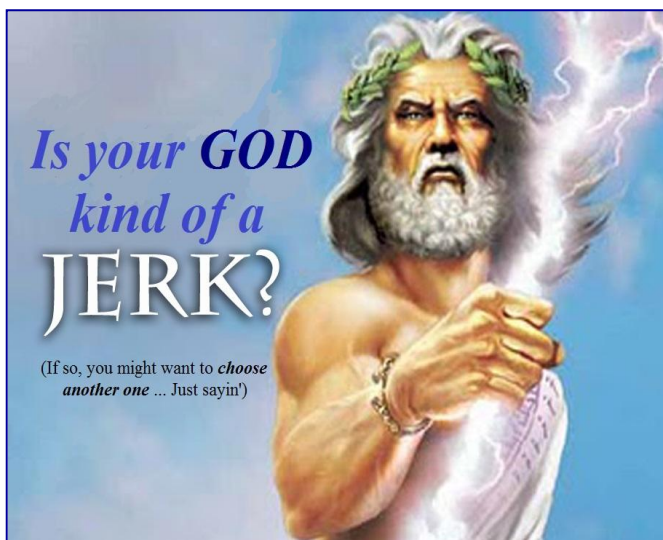
## *Acts 10:34-35 ... The non-partiality of God*

(12/10/2016)

“God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who respects Him and does what is Right is acceptable to Him.” ~ Luke (Acts 10:34-35)

Initially, it is important to remember the obvious (yet oft-forgotten) Truth that any god who is partial – i.e. any god who gives preferential treatment to one portion of his/her “subjects” over all the rest – is a god who is patently unworthy of our respect, much less our worship ... Of course, as Luke points out in this passage, the heavenly **Father** of Jesus Christ does not have this problem. Quite to the contrary, He is a God whose Love is perfect (**Matthew 5:48**), a God whose mercy is perfect (**Luke 6:36**), a God whose forgiveness is perfect (**Matthew 8:21-22**), and a God whose approach to sin knows nothing of partiality or punishment – much less any semblance of Hell or damnation (**1 John 4:18**). Indeed, even the words “**in every nation**” allude to the same, reflecting as they do the seventy “**nations**” that encompass **all** of humanity mentioned in **Genesis 10**.

In closing, please note as well that **all** who respect God and Do what is Right (a redundancy, of course, as the only way to Respect a Loving God *is* to do what is Right – and the only way to Do what is Right is to extend others that same, perfect Love) are accepted **as is** ... And please note as well that there is no mention of what happens to those who do not show this requisite respect. Indeed, this is quite appropriate for a verse speaking of a God who “**shows no partiality**”, as this verse is positively phrased; reflecting a godhead who is positively Loving towards those who choose to Love. As such, it can be implied here as well that anyone who feels rejected by God is actually experiencing a rejection of their own Soul by their own ego (due to a chosen absence of Love in their own chosen deeds) – **not** a rejection of a supposedly judgmental god showing partiality against the same.



"In meinem Auftrag?!  
Ich kenne die Typen gar nicht!!"

(Gott)

"In *my* Name?!?  
I don't even know those guys!"  
(God)

## ***Matthew 22:32 ... God of the Living***

(12/11/2016)

“He is God not of the dead, but of the living.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 22:32)

This verse harmonizes with Jesus’ view of God as an internal Here&Now essence ([John 14:20](#)) and also Jesus’ view of Heaven as an internal Here&Now experience ([Luke 17:20-21](#)) ... Indeed, this particular verse comes in a section of the Scriptures where Jesus is being asked by the Sadducees about the nature of resurrection and whether or not one may marry again in Heaven after death. Importantly, not only does Jesus state quite plainly that neither flesh-bound love (i.e. desirous lust) nor flesh-bound relationships (i.e. marriage) exist at all in his heavenly Kingdom, but he also notes that focusing on any potential post-mortem existence is false in and of itself – that *his* Kingdom of Heaven is ***already within*** all sentient beings in *this* lifetime (see [Matthew 3:2](#), [Matthew 10:7](#), [Mark 1:15](#), [Luke 10:9-11](#) et al), and that his heavenly **Father** -- the ruler thereof -- is quite logically therefore "a God of those still living, not of those who have already died.”



## *John 1:16 ... Grace upon Grace upon Grace* (12/12/2016)

“From His fullness we have all received,  
Grace upon Grace.” ~ unknown (John 1:16)

**First** & foremost, the illumination of this extremely in-Sight-full verse must begin with its encompassing chapter. For in truth, despite conservative Christians’ beliefs to the contrary, the author of **John 1** is **not** talking about Jesus Christ in its passages, but is rather referencing “*the Logos*” (Greek for “*the Word*” – see Strong’s #3056), which was and still remains the Divine Spark that resides within *all* sentient beings (a concept which would help explain Jesus’ self-deprecating humility of **Mark 10:18**, his claim that “*I am in you*” in **John 14:20**, and his seemingly outlandish belief that we too – all of us – will do “*greater things*” than he in **John 14:12**). And indeed this Truth is readily available when we re-read the entire passage in accordance with what was actually written, a re-read that sounds like this:

“In the beginning was the *Logos*, and the *Logos* was with God, and the *Logos* was God. It was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the *Logos*, and without it not one thing came into being. What has come into being through the *Logos* was life, and the life was the light of all people ... This true light, which lights up everyone, was coming into the world ... Indeed, from the *Logos*’ fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:1-16).

**Secondly**, the phrase “*grace upon grace*” bears deeper examination as well, for not only does it allude to the “Trinity of Grace” with which all sentient beings have been blessed (namely, the Grace of conscious self-awareness, the Grace of an internal moral compass, and the Grace of the free will required to enliven the latter using the former), but also alludes to the concept of “adjusted karma” – the seeming fact that we all receive half of the pain our selfish actions deserve and three times the Joy that our Good Deeds merit ... **Thirdly** & finally, it is worth noting that the “*fullness*” mentioned here – the essence of this “*Grace upon Grace*” with which we have all been blessed – is nothing more than pure & perfect LOVE; Love, the unconditional version thereof -- Love, the self-sacrificial manifestation thereof -- Love, the deed -- Love, the action -- Love, the verb.

*Amen* ... Let all recognize that it *is* so.



***Luke 21:19 ... To regain our Souls***  
(12/13/2016)

“By your endurance, you will regain your Souls.”  
~ Jesus (Luke 21:19)

First & foremost it is important to note that what many call the “Soul” is actually an innate facet of our conscious existence, and that as such it cannot ever be “missing” or “broken” or “damaged” or “stolen” ... Yes, our own self-centeredness does create an intellectual “fog” or “haze” between our awareness of that Soul and the unchangeable reality thereof, and it is also true that our own selfish &/or fearful choices end up layering a thick “sludge” of emotional memories &/or smearing a thick “tarnish” of addictive behaviors upon the outer shell of that Soul --- a “sludge” that keeps us from feeling the Soul’s ever-warm call to Love, and a “tarnish” that holds in that Soul’s radiance – a radiance that would otherwise be guiding others back to its glorious Light ...

And yet no matter how self-centered our defense mechanism might be, or how chronically selfish our actions might have become, our Soul remain just as large and just as radiant and just as perfect and just as pure within us as it was on the day of our conception – the day upon which we were first blessed to carry its pristine, internal glow. As such, it is by our endurance *in Loving others* that we regain a pure *connection* to our Soul, not regain our Souls themselves. For in every moment of perfect Love, the Soul is completely re-turned to us – cracking through the aforementioned “sludge” and burning through the afore-noted “tarnish” to give us a glimpse once more of the Child of God we have always been. Of course, the ego quickly closes back around that breach during our next, inevitable slip into sin -- which in turn allows us to choose self-sacrifice anew, and thereby choose anew to free the Soul therewith. And the more we make this selfless choice the more “sludge” is chipped away and the more “tarnish” is polished off, and thus the more smoothly and the more brightly our Soul re-shines

the next time Love is chosen ... So it is that the perfect brilliance that we completely free & fully enliven with every act of selfless Kindness glows a bit longer with each subsequent choosing.

And so it is that “by our endurance, we regain our Souls.”

*Amen* ... Let it be so.





## ***Psalms 16:11 ... The Path of Life***

(12/14/2016)

“You will show me the Path of Life;  
In your presence is the fullness of Joy.”  
~ unknown (Psalms 16:11)

Actually, it is not that God will one day show us “[the Path of Life](#)”, but rather that He has *already* done so – not that we will one day pray devoutly enough to be shown our “true Calling” or be led to “where we are supposed to be”, but rather that we will one day realize that both of these have *already* been supplied to us in full measure.

The “[presence](#)” mentioned here in this verse is not a religious devotion or a spiritual awareness, and it certainly is not a physical manifestation of the Essence many call “[God](#)” (floating down on some shimmering cloud to speak to us directly and tell us exactly where we are to go and exactly what we are to do once we arrive there ... After all, any God worth worshiping must be composed of Love, and issuing commands while demanding obedience is not LOVE!) ... No the “[presence](#)” mentioned here is the God we can in any moment choose to See *in the other*, just as the “[fullness of Joy](#)” mentioned here is the sheer Bliss that comes to those who have the humility to See those others in this way – and the Courage to then *act accordingly*.

“[Love your neighbor as yourself](#)” is a fully non-functioning edict when applied from a self-centered point of view – as there will always be a smattering of hope for reciprocation hovering over the foundation of any such “good deed” ...

No, we are **not** to love our neighbors as we ourselves wish to be loved. Instead, we are to devoutly Love our neighbors (especially strangers & our enemies) in a way representative of our True Selves – In essence, we are to Love them as if they were God Himself. For *that* is “[the Path of Life](#)” – the only Path that brings with it the true breadth of Peace and the true fullness of Joy.



## ***Mark 3:34-35 ... A real Reunion***

(12/15/2016)

“And looking at those who sat around him, he said: Here are my mother & my brothers. Whoever does the Will of God is my brother & my sister & my mother.”

~ Jesus (Mark 3:34-35)

This passage speaks to the Truth that, once the selfless Way is chosen, all sentient beings become full & literal members of one's intimate Greater Family – and are “automatically” treated as such ... Just as importantly, it is our active treatment of others (especially strangers & our enemies) as such Family members that allows us to walk that same Way – that actually becomes the essence of that greatest of Walks.

Note as well that it is not enough to treat those previously seen as “less than” like Soulmates – we must also treat all those previously known as “more than” as equals. Indeed, we cannot immerse ourselves into the lives of associates or strangers or enemies or competitors (an immersion that – again – is absolutely necessary to walk The Way of Christ) until we consciously “cut ties” with all friends and family members who would hold us back from the same (a Truth that sheds light upon Jesus' relatively enigmatic “[Get behind me Satan](#)” of [Matthew 16:23](#)) ... We are not to cut off our Love for them, of course, but are rather to boldly & openly sever all previously affirmed obligations & all previously made promises & all previously bound commitments, as well as to clearly & unequivocally dismantle all the hopes and expectations and dreams that those folks might have developed related to us ...

Love must be free to be spontaneous & full, and Love must be spontaneous & full to **BE** at all.

Now our past friends and originating family members will in all likelihood not understand this Truth, of course – and will more likely than not try and keep the newly Awakened Soul “in their place”; to keep us from Caring for the downtrodden, to keep us from befriending mutual enemies; to keep us from treating others just as wonderfully as the special ways they were fond of being exclusively treated before. And they will rant and rail against the concept of the Greater Family, because to accept the same is not only to feel themselves “lowered” (in actuality all others have simply been “raised”), but also to be Called to do the same – Called to live just as dangerously and stroll through crowds of foreigners just as intimately. They will not wish to do this, and so far more often than not must be hugged and sent on their other, far more limited ways.

In addition, it is well to note that there is indeed a special fondness that blossoms between those rare few who do choose to Live the selfless life and do choose to walk the selfless Way and embody the selfless Truth. This doesn't mean that we need show such people more frequent expressions of Love or that we necessarily spend more time with them than others (for this is the trap of ease & comfort into which the unenlightened fall) ... No, while the bond between all "fellow Saints" will be one both knowing and strong, and while these radiant others will on occasion enJoy each other's company, they will more readily send each other on their respective ways; knowing that theirs is primarily a Life tread most potently when alone – knowing that there are 7+ billion other Souls on the planet in need of Awakening, and that many more of those still-sleeping can be reached & awakened if the few who are already shining disperse as widely as possible amongst them.



## ***1 Corinthians 1:25 ... The foolishness of God***

(12/16/2016)

“God’s foolishness is wiser than human knowledge, and God’s weakness is stronger than human might.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 1:25)

While Paul is quite obviously making a standard case for the over-arching superiority (indeed, the authoritarian omnipotence) of his external, “judge and jury from on high” god, there is a far deeper (and indeed, far more practical) interpretation of this verse available -- *if* we choose to read it from Jesus’ point of view ... You see, Jesus had a far more intimate relationship with his “**heavenly Father**” – an all-Loving Essence that was more *within* than “above”; was far more guide than regulator; was far more friend than adjudicator; was far more companion than overlord (see [Mark 14:36](#) & [John 14:20-26](#) et al) ... And this *internal* God – of one and the same make as our own Soul – only wants the following two things:

- A)** for us to remember that all is One, &
- B)** for us to thereafter act accordingly.

And it is for this reason that this far greater God is indeed "**wiser than human knowledge**" (the latter of which would rather separate “friend” from “foe” and “devotee” from “heretic”).

In addition, this internal God knows quite well that selfless Kindness is the greatest Power in the Universe, and that as such it is willing vulnerability is our only effective self-defense. And it is for this reason first & foremost that this God is indeed “**stronger than all human might**” -- the latter of which ever seeks to judge or confine or control or destroy, while the greater God of Christ only responds with Kindness & Freedom & Acceptance & Love.



## ***1 Corinthians 7:15 ... Called to Peace***

(12/17/2016)

“It is to Peace that God has called us.”

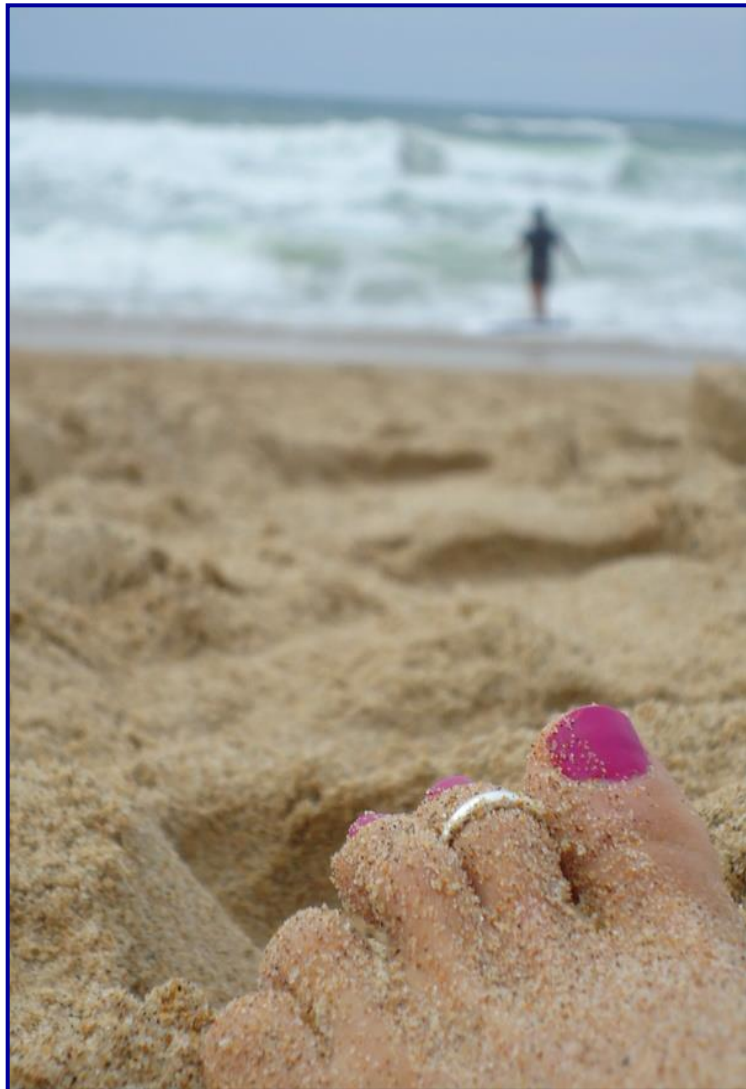
~ Paul (1 Corinthians 7:15)

In this verse Paul (as was so often the case) is actually speaking of bringing the “peace” of comfort and the “peace” of convenience to his audience (in this case first telling his listeners they should avoid divorcing their marriage partners, and yet then essentially excusing divorce in almost the same breath immediately thereafter) ... That having been said – and while duly noting that it is indeed a Good Thing to ameliorate all conflict that exists between individuals, groups, &/or even nations – two important points need to be raised:

**A)** It is *not* a Good Thing to ease any conflict via any form of compromise (certainly not a compromises of one’s basic values or moral foundations – as Paul himself was often wont to do &/or encourage), and ...

**B)** Jesus was almost always *not* speaking of Paul’s “peace” in the Gospels, but was instead affirming the deeper, more profound, and far more transformative **PEACE** that comes from treating the opponent as a Soulmate; from Giving to the stranger as a loved one, and from Loving the enemy as a Friend (see [Matthew 5:40-44](#), [Matthew 11:28-30](#), [John 14:27](#) & [John 16:33](#) et al).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



## ***John 6:53-58 ... Communing with Communion*** (12/18/2016)

“Blessed are You, Lord our God; source of the Universe, who creates the fruits of the Vine and of the Earth.” ~ Jewish blessing\*

This blessing is actually a combination of two of the four blessings traditionally said before every Jewish Shabbat meal – honoring God and giving thanks to Him for the sustenance provided ... Of course, it is certainly no accident that I just “happened” to focus on these two of the four – the two that just happened to focus on **bread & wine**; the two forms of sustenance that Jesus just happened to primarily focus upon himself during his ministry – the two forms of sustenance that for many in Jesus’ day (including Jesus himself) represented the unconditional Divine Love within us all (**wine** – see [Matthew 9:17](#), [Matthew 26:27-28](#), [Mark 14:23-24](#), [Luke 22:17-20](#), [John 2:1-11](#) et al) and the self-sacrificial acts of Caring that enlivened the same (**bread** – see [Matthew 6:11](#), [Matthew 26:26](#), [Luke 22:19](#), [Luke 24:30](#), [John 6:33-35](#), [John 6:48-51](#), [John 21:13](#) et al).

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



*\*Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech haolam borey p'ree Hagafen ...  
Baruch atah Adonai elohaynu melech haolam borey p'ree Haadama.*

“Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh [the 'bread' of selfless service] and drink my blood [the 'wine' of selfless LOVE] have eternal life [see [John 13:15-17](#)], and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them [see [John 14:20](#) & [John 15:12](#)]. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ~ Jesus Christ ([John 6:53-58](#))

## **Mark 9:40 ... For & Against**

(12/19/2016)

“Whoever is not against us is for Us.”

~ Jesus (Mark 9:40)

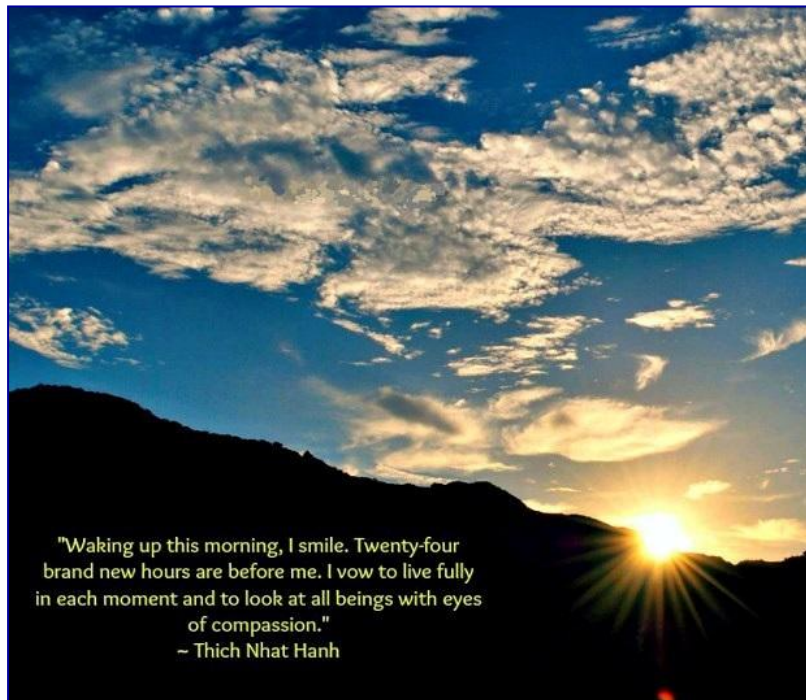
This verse reflects a most intriguing biblical conundrum, for while Jesus here claims that everyone who is not directly opposing him is his ally, [Matthew 12:30](#) flips this saying on its head and has Jesus claiming that everyone who is not actively supporting him is his enemy ... And while this seeming contradiction could be written off as simple author-error (the author of [Matthew](#) wrote his gospel many years after the [Gospel of Mark](#), used that original Gospel as his primary inspiration, and often altered its contents to suit his own aims), it is also possible that Jesus was using these two very different sayings to communicate two very different Truths to two very different audiences about two very different subjects ...

Please consider the following facts:

\***First**, in [Mark 9](#) Jesus is speaking to his disciples about a man who is “inappropriately” using Jesus’ name while intending to do great good for others – fulfilling the essence of Jesus’ Way of Love and thus meriting support instead of condemnation, and ...

\***Second**, in [Matthew 12](#) -- conversely, Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees (his religious enemies) either literally of internal demons or figuratively of the internal ego – both of which must indeed be cast aside for any True Self to shine forth and walk the selfless Way of Love. All three of these forces (i.e. religious zealots, tempting demons, & the self-fixated ego) are indeed always against the blossoming of Self – and thus are ever & always “against us” us well (see [Matthew 12:22-32](#)).

This analysis might very well explain why the author of the [Gospel of Luke](#) included *both* of these sayings in his tome (see [Luke 9:50](#) & [Luke 11:23](#)), something he would not have done had they in any way actually contradicted one another.



***Luke 9:23-24 ... To take up our Cross***  
(12/20/2016)

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their Cross and emulate me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for the sake of the Good News will find it.”

~ Jesus (Luke 9:23-24)

Here are a few important notes about this verse ...

**Firstly**, note that Jesus is giving advice on how to become his “followers” (i.e. active emulators) **not** his worshipers (i.e. those evincing mere verbal reverence &/or those harboring mere emotional homage) ... **Secondly**, note as well that Jesus is **not** encouraging a focusing upon his crucifixion here, but rather is referencing the Truth that a purposeful denial of self must come before anyone takes up their cross (i.e. the unique calls to self-sacrificial service that we must all engage in order to enter his “Kingdom of Heaven” – see [Luke 17:20-21](#) & [John 13:15-17](#) et al) ... **Thirdly**, note in closing that it is **not** merely “niceness” or “friendliness” or “good deeds” that qualify for Jesus – but rather services that are so selfless they cross over into willingly Joy-full self-sacrifice for the other.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.





## **Mark 5:36 ... To only Believe**

(12/21/2016)

“Do not fear; only Believe.”

~ Jesus (Mark 5:36)

It is once again crucial to remember that the word "**Believe**" for Jesus was a *verb* -- that he wanted us not to mentally believe in him or even intellectually believe in his teachings, but rather to *actively* Believe (i.e. to emulate – or as he himself often said, to "*follow*") his Way of Love ... And hence his frequent call for us to abandon our fear, seeing as how fear & Love cannot co-exist – either in our current materially interactive plane (see [Matthew 6:34](#), [John 14:27](#) et al) or on the spiritually intra-active plane that accompanies it (see [1 John 4:18](#)).

As such, the only way to truly *follow* The Way of Christ is first and foremost to set aside one's fears – or, better stated, to be deathly afraid of Loving, and yet to dismantle that fear by choosing to reach out and *Love others anyway*.



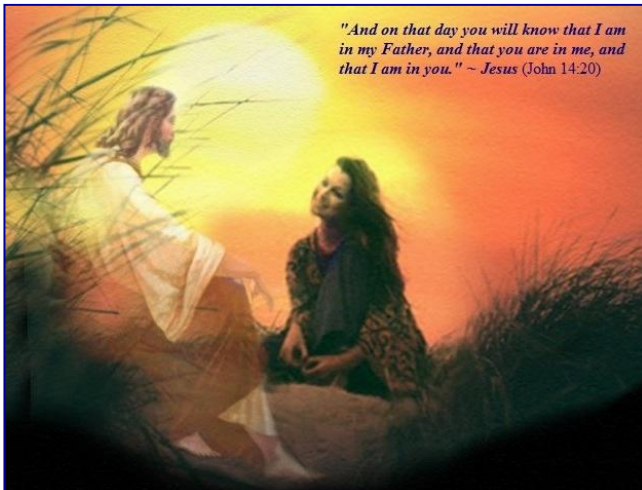
## ***John 16:22-23 ... To See Him again***

(12/22/2016)

“I will See You again, and your Heart will rejoice, and no one will be able to take your Joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me.” ~ Jesus (John 16:22-23)

On the one hand, most Christians believe that the “I will see you again” in this passage refers to Jesus literally returning from the dead after his imminent crucifixion (a la the “2nd Coming” errantly alluded to in the book of [Revelation](#)), and if this verse had been written or uttered by Paul, that belief would actually have merit ... *And yet* this statement does **not** come from Paul -- it comes from Jesus Christ, a man who championed a very different view of Salvation (see [John 13:15-17](#)), a very different view of Joy (see [John 15:11](#) & [John 16:24](#) et al), a very different view of Heaven (see [Luke 17:20-21](#)), and a very different view of God (see [Matthew 5:48](#) & [Luke 6:36](#) et al) ... Indeed, if we look to the evidence of the Gospels themselves, we can see quite clearly that Jesus is in all probability speaking quite literally here – that he had in all likelihood already planned his own crucifixion, and as such knew quite well that he would be literally exiting his specially prepared tomb and would be literally visiting with his disciples again in secret thereafter (all of which did indeed take place – see [Luke 24:36-49](#) & [John 20:19-31](#)).

In addition, this verse speaks to the remarkable Faith that Jesus had in his disciples – and the remarkable Faith that he had in his Way; that even after all their repetitive ignorance and frequent bouts of bickering and fear and selfishness, he still believed that his followers would be able to truly “get it” once he departed (and once they could no longer incorrectly focus on him &/or their hopes for him being “the Messiah”, and could instead focus on his teachings and emulating the same) ... For if they were to do so – if they were to finally set aside their individual fears and personal desires long enough to set his selfless Way in motion, then they would indeed have finally come to understand what he had been teaching them all along. They would have indeed finally “gotten it”, and as such would have indeed no



longer needed to ask anything of Jesus – and indeed, no one would have been able to take their Joy from them (a Joy that would certainly not come from receiving rewards in “heaven” after their deaths, but rather a Joy that would be coming *from within* them – from the fulfillment of the endless opportunities ever-present to serve others in need – see [Matthew 18:3-4](#) & [Matthew 25:35-40](#) et al).

***Amen*** ... Let it be so for us all.

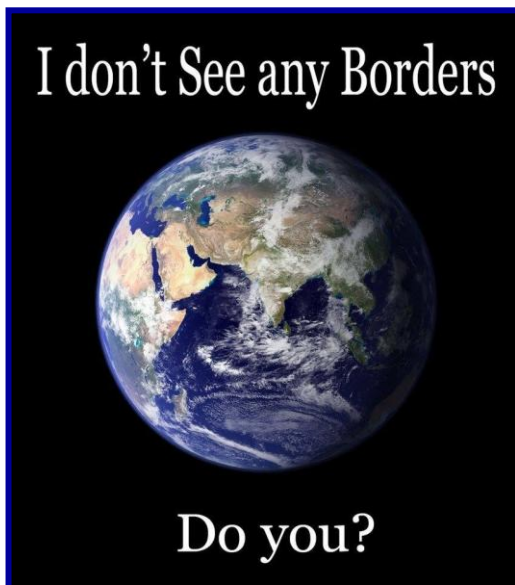
**Acts 17:26 ... All nations – one Blood**  
(12/23/2016)

“God hath made of one blood all the nations of men.”  
~ Luke (Acts 17:26)

Keep in mind that Jesus is here once again referencing Humanity’s innate Oneness (with “nations” alluding to all of humanity – the 70 “nations” mentioned in Genesis 10 that Jesus also alluded to in his “forgive 70 times 7 times” admonition of Matthew 8:21-22). In essence, with this verse he is in-Courage-ing us all to treat even our vilest of enemies like our most beloved of Friends (see Matthew 5:40-44 & Luke 10:29-37 et al) ... And note as well that he is doing so not only by mentioning our innate bond of being members of humanity’s single collective of “nations”, but also by mentioning our common bond of “one blood”; the same “blood” that he often mentioned to refer to the selfless Love that resides in all our sentient Souls (see Matthew 26:27-28, John 6:53-57, Hebrews 9:12-14, 1 John 5:6 et al) – the single, human bloodline that binds us all into one Great Family, and the “one blood” that ever calls for us to act accordingly.



*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***Thomas 1:81 ... Renouncing to Reap***

(12/24/2016)

“Let all who have power renounce it.”

~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 81)

Keep in mind that Jesus is speaking here of the primal, self-focused, non-capitalized “power” of the ego – the “power” we have to manipulate others with our dishonesty; the “power” we have to harm others with our aggression; the “power” we have to frighten others with our threats; the “power” we have to sadden others with our criticisms; the “power” we have to anger others with our insults ... We all have this damaging (and ultimately counterproductive) “power” at our disposal, and it is indeed impossible to Love others selflessly (the source of our only true Power) until we willingly renounce the same.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



*"To replace the current paradigm of waging war with a new paradigm of waging peace, we must each become pioneers; pioneers who push the boundaries of human behavior ... We must become doctors who seek to cure the virus of violence. We must become reverends who do more than merely preach to the choir. We must become teachers of forgiveness who lead by example. We must become soldiers who conquer by refusing to fight ... In essence, we must each become artists; visionaries who every single day remake the world again & again & again into a masterpiece of Oneness & Harmony."*

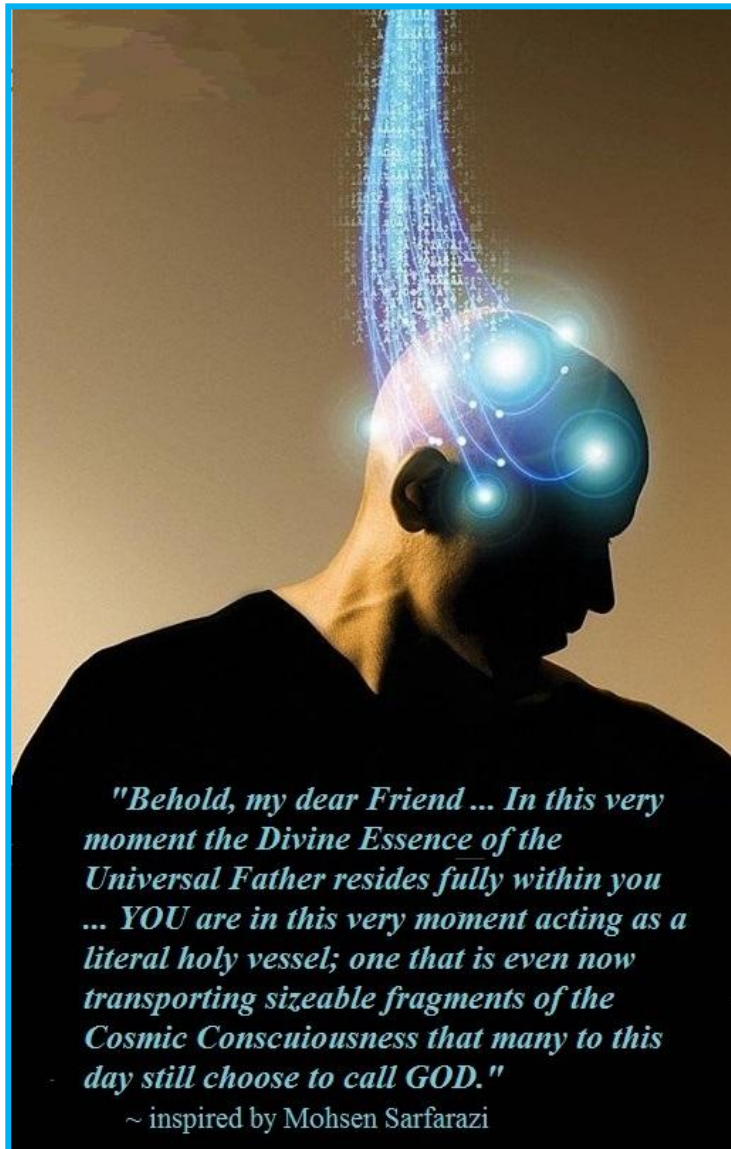
~ inspired by Paul Chappell

## ***John 10:30 ... The ONEness we Are*** (12/25/2016)

“The Father and I are ONE.”  
~ Jesus (John 10:30)

Yes, Jesus was indeed referring to himself as a Divine Being in this verse, and yet **not** in the sense most commonly (and most conservatively) believed ... For he was most certainly **not** equating himself with God (see [Matthew 19:17](#), [John 5:22](#), [John 5:30](#), [John 8:26-28](#), [John 8:42](#), [John 12:49](#), [John 13:3](#), & [John 14:28](#)), and he was most certainly **not** implying that he had been Divine since his birth (see [John 8:40](#), [Acts 2:22](#), [Acts 17:31](#), & [1 Timothy 2:5](#)), and he was also most certainly **not** clamoring to be worshipped by his followers (see [Mark 10:18](#), [John 5:41](#), [John 7:16](#), [John 8:50-54](#), & [John 12:44](#) et al) ... No, as Jesus told his listeners elsewhere in the Scriptures with both regularity and vehemence (a la [John 10:37-38](#), [John 14:20-26](#), & [John 15:26](#)), he was indeed reflecting the Essence of God in every moment he chose to “Love anyway” – a choice we can **all** make, and thus a Divine Reflection we can **all** choose to embody whenever we wish (see [John 14:11-20](#) & [Hebrews 4:15](#) et al) ... Yes, Jesus *was* One with the Father during the vast majority of his selfless ministry, **and** it is just as possible for us to become similarly One with the heavenly Father as well – in every moment we choose to act accordingly (see [John 13:15-17](#) et al).

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



***Matthew 6:19-24 ... Storing Treasure in Heaven***  
(12/26/2016)

***It takes a special kind of charlatan to get filthy rich by selling clients an invisible product that they cannot hope to see until after they die for 10% of their gross income -- all while paying no taxes.***

**Life Tip:** If your preacher or pastor is significantly wealthier than the poorest member of your community, then he (or she) is definitely ***not*** a true Man of God.



"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal ... For where your treasure is, there your Heart will be also ... You cannot serve both God and money ... If you want to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and then you will have Treasure in Heaven."

~ ***Jesus Christ*** (Matthew 6:19-24 + Matthew 19:21)

## ***Luke 21:26-27 ... Coming in a Cloud of Glory***

(12/27/2016)

“The Powers of the Heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud of Power and radiance (Glory).” ~ Jesus (Luke 21:26-27)

It is assumed by many Christians that this passage is speaking about Jesus’ ominous “2nd Coming”; that mythical time when he will descend from the sky in wrath & judgment – raising up the few that are “worthy” into Heaven, and casting out the many who are “damned” into the depths of Hell below ... Of course, as Jesus himself noted on many an occasion in the Gospels, he believed nothing of the sort. You see, for Jesus the “**Kingdom of Heaven**” was an *internal* state of being (see [Luke 17:20-21](#) & [Matthew 10:7](#) et al) and for Jesus the “**Power**” of that Heaven was the perfect Love of his heavenly Father (see [Matthew 5:40-44](#) & [Matthew 19:26](#) & [Luke 1:37](#) et al) ... As such, “**the Powers of Heaven are shaken**” in all those moments when we witness others neglecting the needy in favor of reaching out to serve them -- or attacking their enemies instead of openly forgiving them -- or ridiculing their opponents instead of extending them acts of Kindness. And it is in just such moments of intense discomfort & fear – moments when Love is both blatantly available and desperately needed, and yet remains hidden & unenlivened – that “**the Son of Man**” is inspired to come in a “**cloud of power & radiance**” (see also [Matthew 8:20](#), [Matthew 9:6](#), [Matthew 16:28](#), [Matthew 20:28](#), [Matthew 26:64](#) et al); phrasing that means *either* that it is the ego’s self-centered “**Son of Man**” that clouds the Soul’s impulse to supply the Love being neglected, *or* that the same “**Son of Man**” is in such moments inspired to blossom forth in a cloud of radiant glory – shining brightly through all fear & desire while lovingly doing for the other what our ego would have us not.



## ***2 Peter 2:19 ... Slaves to submission***

(12/28/2016)

“People are slaves to whatever they submit.”

~ unknown (2 Peter 2:19)

What is most important to realize about this verse is that it relates to much more than merely the commonly criticized “sinful” addictions of alcohol, illegal drugs, cigarettes, &/or sex ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to fatty foods, sugar, &/or caffeine (**Solution:** Have some Self-Respect, one moment at a time) ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to talking superficially, watching television, checking in on social media, gathering information online, and all other forms of “being connected” at the expense of any real & daring forms of Intimacy (**Solution:** Reach out to strangers, one moment at a time) ...



\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to comfort, ease, sloth, &/or relaxation (**Solution:** Serve your surroundings, one moment at a time) ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to gluttony, greed, hoarding, and “success” (**Solution:** Give to others; Giving three times as much as one buys or obtains or receives – doing so one day at a time, and doing so every day; until what one “owns” becomes no more than what one truly needs) ...



\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to drama, romance, beauty, and safety (**Solution:** Spend more time alone than with loved ones , and more time with strangers than alone) ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to callousness, arrogance, criticism, negativity, envy, and regret (**Solution:** Repetitively express a radical Gratitude for everything that IS, one moment at a time) ...



\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to sadness, seriousness, anger, and fear (**Solution:** Remember to be Joy-full, one moment at a time) ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addiction to animal abuse (be that abuse confinement, cuckoldry, &/or consumption – **Solution:** *Go Vegan*, one moment at a time) ...

\*It relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to nationalism, conflict, politics, and religion (**Solution:** Befriend an enemy every day, one day at a time) ...



\*And it relates just as well to all those who are enslaved by their addictions to feelings of resignation, hopelessness, meaninglessness, and despair (**Solution:** Get up, get out there, and get busy Loving – one moment at a time).



## ***1 Corinthians 10:23-24 ... Seeking to build UP***

(12/29/2016)

“All things are lawful, but not all things build up.  
Do not seek your own advantage, but rather that of the other.”  
~ Paul (1 Corinthians 10:23-24)

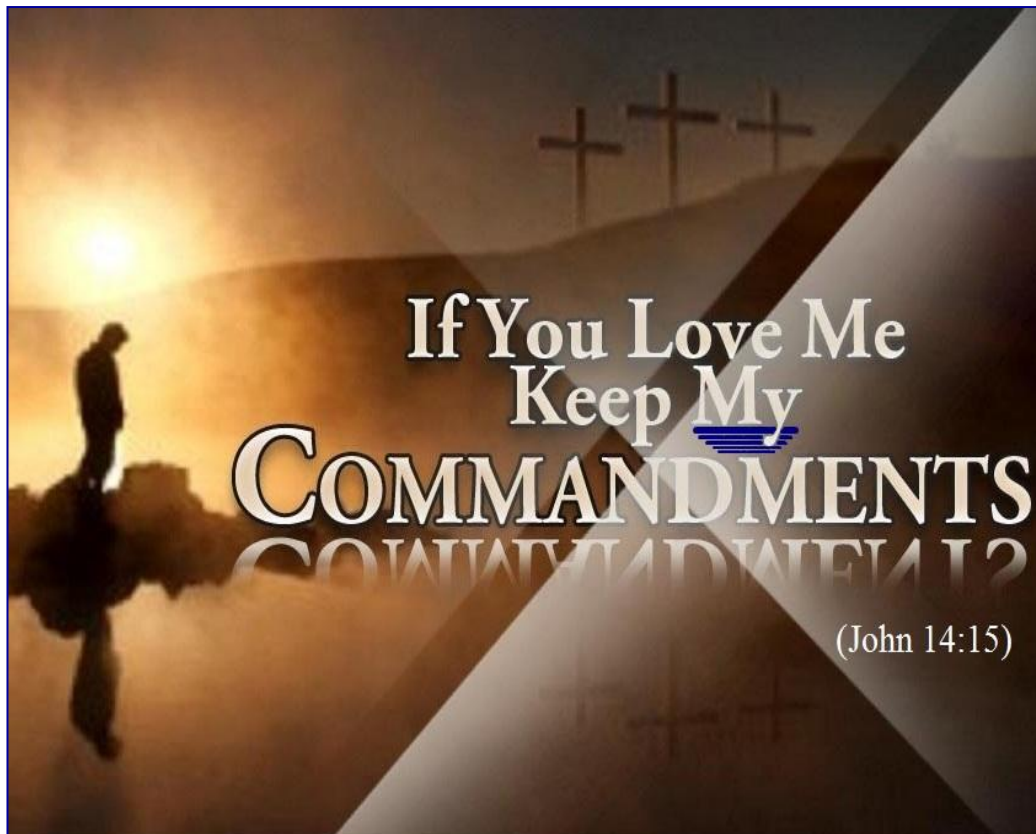
This passage provides a deep-seated conundrum if there ever was one. On the one hand it speaks to a Great Truth – namely, the Truth that man-made laws are essentially irrelevant to the truly Good Man; that we are not to do what is lawful, but rather what is Right – not to follow the mere whims and fancies of cultural norms or the vacuous expectations of others who are “in power”, but are instead to engage only those deeds that can sincerely be expected to bear the Good Fruit of Peace for one’s community &/or Joy for others nearby ... Of course, on the other hand, this verse seems on its face to violate one of the Great Truths of Christ – namely, the Truth that we are to abide fully in “**The Law**”; right down to the faintest “**jot or title**” thereof (see [Matthew 5:17-18](#)) ...

And yet this conundrum actually creates no paradox at all, and certainly provides no contradiction – for “**The Law**” mentioned by Jesus has absolutely nothing to do with the laws of humankind (“**Give to the Emperor what is the Emperor’s and to God what is God’s**” ~ Jesus in [Matthew 22:21](#)), and in fact does not even pertain to any strict observance of the 613 religious laws found in the Old Testament. For in fact, Jesus made it exceedingly clear throughout his ministry that he came not to affirm those religious edicts, but rather to “**fulfill**” them – with the word translated in English Bibles as “**fulfill**” being the Greek word *pleroo* (Strong’s #4137); a word which actually means “**to hone**” or “**to perfect**” or “**to bring to completion.**” And this is exactly what Jesus did throughout his ministry: openly critiquing the vast majority of those 613 Old Testament edicts – constraining the ones that were too aggressive (e.g. [Matthew 5:38-41](#), [Matthew 9:14-15](#), [Matthew 12:31](#), [Matthew 16:6-12](#), [Matthew 19:29](#) et al), staunchifying the ones that were too lax (e.g. [Matthew 5:21-22](#), [Matthew 7:15-20](#), [Matthew 19:11-12](#) et al), and even outright dismantling &/or completely dismissing the ones that were immoral, irrelevant, &/or outdated (e.g. [Matthew 6:16-18](#), [Matthew 8:3](#), [Matthew 9:12-13](#), [Matthew 11:20-24](#), [Matthew 12:1](#) et al).

Essentially, Jesus did this to make sure that the people did as Paul was apparently advocating they do in this passage – namely, what was Righteous instead of merely what was demanded by law; what was Good instead of merely what was required by regulation; what was Kind instead of merely doing what was obligated by cultural norm or convention.

And, unlike Paul, Jesus did so to encourage his listeners to seek not a personal advantage by avoiding trouble with the authorities &/or giving the least acceptable amount to others (and thereby keeping as much as could be justified for oneself), but rather to in-Courage us all to maximize the benefit of the other by ignoring legal proscriptions that prohibited the same &/or giving above & beyond what was expected by rule or regulation (see [Matthew 5:38-42](#) – where we are asked by Jesus to go the second mile, turn the other cheek, and give not only our tunic, but our cloak as well).

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



***"And this is my Commandment: That you Love one another. Indeed, just as I have Loved you, so too are you to Love one another." ~ Jesus (John 15:12)***

## ***Luke 23:34 ... Knowing not what they Do***

(12/30/2016)

“Father, forgive them ...  
They know not what they do.”  
~ Jesus (Luke 23:34)

On the one hand this verse implies that ignorance is an excuse for actions that cause unintended harm to others, and to a degree this is indeed the case – for consequences are not tied to what is done nearly as stringently as to **why** what is done is done (e.g. it is not as egregious to accidentally kill an animal as it is to intentionally kill and eat one) ... That having been said, Jesus need not have given this pleading to God; for his **Father** is clearly a God of perfect Love (**Matthew 5:48**), a God who does not condemn (**Luke 6:36**), a God who always forgives (**Matthew 8:21-22**), and a God who never punishes (**1 John 4:18**). As such, we are left to wonder why Jesus would utter this statement at all – and one of the more probable reasons is that he wasn’t pleading to God directly, but rather was speaking *in the direction of God*; by speaking directly *to those listening* nearby. For it was **they** who did not have his (or his heavenly Father’s) perfect understanding of Love, and it was thus **they** who might very well have needed an extra incentive to not lash out in condemnation against those who had placed Jesus on the cross ... And this explanation becomes especially probable when we re-realize that it was Jesus himself who orchestrated his entire crucifixion; that he was the one who pre-planned the entire event. And as such, it makes even more



**Forgiveness** becomes real ...  
when **Repentance** becomes a *verb*.

sense that he would not want anyone to unnecessarily suffer merely for helping him carry out his own final, ultimate teaching – his ultimate exposition of The Way of Joy-full self-sacrifice. And hence, his loud crying out of **Psalm 22:1** as his cue to drink the intoxicating draught, to *voluntarily* “**give up his Spirit**” (the Greek *apheken to pneuma* in **Matthew 27:50**), to be taken to a freshly cut tomb, to exit that unguarded tomb that evening, and to appear secretly to his disciples thereafter -- before finally setting forth & heading east with the rising sun.

## ***Matthew 24:2 ... All will be thrown down***

(12/31/2016)

“Truly, I tell You, not one stone will be left here upon the other;  
all will be thrown down.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 24:2)

This verse contains three primary implications of note: **Initially**, it is a general reference to the latent impermanence of all moments and all matter within them (in a similar vein to the Buddhist beliefs about the same – beliefs which were already popular along the Silk Road that connected Judea & China in Jesus’ day, and thus beliefs with which Jesus was almost certainly familiar) ... **Secondly**, it also alludes to the overall inevitability of the collapse of religious dogma. Not only was this collapse foretold in the Old Testament scriptures (scriptures with which Jesus was quite familiar – see [Isaiah 54:10](#), also [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)), but it was also a collapse easily predictable to anyone having Jesus’ level of understanding of human sociology & the human psyche ... **Thirdly**, it is also a specific reference to what Jesus’ imminent crucifixion would do to the Jewish religious structures of his day.

**NOTE** as well that Jesus quite obviously did *not* anticipate the magnitude of Paul's subsequent missionary work – neither the magnitude of Paul's lack of comprehension of The Way of Christ, nor the magnitude with which Paul was able to spread his “false gospel” during his life, nor the magnitude with



which a large portion of humanity would then go on to cling to Paul's gospel and thereby reject Jesus' own “[Good News](#)” ... Maybe Jesus was simply naïve in this regard – or maybe he simply had a far greater Faith in his message and in humanity overall. Either way, he quite obviously drastically overestimated the ability of humans to choose Love over fear -- at least as far as present day religious dogma is concerned. But then again, we are still a very young species, and we are currently behaving in a manner that is rapidly bringing on a mass extinction event that will undoubtedly “[throw down](#)” the majority of all we have built so far, and the majority of those “[left behind](#)” will undoubtedly be forced to learn from our current mistakes if they are to survive at all. So maybe we will wake up to Jesus' Way of Selfless Love after all -- Maybe it will simply take a bit longer than Jesus originally thought.

## ***Thomas 1:10 ... Guarding the Fire***

(01/01/2017)

“I have cast Fire on the world and, look –  
I am guarding It until It blazes.”  
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 10)

First & foremost it is crucial to realize that “fire” for Jesus had nothing to do with punishment or “karma” or retribution of any kind – that “fire” for Jesus was a purifying, cleansing agent; something uncomfortable but ultimately Peace-bringing; something to be courageously embraced, not something torturous and awful to be feared or avoided (see [Jeremiah 20:9](#), [Luke 3:16](#), [Luke 12:49](#), [Hebrews 12:28-29](#), [Thomas 1:10](#), & [Thomas 1:13](#) et al) ... Indeed, for a world steeped in material lusts and emotional fears, the only “fire” that could “burn” deeply enough to cleanse the same must be a psycho-spiritual one – and in order to succeed, it must (like any effective cleanser) apply the opposite force to the discord it is attempting to expunge.

The world is soaked in the suffering that comes from attaching to material things and the desire that comes from the same. As such, the only “fire” that can cleanse such dysfunctional hoarding is the **Fire** of selfless Giving ... Similarly, the world is soaked in the suffering that comes from fear – attacking enemies, shunning strangers, holding grudges against those who have wronged us, protecting ourselves from potential threats and hidden attacks. And as such, the only “fire” that can purify such primal selfishness is the **Fire** of unconditional LOVE ... It can thus come as no surprise that selfless Giving and unconditional Love are the primary planks of Jesus' Way, Jesus' Truth, and Jesus' Life (see [Matthew 22:37-40](#), [Matthew 25:35-40](#), [John 13:15-17](#) et al).



In closing, please note that Jesus does not say here that he will be spreading the fire himself, but rather that he will be “**guarding it**” until it blazes on its own (i.e. teaching that Way by demonstrating it; and doing so until others see that Way, and then choose freely to emulate that Way -- thereby spreading the **Fire** of Love *themselves* throughout the world).

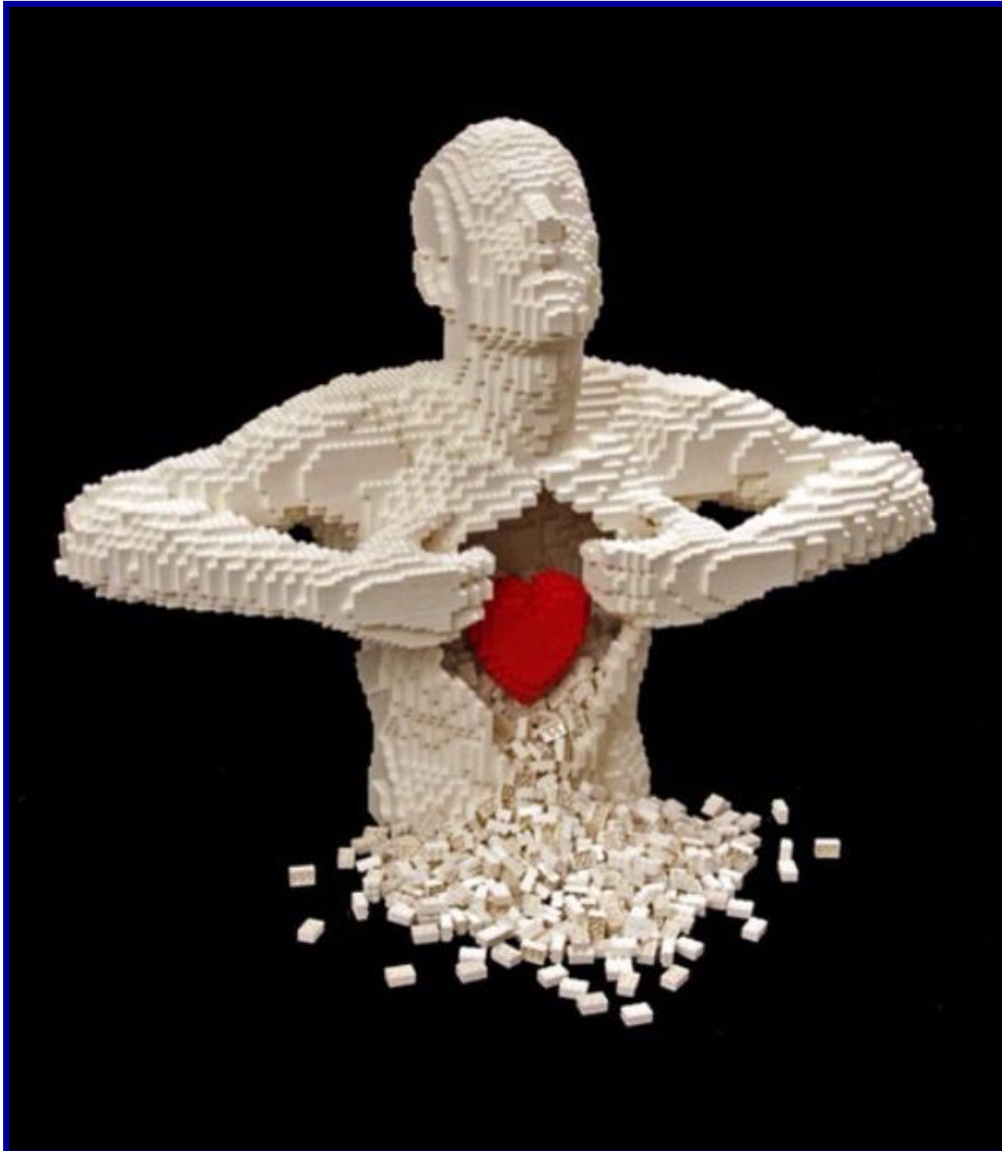
**Amen** ... Let it be so.

## ***1 John 2:14 ... The Word within***

(01/02/2017)

“You are strong, and the Word of God abides within you.”  
~ unknown (1 John 2:14)

It is extremely important to note here that we are strong not *because* the Word of God (which is unconditional Love – see [Matthew 5:40-44](#), [John 7:38](#), [Hebrews 4:12](#), [1 John 4:7-8+16](#)) abides within us (though it does indeed abide within us – see [John 14:15-20](#)), but rather we are strong whenever we have the courage to boldly actualize that same Word (see [Matthew 25:35-40](#), [John 14:12](#), [John 12:47](#), [Romans 8:28](#) et al). Indeed, we are truly Strong only in those moments when we purely Love others anyway, and thereby *become* the Word of God.



## ***Acts 2:21 ... Calling on the Name of the Lord***

(01/03/2017)

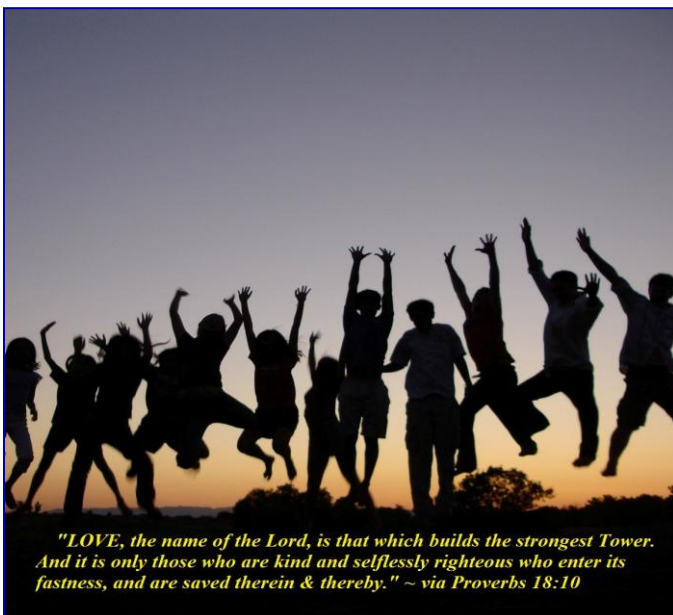
“Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.”

~ Luke (Acts 2:21)

Please note first & foremost that the meaning of this verse depends on what is meant by “[the name of the Lord](#),” and as such, please consider the following quite important points: **First**, if by “[the name of the Lord](#)” one means God Himself, it is crucial to remember that the specific name of God was never once revealed in the Bible\* – meaning that to “[call on the Name of the Lord](#)” is essentially to call upon The Great Mystery; to humble one’s self before the Great Unknowable – which is indeed a pre-requisite to the acts of purely selfless service that “saves the Soul” thereafter (see [Matthew 18:3-4](#)) ... **Second**, if by “[the name of the Lord](#)” one means Jesus Christ, it is crucial to remember that the English name Jesus actually started out as the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* (essentially meaning “[God is our Guide](#)”), and later became the Aramaic *Yeshua* (which meant “[He will save](#)” -- see also [Matthew 1:21](#) “you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”).

**Third**, in [Matthew 1:22-23](#) we read that Jesus' name of origin is actually *Emmanuel* -- a name which meant “[God is with\(in\) us](#)”; meaning that to “[call on the Name of the Lord](#)” in this sense is to call on the *internal* Advocate that resides within all sentient beings (see [John 14:20-26](#)); the Holy Spirit *within* that encourages us all to live lives of Love. As such, to literally “[call on the Name of the Lord](#)” is not to mentally or verbally pray to God or Jesus, but rather to humbly & Faith-fully embody the essence of their perfect Love (see [Matthew 5:48](#) & [John 14:12](#) et al). And as such, this verse’s deeper meaning exposes the Truth that real Salvation is Grace-fully given “from within” during Love’s doing, not received as a reward “from above” at some point thereafter.

\*NOTE that the many specific names given for God in the ancient manuscripts (like *El* in [Genesis 31:29](#), *Elohim* in [Genesis 17:7](#), *El Shaddai* in [Genesis 49:24](#), and “I am who I am” in [Exodus 3:14](#)) are actually all **names given by fallen angels** who were merely *posing* as God at the time ... The true references for the one, true God in the Old Testament are *Adonai* (see [Genesis 15:2](#)) and *YHWH* (see [Genesis 4](#)) – two names for which a specific meaning has never been known and never been given.

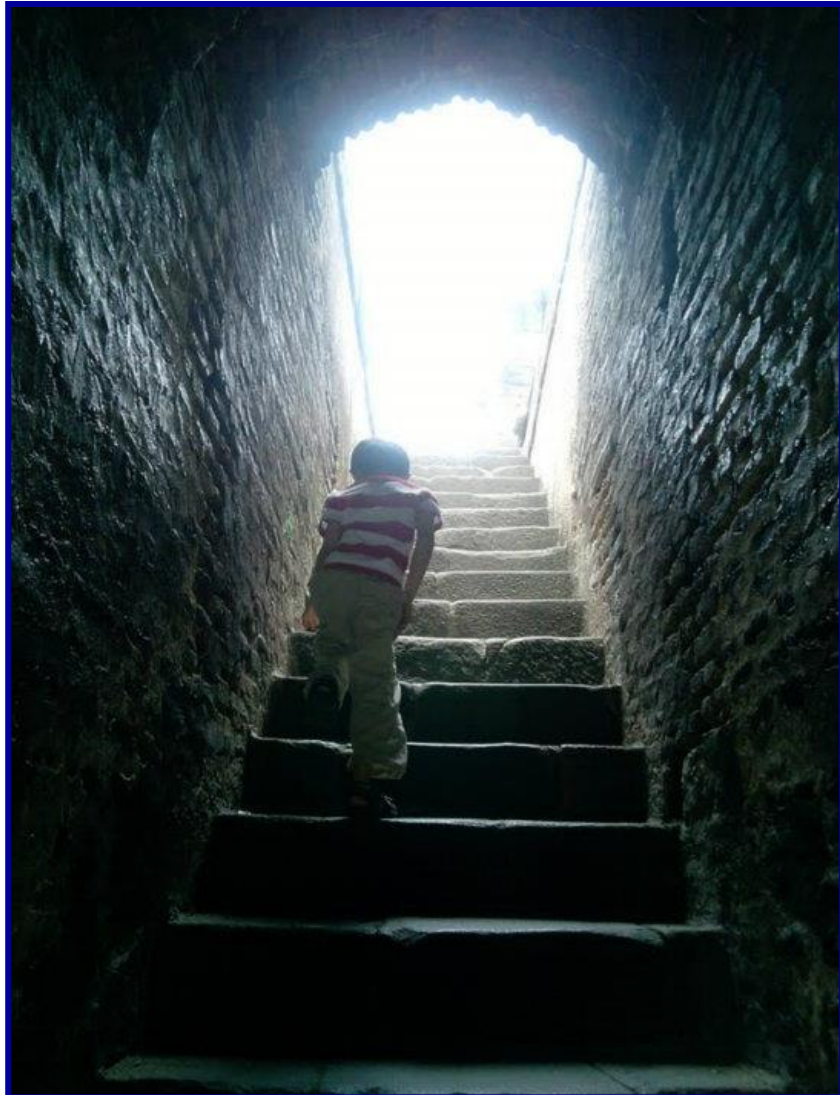




***1 John 3:14 ... Passing from death to Life***  
(01/04/2017)

“We have passed from death to Life  
because we Love one another.”  
~ unknown (1 John 3:14)

First & foremost, we do not “pass from death to Life” because we love one another mentally or emotionally. Indeed, those who claim to do so are the very imposters who bring us face-to-face with a living death in the first place ... Instead it is far more potent to realize that we literally pass from the droning death of Meaninglessness into the scintillating richness of Contented Bliss *while* we are actively Loving others. In every moment we reach past fear &/or desire in order to Care for others instead, we fully awaken and truly Live. And in every moment we do not, we sink back into the humming mediocrity of a life unlived.



## ***John 11:40 ... To truly Believe***

(01/05/2017)

“If you truly Believed,  
you would See the Glory of God.”

~ Jesus (John 11:40)

This verse makes more sense (and is indeed practically quite verifiable) when we capitalize the word “**Believed**” – and thereby define it is an *act*; and when we capitalize the word “**See**” – and thereby define it as an *experience*. For “**the Glory of God**” (which for Jesus was the expression of perfect, unconditional, self-sacrificial Love – see [Matthew 5:48](#) & [John 13:15-17](#) & [Matthew 16:28](#) + [Matthew 24:30](#) et al) cannot ever be seen with the eyes; but rather must be *felt* with body & thereby *known* with the Soul ... Similarly, there is no way to “**truly Believe**” with the thoughts of the mind or the emotions of the Heart; for true Belief must be *enlivened* by the body -- & thereby be Known by the Soul as well.



## ***Romans 8:14-15 ... Knowing the Children of God*** (01/06/2017)

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are Children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a Spirit of Adoption.” ~ Paul (Romans 8:14-15)

First of all, to be "led by the Spirit of God" is *not* (as Paul would have us believe) to be mentally influenced by inspirations “from above” or to be divinely intervened upon by a force from “on high” ... No, to be truly “led by the Spirit of God” is to cease looking outside ourselves for Guidance, and to listen instead to the Heart *within* ... For in truth we are *all* Children of God in waiting; we *all* have the golden Spirit of God within us from birth. And all that remains for us to do is dismiss the whispered fears of our self and the mumbled desires of our friends and the droning expectations of our culture in order to *DO* what needs to be Done -- using what is already at hand -- for those already closest by. That is all that is required for us to awaken to being a Child of God once more – to “become again as a child” -- by revering life, to revere life by revering others, and to revere others by acting accordingly. This is what it means to reject the “spirit of slavery” (i.e. our slavery to the whims of ego), and this is what it means to “receive the Spirit of Adoption” (i.e. by adopting others as one’s own).

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



***1 John 2:8 ... The True Light shining***  
(01/07/2017)

“The Darkness is passing away ...  
And the true Light is already shining.”  
~ unknown (1 John 2:8)

In one sense the "Darkness" in this verse is the fundamental background of the passive-state Universe, and as such cannot recede on its own ... Indeed, it is Light that must first be shown into its vastness to send its shadows into retreat and illuminate its innate and ultimate brilliance ... Similarly, a deep internal “Darkness” is embedded in this verse as well -- the primordial, subconscious basis of the selfish, instinct-driven human being -- and as such the “sinful” nature of the same cannot recede on its own either. No, here as well the Light (in this case, the Light of Love) must be shined upon it as well; the Light must be blazed directly into its fearful depths in order to burn away its pitch black fog and rekindle the wonders of the Soul-Self that rests even deeper still therein.

***Amen*** ... Let it shine so.



## ***1 Corinthians 16:14 ... Let all be Done in LOVE***

(01/08/2017)

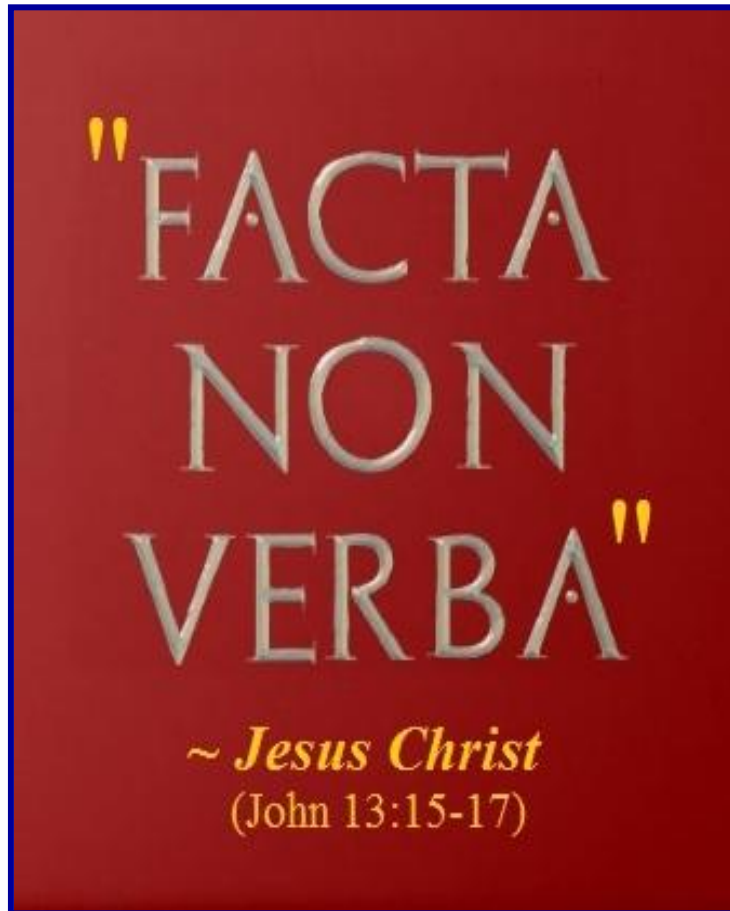
“Let all that you do be done in Love.”

~ Paul (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Indeed, we are to let LOVE be all we **Do** – and please remember that we are not talking here of Paul’s faux “love”; a “love” of misdeed (Paul was often preaching for his own benefit – see [Acts 22-25](#), [2 Corinthians 9:10-11](#), [Philippians 4:6](#), [Philippians 4:19](#) et al) ... or a "love" of misinformation (Paul preached a very different “gospel” from the one taught by Jesus Christ – compare [1 Corinthians 15:1-4](#) & [Romans 10:9](#) with [Mark 10:18](#), [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 10:7](#) & [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al) ... or a "love" of mistrust (Paul often ran from self-sacrifice and towards personal comfort – see [Romans 15:27](#), [1 Corinthians 9:4-14](#), [2 Corinthians 9:11-15](#), [Galatians 6:6](#) et al) ... or a "love" of manipulation (Paul often used passive-aggressive statements &/or outright threats to persuade others to follow his teachings – see [2 Corinthians 2:1-9](#), [2 Corinthians 7:2-10](#), [2 Corinthians 9:5](#), [2 Corinthians 11:7](#), [Galatians 1:8-9](#), [Galatians 2:11](#), [Galatians 3:1](#), [Colossians 3:12-14](#) et al). No, my Friends – when we say that “***all that we do shall be done in Love***”, we must be speaking of real LOVE – of perfect Love – of selfless Love – of

unconditional Love -- of Giving LOVE ... When we speak of LOVE, we must be speaking of the LOVE of which Jesus spoke – a Love of humble charity – a Love of gentle acceptance – a Love of radical forgiveness – and a Love of courageous self-sacrifice. And then, after speaking of this LOVE, we must then go forth into our communities and make those words come true -- by setting that LOVE in motion; especially in those moments we least wish to do so, and especially for those deemed "least deserving" of the same.

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



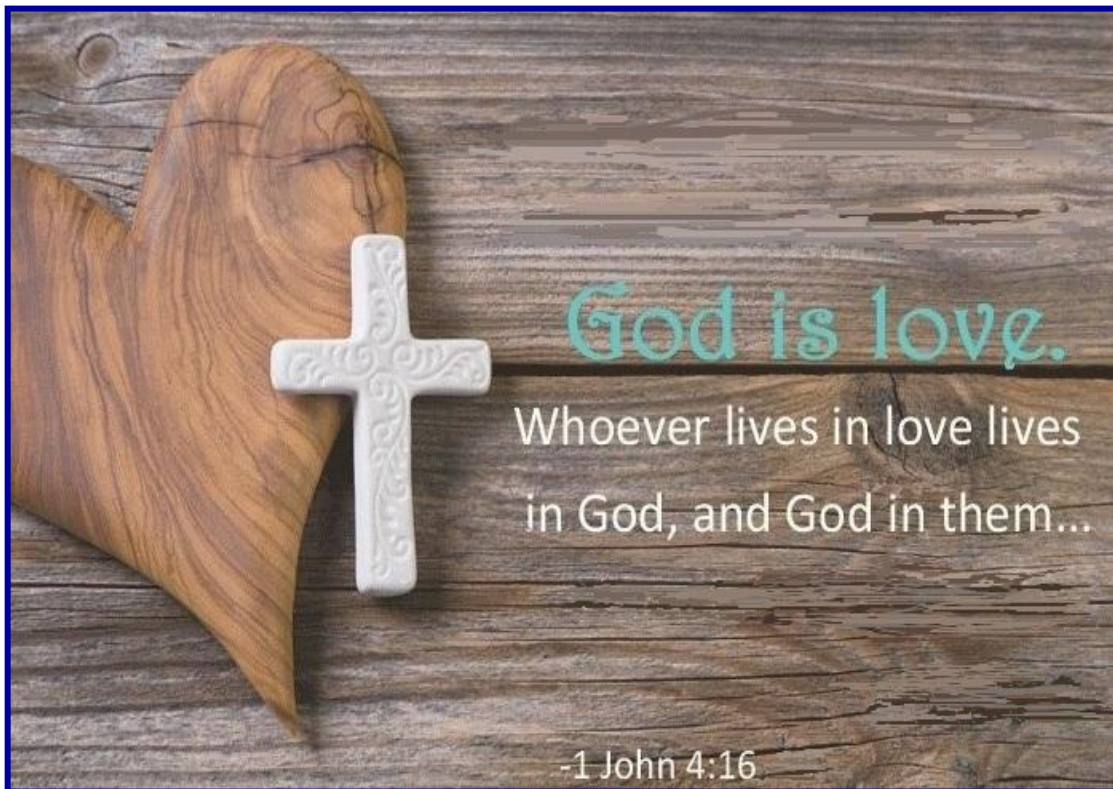
## ***1 John 4:7 ... To be born of God***

(01/09/2017)

“Love is from God; everyone who Loves is born of God  
and everyone who Loves truly knows God.”

~ unknown (1 John 4:7)

Actually, we are all innately “born of God” (i.e. we all have the latent, inherent ability to Love others unconditionally &/or Care for others self-sacrificially). And as such it is those who have *chosen* to Love in this pure Way who are thereby re-Born of God, and thereby re-member the same.



**P.S.** Please note that Love – real & Divine LOVE -- is not something that comes from God (a phrase that implies such Love is given “from above” to those who have proven themselves “worthy” via their worship -- as many Christians would have us believe). No, at least according to Jesus Christ, Love is an *action* – a conscious choice -- something that we bring into being -- something that fills us up from within and showers upon all those nearby during every one of our acts of gentle Giving &/or humble Kindness. As such, real Divine Love does not come *from* God, but rather is us embodying a perfect reflection *of* God.

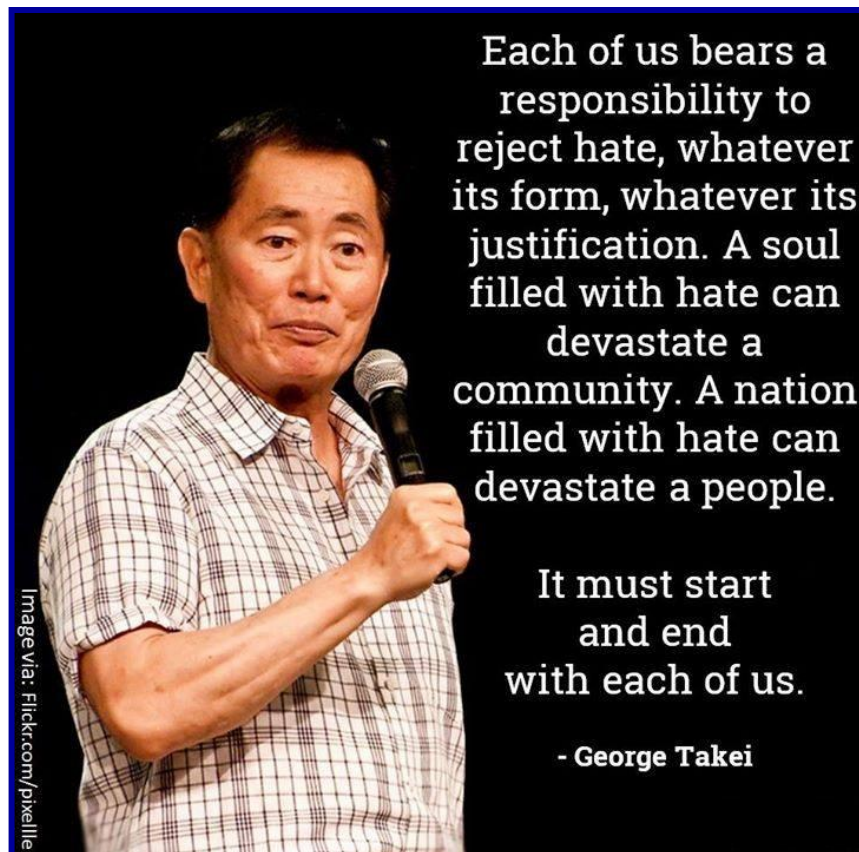
## ***John 5:22-23 ... To Honor the Son***

(01/10/2017)

“The Father judges no one, but has instead given all judgment to the Son; so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.” ~ Jesus (John 5:22-23)

First & foremost, it is crucial to remember here that – at least as far as Jesus was concerned – his heavenly Father is found *within* the Heart of every sentient being (see [John 14:20](#)). And because this Divine Essence is composed of perfect Love (see [Matthew 5:48](#)), "He" is a psycho-spiritual [Father](#) who not only does not want to judge anyone, but who by His nature is not even able to do so (see [1 John 4:18](#)). As such, because this internal "Father" exudes a mercy without limit ([Luke 6:36](#)), and because "His" forgiveness is without end ([Matthew 18:21-22](#)), and because "He" has given us the “[Grace upon Grace](#)” of a conscient free will ([John 1:16](#)), "He" has in effect given the “[Son of Man](#)” (the conscient Soul that resides within us all as well – see [Matthew 9:6](#), [Matthew 16:28](#), [Luke 22:69](#) et al) the ability to discern selfishness from selflessness; thereby to actualize the latter when most tempted with the former –thereby to profoundly Honor the utmost potential of that [Son](#) – and thereby to truly Honor the heavenly [Father](#) within us all thereby.

*Amen ... Let it be so.*



## ***Matthew 7:24 ... To Build on Stone***

(01/11/2017)

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine & acts on them will be like a Wise Man who built his house on stone.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:24)

There are two key phrases in this verse of great significance – two key phrases that many overlook (to the great detriment of their understanding of The Way of Christ). Please consider the following: **Firstly**, there is the phrase “*these words*,” with most readers assuming thereby that Jesus is talking about the previous few passages—or even the previous few pages – of biblical text, when in reality this verse comes at the very end of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount;” a monologue that starts all the way back at [Matthew 5:3](#) and flows uninterrupted all the way through [Matthew 7:27](#). As such, Jesus is not merely saying here that we are to pay attention to a few morsels of his previously spoken wisdom, but rather that we are to attend to *each and every word* that he uttered starting at [Matthew 5:3](#) ... **Secondly**, immediately thereafter, we read an even more important phrase – “*and acts on them*.” For, contrary to the beliefs of the vast majority of Christians (including Paul, the primary founder of the modern-day Christian church), Jesus was **NOT** concerned about whether folks thought about his teachings, or memorized his teachings, or worshiped his teachings as religious dogma, or felt emotionally attached while reading his teachings. Heck, Jesus didn’t even want folks to pay any homage to him as the relayer of those teachings (see [Mark 10:18](#), [John 7:16](#), [John 8:50:54](#), [John 12:44](#) et al). No, Jesus only wanted one thing from his followers – only one thing from those who heard him utter his teachings in person, and only one thing from those of us who read his words today. And that wish was for us to *set his teachings into motion* – for us to *emulate them* – for us to *enliven them* – for us to *act on them* in our everyday lives ... Indeed, that was the lone key to



Salvation as far as Jesus was concerned (see [John 13:15-17](#)), and that was the sole purpose of *his Gospel* (see [Matthew 10:7](#) + [Matthew 24:12-14](#)) ... Indeed indeed, in this very verse the English “acts” is actually the Greek word *poiei* in the ancient manuscripts – a word that didn’t mean merely “to act”, but that actually meant “to construct” or “to hone” or “to fulfill” or “to complete” (see Strong’s #4160).

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



## ***John 8:18 ... The testimony of the Father*** (01/12/2017)

“I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.” ~ Jesus (John 8:18)

As far as this particular verse is concerned, it is most important to realize that Jesus “testified on his own behalf” via his actions more than his words (see [John 5:36](#) & [John 10:25](#) & [John 14:11](#)), and that his *internal* heavenly Father (see [John 14:20](#)) “testified on his behalf” every time Jesus acted in accordance with the perfect Love of which that Father is composed (see [Matthew 5:48](#) & [1 John 4:18](#)).

Important as well is the fact that we here once again see Jesus deflecting all credit -- directing all praise *away* from himself and towards the Father (see [Mark 10:18](#) et al); the Father we *all* have within us; the Father we *all* can actualize in those moments we choose to selflessly Care for another.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***Thomas 1:32 ... The City on every Mountain***

(01/13/2017)

“A city built on a high mountain cannot fall;  
nor can it remain hidden.”

~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 32)

If we take Jesus literally here – and if we assume that what he is saying is correct, then we realize right away that he is definitely ***not*** saying that cities built in high places cannot fall into disrepair and crumble, for he himself noted the obvious Truth that all material things ultimately fall into ruin over time (see [Mark 13:2](#) – also [Matthew 6:19-21](#)).



No, if what he saying here

is indeed correct, then he must be implying that any city built on a mountain cannot fall down to “normal heights” – that even if it crumbles, its ruins will ever remain “on high” ...

Of course, Jesus rarely (if ever) spoke literally – he was almost always speaking simultaneously both directly and metaphorically; in this case also reminding us that choosing to build a life that is noble (i.e. a life founded on selfless service & unconditional Love) means both that we will never “fall” back into the mundane living for selfish pleasure or comfort or ease, ***and*** that the sheer unusualness and overall radiance of such a Life will always shine forth of its own accord – without needing any advertisement from self or accolades from others to do so.

## ***1 John 3:18 ... To LOVE in Truth & Action***

(01/14/2017)

“Let us Love, not in word or speech,  
but in truth & action.”

~ unknown (1 John 3:18)

While it is true that the traditional English translation of this text often reads “Let us love not in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth” (KJV), the Greek text of the ancient manuscripts actually reads “Let us not love via divine utterance (a.k.a. “prayer” – the Greek *logos*, Strong’s #3056) or speech (a.k.a. “language” – the Greek *glosse*, Strong’s #1100) but rather via *action* (the Greek *ergo*, Strong’s #2041) and truth (meaning not merely spoken truth, but *realized truth*; truth as evidenced in practice --via the Greek word *aletheia*, Strong’s #225)” ... And indeed, as is so often the case, it is the latter translation (the one taken directly from the ancient Greek) that more fully harmonizes with both the teachings of Jesus Christ and the real-time applications of those teachings (see [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 7:21-23](#), [Matthew 10:42](#), [Matthew 25:35-40](#), [Luke 14:13-14](#), [John 3:21](#), [John 5:29](#), [John 15:17](#) et al).

*Amen* ... Let it be so for you & yours.



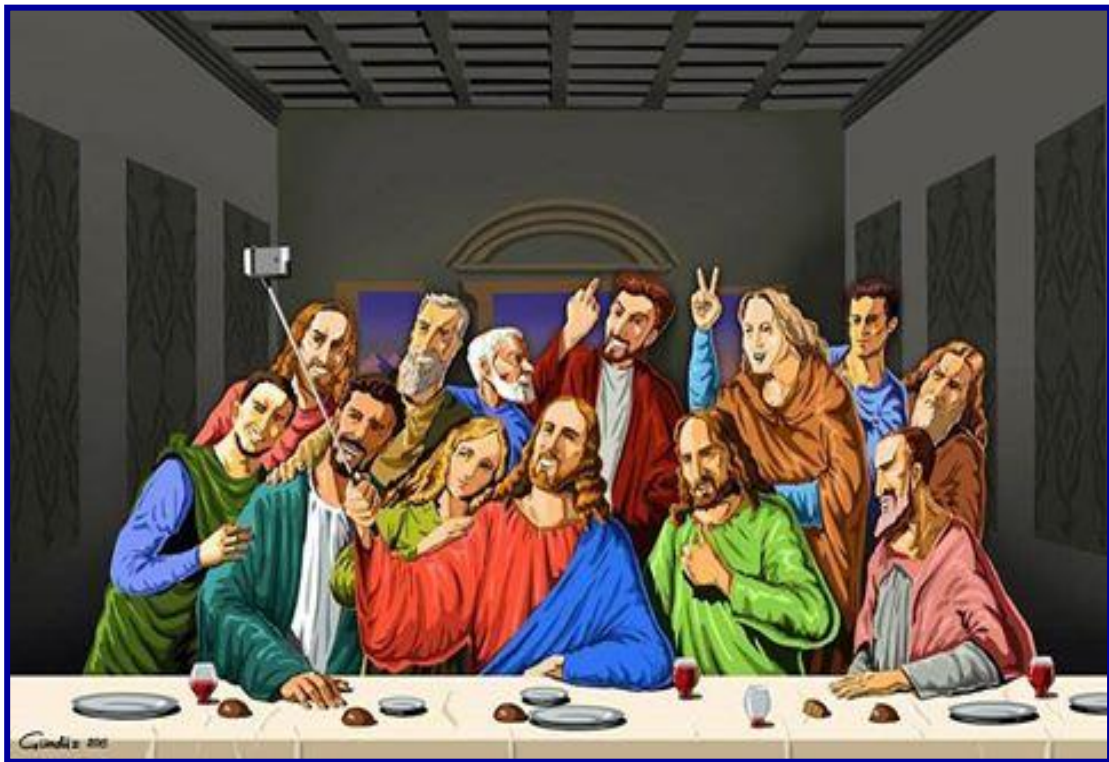
## ***Matthew 19:17 ... The One who is Good***

(01/15/2017)

“Why do you ask me about what is Good? There is only One who is Good and that is God and God alone. If you wish to enter Life, keep the Commandments.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 19:17 & Mark 10:18)

Please consider the following few important comments related to this verse: **First**, please note that the [Gospel of Mark](#) was written many years before the [Gospel of Matthew](#), and that the author of [Matthew 19:17](#) actually drew his inspiration directly from [Mark 10:18](#) (and for some reason left out its all important phrase "but God alone") ... **Second**, note that – for Jesus at least – the “**One who is Good**” is not the God who resides “above” us, but rather the God who resides *within* us (see [John 14:20](#) et al) ... **Third**, note as well that it is not the infamous “10 Commandments” that Jesus refers to here, but rather *his* primary **Commandments** – two **Commandments** which, in direct opposition to the Old Testament’s outdated and negatively dysfunctional ten (see [Exodus 20:2-17](#)), called for us to **A**) honor the God-essence within one’s self by **B**) actively Caring for others (see [Matthew 22:37-40](#)) – especially those deemed by self or society to be "least deserving" of that Love ([Matthew 5:40-44](#)).



## ***John 17:3-4 ... Oh this eternal Life***

(01/16/2017)

“And this is eternal Life: to know **YOU** -- the One, and the Christ essence that **You** have sent to reside within us all. I glorify **You** on earth by repeatedly engaging the Work that **You** have enabled me to fulfill.” ~ Jesus (John 17:3-4)

Admittedly this verse is traditionally read much differently, with most English Bibles having it as something akin to “And this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do” ... That having been said, such a translation is highly misleading. Alone Jesus' apparent reference to himself (instead of the **Son of God** he was *emulating* – an essence residing within every sentient being – not only himself; see [John 14:4](#) & [John 14:12](#) & [John 14:20-26](#)) is in direct contradiction to the humility he demands of us (a la [Matthew 18:3-4](#)) and his own blatantly humble beliefs about himself (see [Mark 10:18](#), [John 5:41](#), [John 7:16](#), [John 8:50-54](#), [John 12:44](#) et al).

Please note as well that the other Greek words used in this passage support this particular translation as well – with the English “eternal” actually being the Greek *aionios*, a word that actually meant “age long”, or “*seemingly eternal*” (Strong’s #166), ... with the English “know” actually being the Greek *ginoskosin*, a word that actually meant “come to realize” (Strong’s #2222), ... with the English “true” actually being the Greek *alethinon*, a word that actually meant “genuine” (i.e. made of Truth -- Strong’s #228), ... with the English “glorified” actually being the Greek *edoxasa*, a word that actually meant “honored” (Strong’s #1392), ... with the English “on earth” actually being the Greek *ges*, a word that actually meant “on the land” (Strong’s #1093), ... and with the English “the work” actually being the Greek *ergon*, a word that actually meant “deeds” or “actions” (Strong’s #2041) ... And putting all these more accurate definitions together – and then mixing them with a decent dose of the fundamental teachings of Christ as read in the Gospels – leads clearly and quite directly to the same translation I have offered above at the very beginning of this brief essay.

***Let your LIGHT shine ...***

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." Matthew 5:16



## ***John 17:25-26 ... To make His Name known***

(01/17/2017)

“Righteous Father, the world does not know You, but I know You ... I will make your name known, so that the Love with which You have Loved me may be in them, and I in them as well.” ~ Jesus (John 17:25-26)

This passage is from the farewell prayer Jesus offered for the safekeeping of his disciples (as well as a prayer for the effectiveness of his imminent plan to have himself crucified as a symbolic relaying of his Way), uttering these words just before heading to the Garden of Gethsemane – just before heading to the place where he had already arranged to be captured, in order to be then tried, tortured, and crucified. **Note** here that he once again intimates that his primary Purpose is to spread the message of selfless Love throughout the world (with the Greek word for “Love” here being *agape* – a Love that was *active* more than merely heartfelt; see Strong’s #26) – the perfect Love that was the embodiment of his heavenly **Father** (Matthew 5:48) and the perfect Love that resides within each & every one of us (John 14:20-26) ... Keep in mind as well that Jesus professes here to make the name of his heavenly **Father** known – a name that was never specifically given throughout the entire Bible (*El* a la Genesis 31:29, *Elohim* a la Genesis 17:7, *El Shaddai* a la Genesis 49:24 & “I am that I am” a la Exodus 3:14 were all names given to God by the *Elohim* -- fallen angels who were merely *posing* as God, while *Adonai* & *YHWH* -- the two actual names of the heavenly Father -- are only defined loosely as “lord” or “master” therein) ... And yet Jesus does make it repeatedly clear that the



Divine Essence he called **Father** (or *Abba*, which is actually the highly intimate Aramaic word for “Daddy”) is composed of perfect, selfless, unconditional, limitless Love (Matthew 5:48 + Luke 6:36 + Matthew 8:21-22 +1 John 4:18).

Regardless of this analysis, Jesus “**knows**” this Father not because he was literally “born of Him” (as religious superstition still claims to this day), but rather because he had chosen to fully **embody** the selfless essence thereof in his everyday living – just as we too can do in any moment we so choose.

**Amen** ... Let it be so.

## *Proverbs 11:30 ... He who wins Souls*

(01/18/2017)

“He who wins Souls is saved.”

~ unknown (Proverbs 11:30)

This is a quite the fascinating verse, if for no other reason than no one knows what it actually means to this very day ...

\*The King James Bible (KJV) translates its Hebrew both as “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and yet he who wins Souls is wise” *and* also as “The righteous shall never be removed, but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth” ...

\*The incredibly popular (and often highly inaccurate) New International Version (NIV) translates it as “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but he who is wise saves lives” ...

\*And the relatively rare (and most neutral in its scholarship) New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translates it as “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, but violence takes lives away.”

Not only are all these translations radically different, but each is relatively unclear in its own right. That having been said, when we look to the ancient Hebrew used in the latter half of this verse, we see that the phrase “he who wins” comes from the Hebrew word *laqach* – a term which also means “he who **commandeers**” or “he who **leads**” (Strong’s #3947), and as such this verse could very well imply a meaning that harmonizes with The Way of Christ – namely, that the divine fruit of Peace & Joy come to those who “lead” other Souls by example to the Light of selfless Love.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***1 Corinthians 15:36 ... LOVE reborn in death***

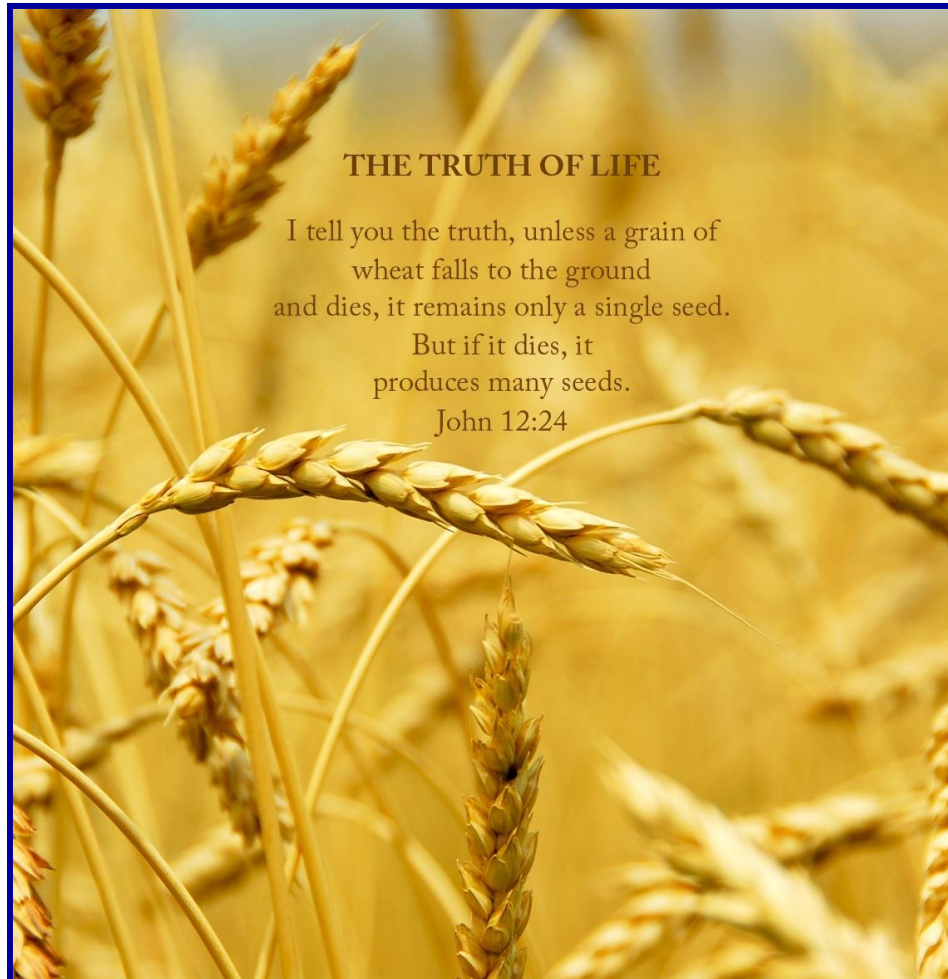
(01/19/2017)

“What you sow does not come to Life until it dies.”

~ Paul (1 Corinthians 15:36)

This verse speaks to a Wisdom as true for any act of the self as it is for any seed from any plant ... Love cannot blossom until it is fully given, and it cannot ever be fully given until it is given despite great difficulty – despite great fear, despite great fatigue, despite great regret, despite great sadness, despite great pain, or despite great anger. For these are the times when we feel as though we are dying – these are the times when we fight death with the most vehemence – these are the times that we are thus least inclined to be Loving – and these are the times then, when our Love is most potent & pure when *given anyway*; the times when we must indeed **Die** to give that Love.

*Amen* ... Let your LOVE be so as well.





## *1 John 4:4 ... The ONE within*

(01/20/2017)

“The One who is within is greater  
than the one who is in the world.”

~ unknown (1 John 4:4)

This verse speaks most potently to “The Dance of the 2 Selves” -- a dance that takes place in every moment of every sentient life:

\*The dance between the sloth of waiting for a "better time" to act and the **Divine Patience** that chooses to get up and *do* for others anyway ...

\*The dance between the greed of accumulating for self and the **Divine Generosity** that gives in times of lack ...

\*The dance between the envy we feel towards those who “win” and “succeed” and the **Divine Gratitude** that has us thankful for life anyway ...

\*The dance between the callousness that protects us from emotional pain and the **Divine Compassion** that chooses to sink into the sufferings of others (and act accordingly) anyway ...

\*The dance between speaking to convince or manipulate or persuade and the **Divine Honesty** that encourages the other along their path to Awakening ...

\*The dance between arrogant condemnation of idiots & enemies and the **Divine Humility** that shares Truth with actions more than words ...

\*The dance between seeing life as boring or times as normal or others as ugly and the **Divine Wonderment** that knows Life to be ever-brilliant, the moments therein to be ever-filled with Beauty, and the others therein to be ever worthy of homage ...

\*The dance between the certainty of religious dogma and the **Divine Faith** that simply Loves others without judgment ... and

\*The dance between dismantling competitors, rejecting opponents, and reviling enemies and the **Divine Acceptance** that sees past the behaviors of others to honor them *all* as Children of God.

*Amen* ... Let that Dance be so.



*1 John 4:4 ...*



THE EGO  
false self

vs

THE SOUL  
true self

ME  
Separation  
Blame  
Hostility  
Resentment  
Pride  
Complain  
Jealousy  
Anger  
Power  
Materialism  
Madness  
War  
Coldness  
Past/future oriented  
Intolerance  
Self-importance  
Egoism

WE  
Unity  
Understanding  
Friendliness  
Forgiveness  
Love  
Gratefulness  
co-happiness  
Happiness  
Humble  
Spiritualism  
Wisdom  
Peace  
Symphyaty  
Now orientation  
Tolerance  
We-importance  
Altruism

*Romans 5:12*

vs

*John 14:20-26*

## ***John 14:13-14 ...To ask in His Name***

(01/21/2017)

“I will do whatever you ask in my name,  
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.  
If in my name you ask for anything, I will do it.”  
~ Jesus (John 14:13-14)

As is so often the case when reading Scripture, there are many subtleties in this passage worth realizing – namely the following:

**First**, the Truth that the deeper essence of the phrase “**in my name**” is critical, as it means not “while worshiping me” (which Jesus did *not* want us to do – see [Mark 10:18](#), [John 5:41](#), [John 7:61](#), [John 8:50-54](#), [John 12:44](#) et al), but rather “in a way that harmonizes with the actual meaning of my name – which is ‘God will guide to salvation’ (*Yehoshua*) and ‘God is within us’ (*Emmanuel*)” ... **Second**, the Truth that “**the Father**” for Jesus was an *internal* essence ([John 14:20](#)) composed of perfect, unconditional Love ([Matthew 5:48](#)) -- not an external entity of wrath &/or judgment ... **Third**, the Truth that this explains why the Father is glorified “**in the Son**” and not *by* the Son ... **Fourth**, the Truth that the only thing that can be properly asked for “**in [his] name**” is the opportunity to be of service to others -- an opportunity that is truly omnipresent in all our lives, which explains why it was so easy for Jesus to make this guarantee -- for making such a request does not require that anything be manifested that isn’t already (and indeed always) there.

**Amen** ... Let us all realize it is indeed so.



## ***Matthew 6:20-21 ... Treasures in Heaven***

(01/22/2017)

“Store up for your selves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves cannot break in to steal. For where your treasure is, there your Heart will be also.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:20-21)

There are several important considerations to remember when pondering this passage – namely the following: **First**, that the “**Heaven**” of which Jesus speaks is always an *internal* dynamic (Luke 17:20-21 – the only place in the entire Bible where he discusses Heaven in concrete terms) ... **Second**, that the “**treasures**” mentioned here are not material in nature, but rather are the *Peace* that comes from being grateful for life in times of trouble, the *Joy* that comes from helping another in need, the *Bliss* that comes from being Kind when least inclined (i.e. for “scary” strangers and “dangerous” enemies), and the *Contentment* that comes from willingly giving (whether of money or time or energy or attention) past the point of comfort ... and **Third**, that it is always good to remember that anything & everything that exists on the material plane is steadily in a state of transformative decay, and headed towards inevitable dissolution & disappearance – namely, that the only way to truly & deeply Love another is to fully *detach from all want, all hope, all desire, and all expectation* related thereto – and then to simply choose to *Love anyway*.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



***Hebrews 10:26 ... Entertaining Angels***  
(01/23/2017)

“Remember to Be Kind to strangers,  
for thereby many have entertained angels unawares.”  
~ unknown (Hebrews 13:2)

As with any Truth-full saying, the *why* of the matter determines the true weight of the Wisdom ... In this case, if one entertains strangers as angels of great power in order to receive blessings from them, then one gives them little Love indeed – and becomes even less in return ...

And yet when one entertains strangers as “*angels*” fallen and impotent – giving to them only to honor their Being and bring them Peace; wishing for nothing in return and expecting even less, then those Givings shower all nearby with great Peace & obvious Joy – which for such a pure Giver (ironically) becomes the greatest of rewards.



## ***Matthew 10:26 ... All becoming Known***

(01/24/2017)

“Have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become Known.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 10:26)

Here, we see Jesus speaking to his disciples shortly before sending them out to preach to the masses; warning them gently of the persecution that most assuredly was going to come to them – of the persecution that comes to all those who challenge the norms of selfish hoarding and the greed of self-defense ... And yet Jesus does so with encouragement (in-Courage-ment), inspiring them to speak spontaneously while flowing smoothly away from all conflict and potential oppression ... And what is this that Jesus says will inevitably be uncovered? What is this that he says will one day inevitably become known? Why, *his Way*, of course – the Truth of his Way of Living – the Truth of the effectiveness of Kindness – the Truth of the Power of willing self-sacrifice – the Truth of the awesome potency of perfect Love.

Yes, many fear these Truths (for the primary reason being that to accept them as valid mandates a terrifying putting into practice thereof), and yet at the latest on one’s deathbed – when the ego has passed onward and only the Awareness of True Self remains – at the very latest then these Truths will indeed be remembered. Of course, to wait that long is to invite personal destruction and great suffering – to wait that long in cowardice is to then reap the “wrath of God” in one’s final, interminable moment of consciousness. And so Jesus sends his disciples out to the people, in the hopes that his Message of Selfless Love will allow them to awaken well beforehand; to live their lives based in service to others instead of accumulation for themselves, and thereby avoid the terrible fate that awaits all who live primarily to accumulate wealth &/or soak in comfort.



And what does this verse mean for us? It reminds us to have faith in the power of his Message – to avoid pushing the river; to give the Truth to all those we encounter – and yet to let those others reawaken to what they have always known in their own time. We are simply to give all those encountered the opportunity to awaken, embrace & celebrate each awakening that comes thereafter -- and flow onward without malice from each rejection thereof.

## ***Thomas 1:83 ... Shining the Light within***

(01/25/2017)

“The images are visible to man, but the Light within them is hidden ... The Father will reveal Himself, but his Light will hide his own image.” ~ Jesus (Thomas 83)

First & foremost, this verse speaks to the Truth that the radiance of selfless Love is so overwhelming that it cannot be fully comprehended – only felt and enlivened, and only thereby properly honored and appreciated ...

And as is so often the case with verses from the Gospel of Thomas, this verse is “mirrored” in the canonical Gospels – in this case reflected in [John 1:3-9](#) (which reads in part: “What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of *all* people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it ... The true light, which enlightens *everyone*, was coming into the world”); a Gospel where Jesus was also fond of mentioning the Father’s *internal* Light; a Light that was possessed by *all* men & women – a Light that could be shone forth through every deed that resonated with that Father’s perfectly selfless Love (see [John 12:35-37](#) – also [Matthew 5:13-16](#), [Luke 11:34-35](#), [John 8:12](#) et al). Indeed, one of the ways this Love can be re-Born is to choose to See others as vessels of Divine Light – to See beyond their primitive fleshly behaviors to the glowing Essence within them – and then to *act accordingly*; and this, regardless of whether the recipients thereof appreciate that gesture or not, regardless of whether they honor the attempt or not, regardless of whether they thereafter awaken to their innate Glory or not (see [John 13:15-17](#) & [Matthew 5:40-48](#) & [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al).



## *2 Corinthians 13:8 ... The impervious Truth*

(01/26/2017)

“For we cannot do anything against the Truth”

~ Paul (2 Corinthians 13:8)

It is indeed true that we cannot do anything effective against the Truth – for “the Truth” is the over-arching Harmony that both founds & infuses the entirety of the Cosmos, and the flow of this Love’s Oneness is simply too strong; inevitably washing away &/or ironing out all relationships that are oppressive, all beings who have chosen to be cruel, & all situations that reveal themselves to be unjust. We humans do not have a large enough perspective to objectively witness this Truth, of course, and yet a Truth it remains nonetheless ... And yet even though we cannot perceive this "cosmic dynamic", this does not at all mitigate our privilege (note – *not* our duty or obligation) of assisting in this cleansing process; of helping the Earth rid herself of sleeping humans by waking them up, of assisting humanity in ridding itself of conflict by protesting war’s wickedness, of conspiring with our communities to rid them of inequality (by giving to those who have less and extending Kindness to the downtrodden), of teaming up with Nature by taking up our swords of Truth against the insidious destruction wrought by the industrial madness that is animal agriculture and the slow suicide that is the harvest & consumption of fossil fuels ... In closing, I readily admit that this is a Jesusian context for this particular



verse – a chosen interpretation that harmonizes with the life & teachings of Jesus Christ, not the life or the teachings of Paul\* ... May we all have the humility to See the latter, and may we all have the courage to embody the same thereafter.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.

\*Paul is in all likelihood not speaking in this verse of the magnanimous Truths inadvertently mentioned herein, but is rather harping on his wafer-thin theological delusions of the innate sinfulness of humankind and the absolute divinity of Jesus, both of which Jesus himself denounced (see [John 10:34](#) & [John 14:12](#) for the former, and [Mark 10:18](#), [John 5:41](#), [John 7:16](#), [John 8:50-54](#) & [John 12:44](#) for the latter).



***Thomas 1:5 ... Revealing the concealed***  
(01/27/2017)

“Recognize what is directly before you,  
and what is concealed will also be revealed.”

~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 5)

This verse reflects the similar Wisdom found in Luke 8:17 (“For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light”) as well as the one reflected in Luke 12:2 (“Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known”), though the Gospel of Thomas here adds a most enlightening preamble – namely, stating that what is hidden from us will be revealed once we “recognize what is directly before [us].” In other words – we will only be blessed with a measure of real Clarity once we choose to humble ourselves enough to *See* the majestic hidden within the material; to *See* the angelic hidden within the uncaring; and to *See* the honor-worthy hidden within the mundane. And bound with that perceptive Clarity is what we do immediately thereafter, for true “recognition” means nothing until one leaps into actualizing what is glimpsed thereby ... Indeed, true recognition comes not from looking and correctly analyzing, but rather from Seeing and then *Acting while feeling*.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***Thomas 1:18 ... Returning to the Beginning***

(01/28/2017)

“Have you discovered the Beginning, then, you who search for the End? For where the Beginning is, there the End will Be. For blessed is he who stands at the Beginning. He will know the End, and not taste death.” ~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 18)

Again, as is almost always the case with the Gospel of Thomas, these verses reflect similar passages in one or more of the canonical Gospels – in this case reverberating [Mark 10:31](#), where Jesus is heard to say “**But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first**” ... Some scholars have hypothesized that Jesus was speaking here of the thief on the Cross seen in [Luke 23:29-42](#) (who was the last saved, and yet seemed to be the first “**taken**”) along with his disciple Simon Peter in [Matthew 4:18-22](#) (who was the first disciple taken, and yet – after his three denials – one of the very last to “**be saved**”). Of course, this hypothesis falls victim to the assumption that Jesus is speaking here about a post-mortem spiritual salvation in a post-mortem paradise – an assumption that Jesus himself repeatedly denied during his ministry (where he made it quite clear that his **Kingdom of Heaven** existed in *this* life – [Luke 17:20-21](#), & that entry thereto was granted to those who chose to humble themselves by selflessly sacrificing for the downtrodden &/or their enemies – see [Matthew 18:3-4](#), [Matthew 25:35-40](#), [Matthew 5:40-44](#) et al) ... Of course, this



alternative theology is seen quite clearly in the Gospels when we look to the context of the places where Jesus mentions this same phrase ([Mark 10:31](#) mentioned above, as well as [Matthew 19:30](#) & [Matthew 20:16](#)), a context that specifically has Jesus referencing rewards received by those who sacrifice themselves for the betterment of others (!!!) ... And yet, as is also often the case, here the **Gospel of Thomas** takes it all a bit further; noting that this particular Wisdom has to do with rediscovering & re-enlivening the Child of God within (a “**beginning**” to which we must all indeed return if we are to ever enter his Kingdom -- see [Matthew 18:3-4](#)): Loving others as purely as a toddler does, and *thereby* attaining Salvation (see also [John 13:15-17](#)).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.

## ***Mark 12:17 ... God and the Emperor***

(01/29/2017)

“Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s  
and to God the things that are God’s”

~ Jesus (Mark 12:17)

While this verse has Jesus specifically speaking of paying taxes to the reigning government (and is thereby used by many a conservative Christian to champion the same), there are several deeper meanings at play here that needn’t be overlooked ... **First** of all, what Jesus is actually saying here is *not* that we should focus on paying taxes, but rather that we should actually *not* worry about doing so. After all, taxes are clearly not “of God” in this particular scene, and Jesus makes it oh so clear elsewhere that we can only have one master – either wealth *or* God (see [Matthew 6:19-24](#), [Matthew 19:24-26](#), [Luke 12:20](#), [Luke 16:13-15](#), as well as [Matthew 17:24-27](#)) ... **Secondly**, and even more importantly, it is worthwhile to remember that – for Jesus at least – God was the essence of perfect, unconditional Love ([Matthew 5:48](#)), and that as such we are to Love others with a similarly selfless purity -- at least if we ever wish to truly “give to God the things that are God’s” (see [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 7:21-27](#) et al).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



## ***1 John 3:1 ... What LOVE from the Father*** (01/30/2017)

“See what Love the Father has given us;  
that we should be called Children of God,  
for that is what we are.” ~ unknown (1 John 3:1)

This verses reflects the 2nd half of the double entendre within Jesus’ infamous “become again as a child” of [Matthew 18:3-4](#), with the first meaning encouraging us to see the world as infants & interact with others as toddlers, and the second reminding us that we are all innately just as divine as Jesus himself ever was or ever could be; a meaning harmonizing fully with Jesus telling others that they too could do everything he did “and even more” (see [John 14:12-13](#)) – that just as he was a “Son of God” (see [Luke 9:35](#), [John 5:19](#), [John 14:6-7](#) et al), so too are we *all* Children of the Divine.

Just as importantly, remember that for Jesus (and all other sincere Followers of The Way of Christ, which the vast majority of the Johanines were – i.e. those who adhered to the deeper, more mystical teachings found in the [Gospel of John](#), and who later wrote & practiced the deeper, more mystical teachings found in [1 John](#), [2 John](#) & [3 John](#) as well) the Father mentioned & revered was an *internal* essence ([John 14:20](#)) – an essence of perfect Love that ever called for us all to Love others just as perfectly (see [Matthew 5:48](#), [1 John 4:18](#), [Luke 6:36](#), [John 13:15-17](#) et al).

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***John 2:20-21 ... To be raised in 3 Days***

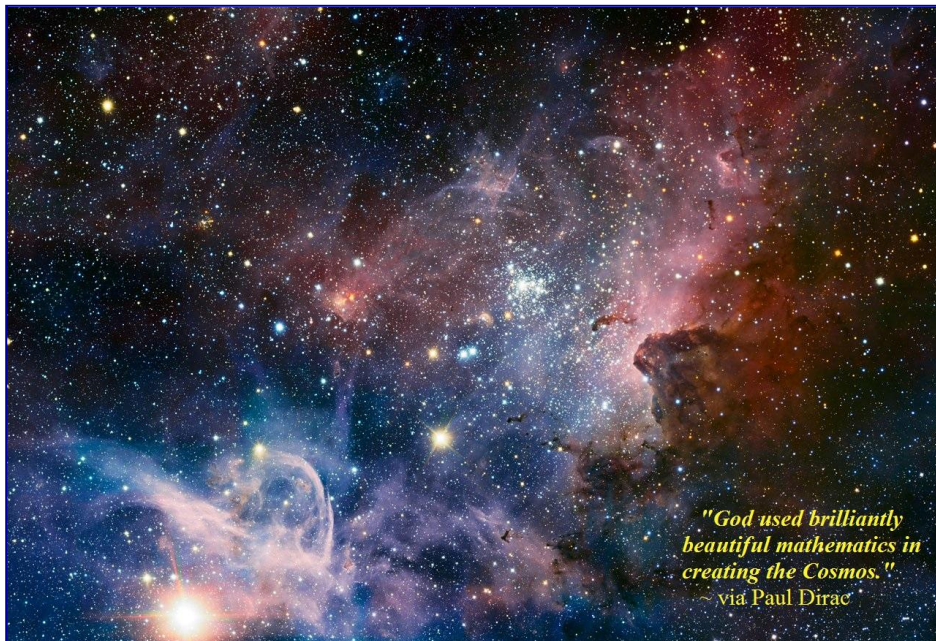
(01/31/2017)

“Doubling anything makes it stronger, and three is even more powerful than that. Remember, [in God/Jehovah] we’re dealing with a mathematician of the highest order.” ~ Bernie (a Jehovah’s Witness who used to visit with me regularly back in the early 90’s)

Ahhh, yes – dealing with “a mathematician of the highest order”, indeed we are. And we are also dealing with ancient manuscripts from the Bible whose authors happened to attach profound meaning to the numbers they used in their writings. As such, whenever reading Scripture, it is wise to ***consult the meaning of the numbers*** found in the verses, as well as look to the preceding verses that used similar numerological values as well ...

As far as the number 3 goes (the number mentioned above by my Jehovah’s Witness comrade), consider that it represented “spiritual perfection” & “completeness” to most of the Bible’s authors – with it probably being no accident that there are 27 accepted books in the New Testament canon (3x3x3), that Jesus was tempted three times by Satan in the wilderness (see [Matthew 4:1-11](#)), that Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest there (see [Matthew 26:36-46](#)), that Jesus was crucified on the third hour (see [Mark 15:25](#)), that three hours of darkness covered the land while Jesus on the cross (see [Matthew 27:45](#)), and that Jesus planned to be presumed dead for three days before his arranged “resurrection” thereafter (see [Matthew 12:40](#) et al).

“The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ But Jesus had been speaking of the temple of his body.” ~ Jesus (John 2:20-21)



***Matthew 18:3-5 ... To Become again like a Child***  
(02/01/2017)

“Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever becomes humble like a child is greatest in the Kingdom ... Whosoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 18:3-5)

If radically implemented into one’s life (as well as utilized while reading the Bible itself), this passage becomes one of the most important in the entire Bible. Please consider -- **First** and foremost, that Jesus doesn’t use the standard word for “children” here, but actually uses the Greek word for a “very young child” – namely, an infant or a toddler (*paidion* – Strong’s #3813) ... **Secondly**, note as well that the former (infants) are ever grateful -- seeing the world as ever wondrous, while the latter (toddlers) are ever gentle -- Loving without condition all others who cross their path (the Love that is required whenever Loving “in Jesus’ name” – a name that essentially meant “God guides from within”) ... And this twofold realization harmonizes fully with Jesus’ call for us all to Love all-out in order to enter his internal, experiential “Kingdom of Heaven” (see [Matthew 24:12-14](#) & [John 13:15-17](#) & [Matthew 7:21-22](#) & [Matthew 25:35-40](#) et al) – a Kingdom that is not coming in the future after we die, but is rather “already both within and all around” us (see [Luke 17:20-21](#) – also the “at hand” of [Matthew 10:7](#) et al).



## ***Mark 15:17-38 ... The tearing of the Curtain***

(02/02/2017)

“And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him ... After mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak ... [and] offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And then they crucified him ... The Chief Priest, along with the scribes who were mocking him, said: 'He Saved others yet he cannot save himself' ... Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.” ~ unknown (Mark 15:17-38)

This passage is important for several reasons – starting with the fact that it comes from the [Gospel of Mark](#) (the first Gospel written; the Gospel from which both [Matthew](#) & [Luke](#) were later adapted), and ending with the fact that it speaks both literally & figuratively of the immense power that comes from The Way of Christ; a way steeped in perfect Love & willing self-sacrifice for others ...

Please consider the following tidbits that further illuminate the same:

\***First**, note that the purple cloak and crown of thorns both symbolized royalty – mockingly by the Romans, true enough, and yet all true royalty is inevitably mocked by the faux-royals supposedly in power at the time of mocking. Indeed, the evidence that the authorities completely misunderstood Jesus & his mission was shown by their fully errant (and somewhat paranoid) proclamation of Jesus as “[The King of the Jews](#)” – and this even after Jesus himself had repeatedly renounced &/or rejected that same pronouncement (see [John 6:15](#) & [Mark 15:2](#) et al).

\***Second**, note that [myrrh](#), which was sometimes used as a potent painkiller in Jesus’ day, was offered to Jesus before his crucifixion, and was rejected by him – probably because it would have dampened the depth of sacrifice he was trying to show those in attendance.

\***Third**, note that later Jesus *does* imbibe a drugged drink ([Mark 15:36](#)) just before he “[breathed his last](#)” (the Greek written here is actually *exepneusen*, a term which often meant “[to voluntarily choose to breathe out one’s last breath](#)” – Strong’s #1606).

\***Fourth**, note the additional evidence of the Romans’ utter cluelessness seen in the utterance “[but he couldn’t save himself](#)”; not realizing that Jesus had indeed purposefully chosen to be crucified (indeed that he had himself organized the entire affair), much less the fact that to walk The Way of Christ means per se to never choose to save one’s self.

\**Fifth*, note that the tearing of the temple curtain symbolized the destruction of the church's power to keep the people separate from God – symbolized that there no longer needed to be an intermediary for people to come to intimately know the Divine – symbolized that all we have to do is follow Jesus' Way of willing self-sacrifice, radical Kindness, and unconditional Love in order to attain entrance into *his* Kingdom of Heaven (see [Luke 17:20-21](#) + [John 13:15-17](#) et al); a fact that he showed others quite clearly on Golgotha when he essentially put himself up on the cross – an incredibly courageous gift of self-sacrifice which turned out to be his final “sermon.”



***"It is accomplished."***  
~ *Jesus Christ* (John 19:30)



## *Joshua 6:20 ... Bringing down the Walls* (02/03/2017)

“Hate is not the enemy of Love; indifference is ...  
To truly Love, we must oh-so-softly hum the tune played at Jericho.”  
~ anonymous

Note here first of all that Jericho is believed to be one of the oldest inhabited cities of the world, and the city with the oldest known protective wall around it. This means that Jericho – in its day – was nothing less than a most formidable stronghold. And yet still its walls fell ... As such, on its face this quote seems to state that actively caring for others need not be loud to be powerful – that it is necessary to Care and that it is necessary that said Caring be active, and yet that it is not necessary to “blare one’s trumpets” (see [Joshua 6](#)) to bring down the fear-based “walls” of the other – that softer, quieter acts of Love are enough to open the doors to an intimate connection therewith.

And yet when we examine many of the other facts surrounding the Battle of Jericho (aside from the wickedly ruthless, highly immoral, and indeed fully anti-Christian thoroughness with which that city was ransacked by Joshua after its walls fell), a few deeper meanings to this quote reveal themselves as well ... Consider the following: \***First**, that the road between Jerusalem & Jericho was not only frequented by bandits in Jesus’ day, but many religious travelers as well – making it the perfect setting for one of the most important of Jesus’ teachings: the Parable of the Good Samaritan (see [Luke 10:25-37](#)), a tale that encouraged us to not only actively Care for those we liked, but to do so for our enemies as well ... \***Secondly**, that the only survivors from Jericho (it was common practice to slaughter all the citizens of a city once its siege had been broken) were Rahab and her family members – Rahab, who was not only a prostitute, but a traitor to her people as well. Intriguingly, showing mercy to Rahab was instrumental in effectuating the birth of Jesus Christ – seeing as how she proved to be one of his direct bloodline relatives (his great x32 grandmother, a la [Matthew 1:5](#)) ... \***Thirdly**, that Rahab – a Canaanite woman, was integrated into the Jewish community, seeing as how there were direct Old Testament prohibitions against such a move (see [Deuteronomy 20:16-18](#) & [Deuteronomy 7:1-4](#)) – prohibitions that Jesus himself later openly violated (and effectively dismantled) by being openly kind to the Canaanite woman at the well in [Matthew 15:21-28](#).



## ***Matthew 5:14-16 ... The Light of the World***

(02/04/2017)

“You are the Light of the world ... No one after lighting a lamp hides it under the bushel basket, but places it instead on a lamp stand; where it gives light to all ... In the same way, let your Light shine before others, so that they may see your Good Works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:14-16)

Please note the following important points when reading this passage: **First**, note that Jesus tells his audience that *they* are the **Light of the world** (which he also intimates via the more enlightened interpretations of both [John 1:3-5](#) -- “What has come into being via [*the Logos*] was life, and that life was the Light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.” & [John 8:12](#) as well -- “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of life”) ... **Second**, note that we are called here not to meditate upon our Light in private (in contrast to how we are called by Jesus to pray in secret – see [Matthew 6:6-7](#)) but rather are to openly shine out Light via our being; via courageous words and noble deeds ... **Third**, note that we are to shine this Love Light not merely upon those we like or those we love – not merely towards those who are being kind to us or treating us well, but rather upon **all** others (indeed, especially upon those who are being “mean” to us or are treating us poorly – see [Matthew 5:40-48](#)) ... **Fourth**, note that we do so not to have others Joy-fully receive the



same, but rather to illuminate their Way – to remind them that they too have been similarly Called to shine their Love upon the others in their lives ... and **Fifth**, note that this is how we give glory to our internal Father ([John 14:20](#)), thereby gain access to our internal Kingdom of Heaven ([Luke 17:20-21](#)), and thereby attain what many call “Salvation” ([John 13:15-17](#)).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.

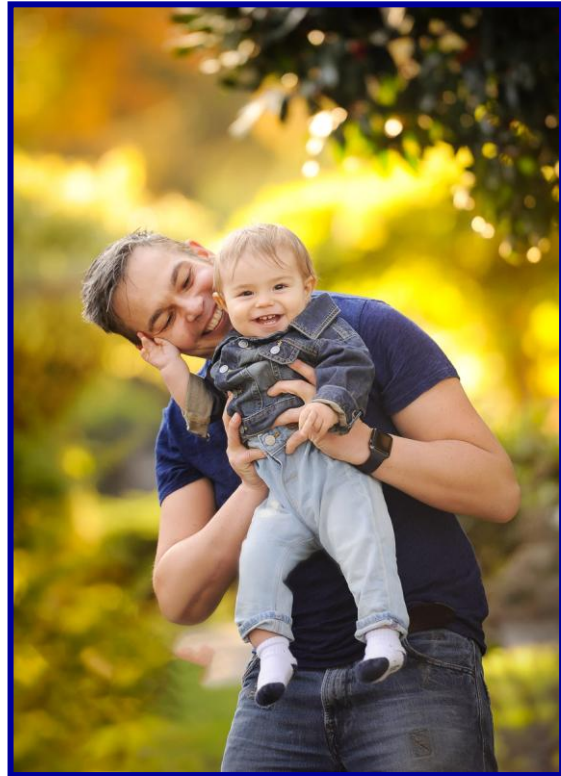
## ***Matthew 11:25 ... Revealed to Infants***

(02/05/2017)

“I thank you, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent, and have revealed them instead to infants”

~ Jesus (Matthew 11:25)

First of all, note that "**the Father**" mentioned here (for Jesus at least) is the **internal** Divine Essence of all things living – an Essence that is especially vibrant in all beings sentient – an Essence that is composed of a frequency that harmonizes with the base-vibration emitted by all manifestations of perfect Love. And as such it is an Essence that continually “hums” that same frequency, and thereby that in effect “summons” us to harmonize our own lives with it via acts of selfless Caring. This frequency never shifts in its tone – only in its volume – and thus it is indeed true that it is ever in effect the “**Lord of Heaven**” ... That having been said, this frequency is ever the (admittedly more subtle) “**Lord of the Earth**” as well, for wherever there is conflict, its call comes the loudest to lead all sentient beings nearby to ameliorate the same – and whenever there is an actualized encounter between the forces of discord and those of harmony; between the forces of self-interest and those of communal betterment; between the forces of greed and those of giving – the latter always ultimately come forth to neutralize those former. And this is why Jesus is more Right than most realize in uttering this statement, for “**the Lord of Heaven**” is literally hidden within every sentient conscience – waiting patiently & calmly at the center of ever sentient Soul -- and “**the Lord of Earth**” is hidden by its rarity; hidden by the fact that very few seek it -- and thus very few find it -- and thus very few actualize it. Infants know nothing of the fears and worries and regrets and greeds and preconceptions that keep adolescents and elderlies from making this latter “**Lord**” a real player in their lives, which is why Jesus tells us quite correctly to not merely “**become again as a child**” (as it is written in **Matthew 18:3-4** in most Bibles), but rather to “**become again as an infant**” (or toddler -- the Greek word *paidion*; see Strong’s #3813).



**Amen** ... Let it be so.

## ***Matthew 28:20 ... To the End of the Age***

(02/06/2017)

“And remember that I am with you always;  
even to the End of the Age.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 28:20)

First of all, note that this verse is traditionally translated as “I am with you always, even to the end of the world.” That having been said, the final Greek word used here in the ancient manuscripts is actually *aionos* (Strong’s #165), a word that means not “world”, but “**Age**” – a term referring to a specific “**cycle of time; one that seemingly stretched to infinity.**” So, seeing as how Jesus was always speaking of a God who is **internal** (John 14:20), a Heaven that is already **within** us (Luke 17:20-21), and a Salvation that comes in this lifetime via selflessly sacrificing for others (John 13:15-17), in all likelihood when Jesus said “**the end of the age**” he meant the end of our individual & uniquely personal lifetimes.

In addition, in all likelihood he did **not** mean by this verse that he would literally be with his listeners forever, but rather that his *teachings* – the embodiment of The Way he was living – would remain with them until their dying days (see John 12:47-48, John 14:20-26, John 15:26, Matthew 12:36-37 & Matthew 7:21-24 et al) ...



In essence, he was saying that if we choose to act accordingly, we will call forth the Christ within us. And if we do not act not in accordance with his teachings, then this same internal Christ Essence will retreat and wait to possibly be summoned by the selfless choices we might make in the future ... And it is *this* potent dynamic that remains fully viable in every moment of our lives; even to the End of our Ages.

***Amen*** ... Know that it is so.

***Romans 14:23 ... To proceed from Faith***  
(02/07/2017)

“Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”  
~ Paul (Romans 14:23)

Here, as is so often the case, Paul’s words are as Right as his personal interpretation of them is not. For Paul did not see faith like Jesus saw Faith – he did not see it as a deed, but rather as a mere belief in the divinity of Jesus; he did not see it as an act of selfless courage, but rather as a mere verbal profession of allegiance to Jesus Christ himself ... In truth, Paul saw every deed not backed in subservient allegiance to Jesus Christ as a sinful deed, and this, even though Jesus himself wanted no part of either such judgment (see [Matthew 7:1-2](#), [John 8:7](#), [Matthew 23:12](#) et al) or such worship (see [Mark 10:18](#), [John 5:41](#), [John 7:16](#), [John 8:50-54](#), [John 12:44](#) et al) ...

In addition, Paul saw sin as a damning offense for the Hereafter, whereas Jesus saw sin as something to be transcended (and thereby fully Forgiven) in every Here&Now (see [Luke 6:36](#) & [Matthew 8:21-22](#) & [Matthew 9:6](#) et al) ...

For Paul, whatever did not proceed from a belief in Jesus Christ as the only Son of God was sinful and to be punished for eternity -- whereas for Jesus, whatever did not proceed from an active Faith in selfless Love was a sinful deed that was constantly & repeatedly forgiven by the heavenly Father within; a deed that would indeed reap consequences proportionate to its intensity of selfishness, and yet a deed that could be fully transcended by any subsequent moment of selfless Caring.



## ***1 Corinthians 8:2 ... The necessary Knowing*** (02/08/2017)

“Anyone who claims to know does not yet have the necessary Knowledge; but anyone who Loves is Known.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 8:2)

How ironic that Paul would make this particular statement, seeing as how *he* himself was the one claiming more than most to “know better” – and that *he* was the one who had never seen Jesus in the flesh and who had never heard Jesus teach; that *he* was the one who quite clearly did not have the “**necessary Knowledge**” – a Knowledge of the Way of Christ that can only come from living it; something that Paul never did once in his entire biblical ministry ...

Indeed, not only did Jesus specifically warn us of Paul and those like him (see [Matthew 15:13-14](#) & [Luke 12:1](#) vs [Acts 23:6](#) & [Acts 26:5](#) ... see [John 5:43](#) vs [Acts 13:9](#) ... see [Matthew 24:26](#) vs [Acts 9](#) & [Galatians 1:11-12](#)), but Paul himself was a hypocrite (see [2 Corinthians 11:13-15](#) vs [2 Corinthians 11:16-33](#), [Romans 1:1](#), & [1 Corinthians 3:10](#) et al), and Jesus soundly rejected both hypocrites & hypocrisy throughout the course of his ministry (see [Matthew 23:13-29](#) et al).



On the other hand, Paul is correct here when he says that “**anyone who Loves is Known**” – for the entire ministry of Jesus Christ was built solely on a foundation of unconditional Love, and thus anyone who has the humility to approach others with gentleness ([Matthew 18:3-4](#)) and the courage to then Love them boldly & self-sacrificially (see [Matthew 7:21-22](#), [Matthew 24:12-14](#), [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 25:35-40](#) et al) is indeed “**Known**” thereby as one who truly understands his Way, his Truth, & his Life (for “**by their fruits they will be known**” – a la [Matthew 7:15-20](#)).

## *Luke 12:35 ... The lighting of the Lamps*

(02/09/2017)

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.”

~ Jesus (Luke 12:35)

**First** of all, to be “**dressed for action**” means to be mentally alert (not to be literally clothed, though that might prove helpful in many cases as well) ... **Secondly**, to have our “**lamps lit**” means to have our Hearts open – to be not only ready to Care when the opportunity arises, but to be overtly eager to do so beforehand ...

**Thirdly**, note that the context of this verse has Jesus warning his listeners that death could come for them at any moment, and that they do not want to be caught unawares thereby – that they do not want to end up laying on their deathbeds soaking in the awareness that they have essentially abandoned those they could have served, and instead have lived an essentially wasted life primarily seeking pleasure &/or comfort &/or success &/or ease for themselves.



## ***Luke 6:35-36 ... Glorifying LOVE***

(02/10/2017)

“All gods glorify insanity” ~ Latin Saying  
(*Deis omnes insanium laudent*)

As far as the elohimic “gods” are concerned (i.e. all incomplete spiritual entities – known by some as “fallen angels”, by others as “demons”, and by the authors of Genesis as “*the Elohim*,” entities who encourage conflict, demand subservience, and tempt humanity with promises of political power &/or sexual potency), the more typical dysfunctions of aggression-based chaos, tribal warfare, the domination of the weak by the strong, procreating like rabbits, and becoming violent with enemy & sacrifice alike was the “insanity” they glorified – an “insanity” that has bled over into almost every modern day religion and almost every modern day nation-state – an “insanity” that has led to war & oppression & torture & overpopulation & poverty & famine & animal abuse & imminent global mass extinction ...

On the other hand, as far as **GOD** is concerned (Jesus’ “**heavenly Father**” in the Scriptures – “**YHWH**” or “**Adonai**” in the Old Testament), the “insanity” that is lauded is the intentional “lunacy” that is grateful despite tragedy, that Gives when deep in poverty, and that is openly Kind to deadliest of enemies. It is the “lunacy” that believes in the power of reminding others of our common bond – it is the “lunacy” that knows that pure Love never fails.

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be Children of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, then, just as your heavenly Father is merciful.”

~ Jesus (Luke 6:35-36)

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.





## *Colossians 1:11-12 ... Enduring with Joy*

(02/11/2017)

“Be prepared to endure everything with patience,  
while Joy-fully giving thanks to the Father ...”

~ Paul (Colossians 1:11-12)

**First** and foremost, consider the Truth that it is impossible to purely give thanks while “**enduring**” anything – for the former is ever selfless & humble while the latter is always (at least to some significant degree) both self-fixated & prideful ... **Secondly**, at least in Jesusian terms, there can be no traditional manifestation of patience (i.e. riding out discomfort by faithfully waiting for things to get better), for Jesus called us all to live only in the moment and to do the living thereof ever-actively ... **Thirdly**, **Colossians** was in all probability Paul’s final biblical work – and if this epistle was truly written by Paul, it is worth remembering that it would have been written by him while he was sitting in prison ... **Finally**, note the sweet irony here -- for Jesus would say that it is giving thanks for times of trouble (not for one’s ultimate freedom or any subsequent heavenly reward) that proves to be the very liberation (or is at least an immediate precursor thereof) for which the non-enlightened “Paulinist” errantly prays.



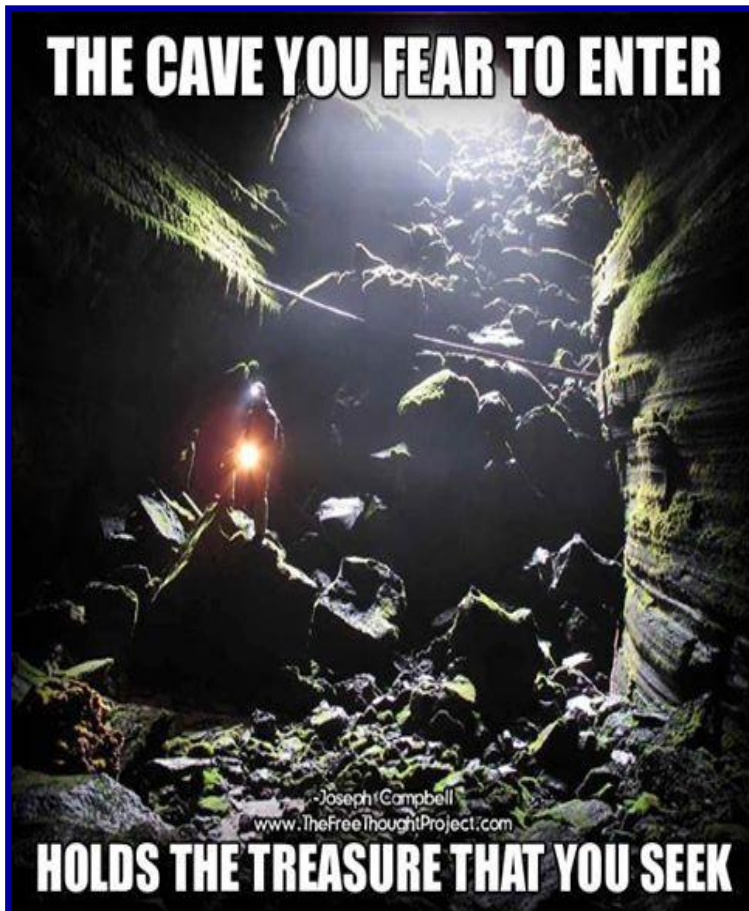
## ***Matthew 10:22 ... Enduring within the End***

(02/12/2017)

“The one who endures to the end will be Saved.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 10:22)

The first question some might ask here is the one who endures *what* will be saved? Fortunately, Jesus answers this quite clearly throughout his ministry – repeatedly telling his disciples (indeed, even in this particular chapter of [Matthew](#)) that they are to persevere in not only relaying his message of *selfless LOVE* but also in *emulating* the same (see [Matthew 10:16-23](#) in general, and also specifically [Matthew 10:25](#), where Jesus says that “it is enough for a disciple to be like the teacher” ... [Matthew 24:12-14](#) is also on point, where Jesus quite clearly tells his followers that “the one who endures [in LOVE] to the end will be saved”) ... Note as well that throughout Jesus’ ministry Salvation was mentioned as a state of Bliss one attained *during* his or her acts of Caring Kindness, not as some heavenly reward therefore thereafter (see [John 13:15-17](#) & [Matthew 7:21-24](#) et al) -- a Truth that is made even more clear when we remember that (for Jesus at least) the “[Kingdom of Heaven](#)” was an *internal* Here&Now, not somewhere else or coming someday in



the future (see [Luke 17:20-21](#) & [Matthew 10:7](#) et al) ... Finally, “to the end” in this verse does not mean consistently over the course of an entire lifetime, but rather “to the end” of whatever encounter is requiring the persistent LOVE being mentioned – i.e. persisting in Loving the enemy until he flees or becomes a Friend; persisting in Forgiving a betrayer until she either repents or disappears; persisting in Giving to the downtrodden until their need subsides &/or they start to Give to others themselves.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.

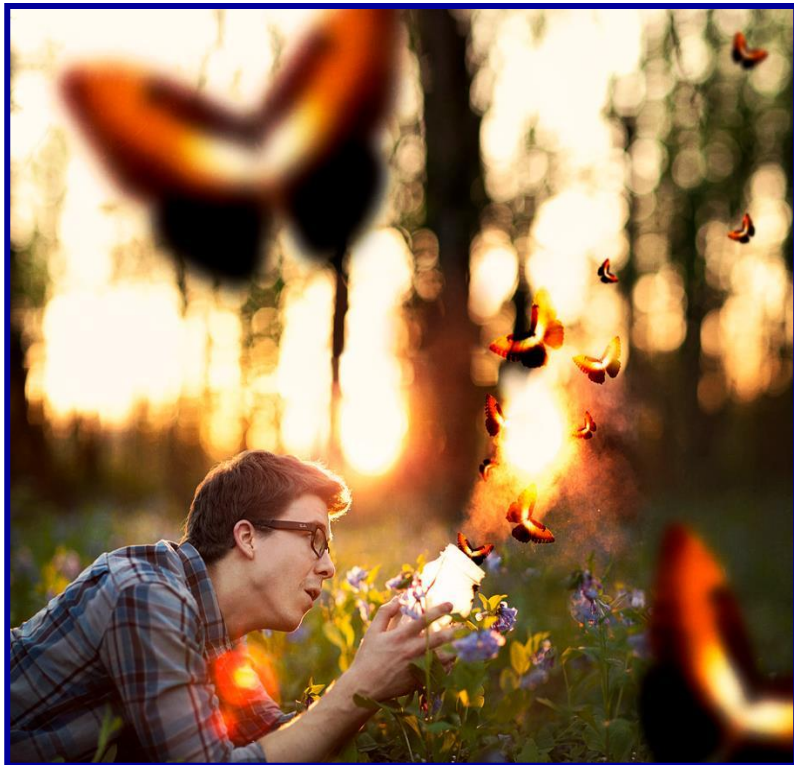
## ***Matthew 11:19 ... Vindicated by the Children*** (02/13/2017)

“Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”  
~ Jesus (Matthew 11:19)

This verse reflects the Truth similar to the one that Jesus shares in [Matthew 7:15-20](#) (and elsewhere) – teaching that the worth of a teaching (or an interpretation of Scripture; or even a teacher him or herself) must be measured by the “Fruits” that it bears when put purely into practice, and the Greek words used in the ancient manuscripts bear this out ... Consider: The Greek word for “**vindicated**” here is *edikaiothe* (Strong’s #1344), and means “**to justify**” or “**to prove to be just or impartial**”, while the Greek word for “**children**” here is *ergon* (Strong’s #2041 – the same word used in both [Matthew 5:16](#) & [Matthew 23:3-5](#)), and actually means “**that which is wrought**” or “**consequences**” ... As such, this verse essentially says that the relative Wisdom of our choices are shown in what they bring into being in totality (i.e. not only for the object of their enlivenment – and not only immediately after they are performed) ... Similarly, actions themselves are proven True or False (i.e. wise or unwise) not by how reasonable they are or by how much sense they might make, but rather by what consequences they engender; what “**children**” they bear when but into motion in a number of different situations.

In essence then, whenever evaluating the Fruit of a particular choice of action, unless a caringly intended “**wisdom**” causes another(s) obvious suffering right off the bat, we are to err on the side of giving &/or even repeating that Good Deed over abandoning it too quickly ... In essence, if we are to err, we are to ***err on the side of LOVE.***

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



## ***Thomas 1:50 ... In movement; in Rest***

(02/14/2017)

“If they ask you where you are from, answer that you have come from the Light ... If they ask for the sign of the Father within you, answer that it is movement and rest.” ~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 50)

In actuality, we all come from “**the Light of the Father**” -- in that we all contain a spark thereof within us; a conscient Self-Awareness that constantly calls for us to abandon selfish impulses and Love others instead ... And this Light is a part of us no matter what we do or don't do; whether we are moving forward or at rest ... True, this Light beams brighter when we are in motion in general, and it beams brighter still when we are in motion for loved ones, and it beam brightest of all when we are in self-sacrificial motion for strangers or enemies, and yet no matter what we choose to do or for whom, within us nonetheless "**the Light of the Father**" ever remains.



## *1 Corinthians 2:10 ... Searching the depths of God* (02/15/2017)

“These mysteries God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything; even the depths of God.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 2:10)

Despite the fact that Paul was quite obviously not privy to the greater Truths he claimed to know in his epistles, this verse still reflects quite a few potent Truths independent of Paul's probable ignorance thereof ... Consider: **First** of all, it is helpful to remember that "the Spirit" is an intuitive, supra-logical entity; one that feels the Truth completely but cannot explain it in concrete thought or clear word. As such, "the Spirit" reveals the essence of every Mystery to us in how we *feel* while living – with our choices more in alignment with that Spirit's innate & ineffable Oneness (e.g. Kindness, Generosity, Humility, self-sacrifice, Compassion, Caring etc) bringing a more intense experience of those Truths than those choices more constrained in their self-centeredness ... **Second**, please note that "the Spirit" doesn't actually “search” anything (much less search *for* anything) – if for no other reason than "the Spirit" is a pure facet of everything, and as such already “knows” all there is to Know ...

**Third**, feel free to realize that "the Spirit" is also a direct reflection of the Divine – that it is an actual facet of God Himself -- and that as such needs never “search” for God either (in the same way none of us ever need to “search” for our internal True Selves). For just as we need only set our desires & fears aside & Love anyway in order to allow our innate True Self to blossom forth as a true Child of God, so too must "the Spirit" simply be reflected accordingly in thought or word or (preferably) deed in order to reveal all that its Great Mysteries have to offer.

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***Mark 6:46 ... Up to the Mountain***

(02/16/2017)

“After saying farewell to them,  
he went up on the mountain to pray.”

~ unknown (Mark 6:46)

First of all, it is helpful to realize that Jesus is frequently shown in the Gospels retreating into solitude to pray (see [Mark 1:35](#), [Matthew 14:23](#), [Matthew 26:36-46](#), [Luke 5:16](#), [Luke 6:12](#), [Luke 22:41-44](#), [John 12:27-28](#) et al) – and it is in harmony with his teachings and indeed his entire ministry to realize that he did so not only to have a more peaceful place with which to commune with his internal heavenly **Father** ([John 14:20](#)), but that he also did so to “recharge his batteries” (i.e. to re-affirm his Compassion for others – see [Matthew 9:36](#), [Matthew 14:14](#) & [Matthew 20:34](#)) from the draining frustration he regularly felt in dealing with the large numbers of chronically ignorant & manically selfish people who followed him (e.g. [Matthew 14:23](#), [Matthew 16:5-12](#), [Matthew 16:21-23](#) et al) ...

In addition, his praying in solitude was yet another example of Jesus walking his talk, for in [Matthew 6:6](#) he quite clearly proscribes that when you pray you should “go into your closet and shut the door and pray to your Father who is hidden [within you]” – a practice that enhances clarity of thought, elevates purity of intention, and assures humility of self (see [Matthew 6:5](#) – “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others”).



## ***Matthew 11:15 ... Ears to Hear***

(02/17/2017)

“He who has ears, let him understand how to Hear.”

~ Jesus Christ (Matthew 11:15)

This is actually a reference to the many times in the Gospels when Jesus called not for others to listen to him, but rather to ***comprehend*** what he was saying (see also [Matthew 13:9](#), [Mark 4:9](#), [Mark 4:23](#) & [Luke 8:18](#)) ... Indeed, Jesus said the same &/or implied the same often during his ministry, not only to get people to slow down and deeply listen to his words, but – far more importantly – to awaken them to the fact that mental comprehension was not enough to follow his Way; that Love was either active or it was nothing, and that Salvation came from Doing for others, not from understanding or worshiping for self (see [Matthew 7:21-24](#), [John 13:15-17](#), [Matthew 24:12-14](#) et al).

***Amen*** ... Let it be so.



## **Mark 6:34 ... How to go Ashore**

(02/18/2017)

“As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd;  
and he had Compassion for them ...  
and he began to teach them many things.”

~ Jesus (Mark 6:34)

Note here that the depth of any teaching will be relative to the depth of the Compassion &/or the empathy that inspires it: Arrogance breeds teachings brittle & fleeting; Pity brings teachings hollow & often untrue; and Sympathy birthes teachings that are merely half-applicable and only half-harmonious.

**Compassion**, on the other hand, burgeons teachings ripe and full and Powerful and True ...



Note as well that the phrase “**He went ashore**” is actually quite important – for it shows that Christ came *to them* – that he approached *them* on their level; which happens to be the only state of mind that allows for the **Compassion** necessary to teach both accurately (i.e. with a content focused on limitless Love) and effectively (i.e. with a method that is inspirational & self-discovery-oriented).

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



## ***John 7:37-39 ... Drinking the Living Waters***

(02/19/2017)

“There is a love like a small stream which dries up when it doesn’t rain. But there is also a Love like a mighty spring gushing up out of the earth ... It keeps flowing forever and is inexhaustible.” ~ Isaac of Nineveh

Isaac of Nineveh was a 7th-century East Syriac Christian theologian & devout ascetic, and his staunch belief that the notion of God punishing men endlessly through the mystery of **Gehenna** (or “the lake of fire”, or “Hell”) was not at all compatible with God’s all-encompassing Love resonated perfectly with the teachings of Jesus and The Way of Christ. As such we should not be surprised that he would utter something so potently reminiscent of Jesus’ statements in the Gospels ... Indeed, **John 4:14** has Jesus noting that “Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life”, and **John 7:37-39** has Jesus continuing on to say “Let the one who believes in me drink. As the Scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ He said this about the Spirit” (see also **Proverbs 18:4** & **Gospel of Thomas 108**) ... Jesus also noted that this inner Spirit was essentially of God Himself (**John 14:20**) and that God was the essence of perfect LOVE (**Matthew 5:48**), so it makes perfect sense that Isaac of Nineveh would have equated the three as well – Water as Spirit; Spirit as LOVE; LOVE as Water ... And as far as the inexhaustibility of the same goes, this is an accurate

utterance as well, for while the self-centered “love” of the ego (i.e. love given as manipulation or obligation or reciprocity or in response to societal expectation) inevitably drains its giver (leading to fatigue, resentment, isolation, and despair), truly Divine LOVE is given solely for the benefit of the other (often via acts of willing self-sacrifice) and as such is an ever-invigorating act; leading the giver thereof to always experience emPowerment, Calm, Joy, &/or Contentment.



## ***1 Corinthians 2:15 ... To discern all things***

(02/20/2017)

“Those who are Spiritual discern all things, and are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 2:15)

Actually, whereas Paul would imply herewith that those who are “**spiritual**” (i.e. those who happen to agree with *his* personally-created theology of atonement via the admission of sinfulness & absolution via the worshiping Jesus Christ) can see the Truth in all events and know the Truth in all encounters, Jesus – as is so often the case regarding Paul’s writings – would say otherwise ... For Jesus would say that there is only one thing necessary to **discern**; that there is only one thing worthwhile to interpret, and only one thing worthy of knowing – and that thing is ***the Will of God***; the will of his heavenly **Father**; a **will** that is the same as the essence of that Divinity; a **will** that is perfectly reflective of pure & perfect Love (**Matthew 5:48**); a **will** that by its nature cannot criticize or cajole or condemn (**1 John 4:18 + Matthew 18:21-22**); a **will** that by its nature shows only loving grace and compassionate mercy to others – even while rejecting the harms they might be inflicting (**Luke 6:36**) ...

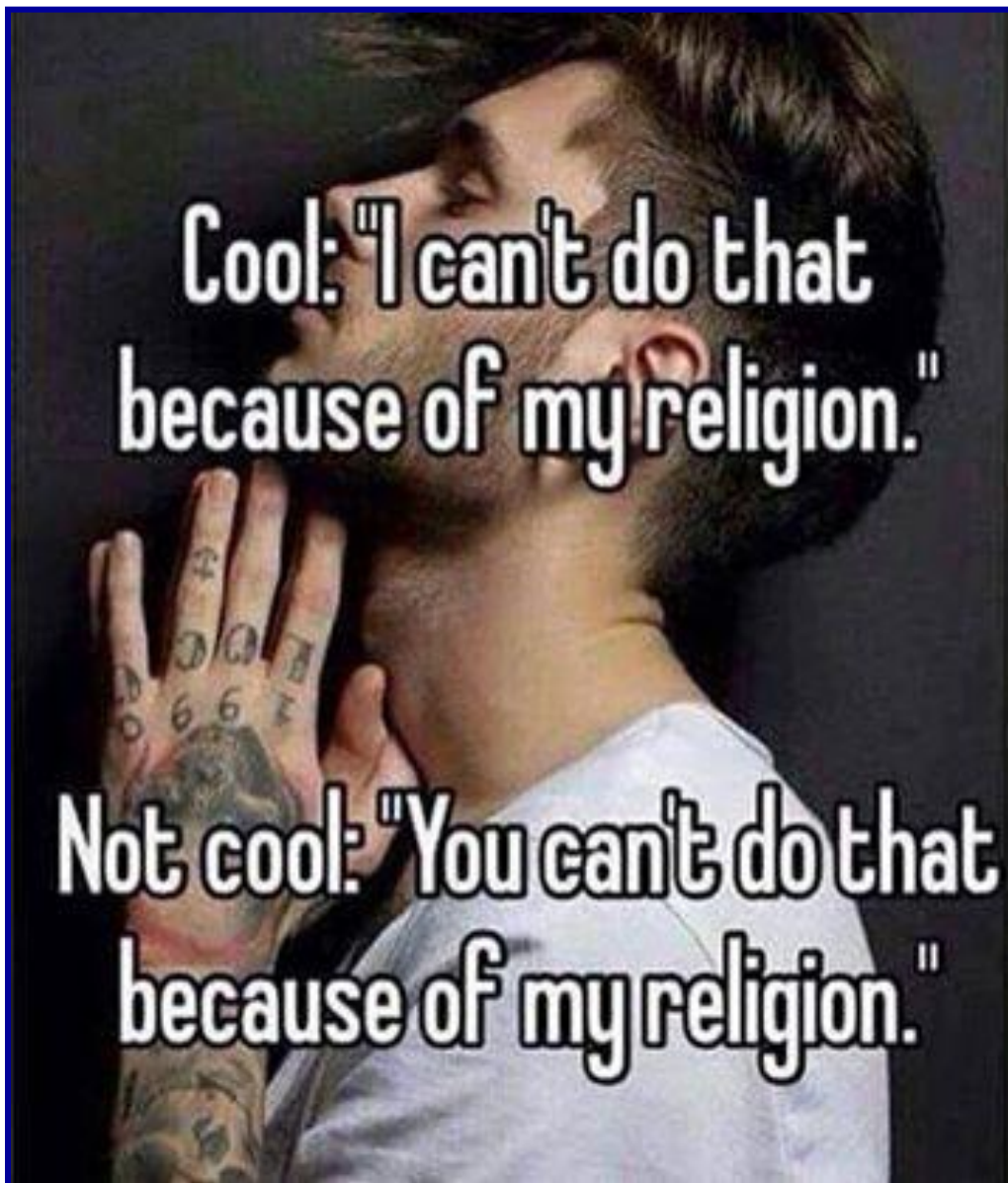
And whereas Paul would say that this will resides in “God above” and that we can only access it when that God decides to share the same with us, Jesus noted quite clearly that this **will** of his heavenly **Father** resides ever & always **within each & every one of us** (**John 14:20-26**).

In addition, I find it odd that Paul would claim that those who meet his qualifications would themselves “**be subject to no one else’s scrutiny**” – odd in that Paul was the one who was so fond of critically scrutinizing others (see **Acts 13:9-11, Romans 1:32, Romans 2:6, 1 Corinthians 16:22, 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 1 Corinthians 10:20, 2 Corinthians 10:6, Galatians 2:11, Galatians 3:1, Galatians 5:12, Colossians 3:12-14, Philippians 3:18-19, & 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16**) – and odd in that Paul himself was so flat-out wrong when it came to preaching The Gospel of Christ (please contrast his gospel mentioned in **1 Corinthians 15:1-4 & Romans 10:9** with Jesus’ Gospel mentioned in **Matthew 10:7 & Matthew 24:12-14**).

Indeed, even in the particular chapter in which this verses resides, we see Paul not striving to share this Wisdom in order to bring others into harmony with God or inspire his listeners’ unique paths of service thereto, but rather to persuade them to align themselves with *him* and his teachings.

Finally, while those who understand the real majesty of perfect Love are indeed “[subject to no one else’s scrutiny](#)”, these are precisely the people who need never be told the same – for these are the people who are already willingly self-sacrificing for others without a care for their own reward or safety – these are the ones who deeply & fully Care for others without giving a single damn about what others might think about that Caring (“[And you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end \[with Love\] will be saved](#)” ~ Jesus Christ in [Matthew 10:22](#)).

*Amen* ... Let it be so.



## ***Matthew 23:39 ... To see Him again***

(02/21/2017)

“You will not see me again until you say: Blessed is the One [within] – who comes in the Name of the Lord.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 23:39)

Please note that the word “**within**” has been appropriately (and importantly) added here for various reasons ... Consider the following: First & foremost, the phrase “**in the name of the Lord**” is once again critical, for the simple reason that – for Jesus at least – God was an **internal** essence of perfect Love (see [John 14:20](#) & [Matthew 5:48](#)). This means that – for Jesus at least – the only ones who can truly come “**in the name of the Lord**” are those who openly & persistently proclaim their desire **to serve others** in need. Jesus doesn’t say “blessed is the one who comes worshiping the Lord” here, and he doesn’t say “blessed is the one who comes with the name of the Lord on his lips.” No, he quite clearly says “**Blessed is the one who comes *in* the name of the Lord**” – the name of which is **LOVE** ... And this is precisely what will happen to all who choose to do so – they will indeed “**see**” (actually, **feel**) the Christ Essence rise up from within them, at least to the degree the same is being courageously enlivened by their actions ... And indeed, if we keep this in mind, maybe this interpretation explains what Jesus might have meant by his usually puzzling statement that “**There are those among you here who will not perish before they see the Son of Man coming in all his glory.**” (Matthew 16:28)

**Amen** ... Let it be so.



*“The real question of life after death isn't whether or not it exists, but even if it does what problem this really solves.”*

*~ Ludwig Wittgenstein*

*“One of the greatest tragedies in mankind's entire history may be that morality was hijacked by religion.” ~ Arhur C. Clarke*

*“It is truth that liberates, not your effort to be free.”*

*~ Jiddu Krishnamurti*

*“Every day people are straying away from the church and going back to God.” ~ Lenny Bruce*

*“The world is so exquisite with so much love and moral depth, that there is no reason to deceive ourselves with pretty stories for which there's little good evidence. Far better it seems to me, in our vulnerability, is to look death in the eye and to be grateful every day for the brief but magnificent opportunity that life provides.”*

*~ Carl Sagan*

*“Perhaps not one religion contains all of the truth of the world. Perhaps every religion contains fragments of the truth, and it is our responsibility to identify those fragments and piece them together.”*

*~ Christopher Paolini*

*“All religions are true but none are literal.” ~ Joseph Campbell*



*“And I will take one from a thousand  
and two from ten thousand,  
and they shall Become a single One.”  
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)*