

**TWENTY-ONE THINGS
A PERSON GETS
WITH SALVATION**

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Thirdly, to my beloved wife, who is a continual blessing, support, “helpmeet”, and the dearest person the Lord has put into my life.

Without the help of these dear people I would not even be close to where I am today in the service of our Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM THE PRIOR EDITION

I thank the LORD Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit in me for the ability to write this book. Without Him it would be impossible to discern the word of God or rightly divide it, much less put the truths down in a format where they can be presented to others for study. I thank Him also for the opportunity to print this work in times past.

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PREFACE

One of the main characteristics of a true BAPTIST is that he takes a Book as his highest authority for Truth. He uses that Book as the sole rule of faith and practice. He does this believing what he reads in that Book, every single word, and his actions, doctrine, teaching, life, words — everything — is a result of believing and trusting that one Book. That blessed Book is the Holy Bible.

Because of this Baptist characteristic, a paper written by a Baptist on the subject of salvation will be Biblical. This paper contains over 300 references to scripture verses. Scripture is used because it is the authority for truth (John 17:17). I have arranged the scripture verses according to subject and have added a few comments of my own. I have strived to allow God's word say what needs to be said. My words are unimportant compared to God's words.

My words are not infallible. The more I rely on God's word, the truer this work will be.

The purpose of this work is to aid the teaching of the subject of Biblical Salvation. Included is much practical information for both the teacher and the student. Originally Included in this work was the New Believer's Guide, used to train new believers. This course was developed in conjunction with this work. There was also a section on what Biblical belief is, and what being "born again" means.

Although these sections are not in this edition of *21 Things*, you may obtain a copy of these sections by writing Historic Baptist Church.

With teaching in mind, the author has arranged and organized this material in a format to be used by teachers. The work not only presents the material in a documented form, but it supplies a working, organized booklet that a teacher can use easily and effectively. The standard double-spacing format has been eliminated for this reason. This *21 Things* is a starting point in the study of what a person gets with salvation. I doubt this subject could ever be exhausted.

The *New Believer's Guide* contains a very short version of *21 Things* under its first lesson. This work of *21 Things* can be used to elaborate that section of Lesson I.

The author recognizes two means of gaining Bible truth through study:

1. Deductive Method: Starting with an idea and studying the Bible to determine its validity. Adding to, taking away, and modifying the idea as the word of God dictates.
2. Inductive Method: Starting with no preconceived ideas and letting the scriptures determine the facts.

The inductive method has been used in conjunction with the deductive method throughout this work. (It is impossible to study rightly without the use of both.)

Because of the many good traditions (II Thessalonians 3:6) passed down from generation to generation through the local church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (I Timothy 3:15), Bible truths can be stated in “parable form” with total support from the scriptures. Many of these truths would not reveal themselves easily without diligently “searching the scriptures” for them. But knowing what you are searching for is essential. This is what the author has tried to do.

Because of the many false traditions which make the word of God of none effect (Matthew 15:6; Mark 7:9; 7:13), the author is not so naive as to accept every tradition as true and right just because he has been exposed to it. A tradition should not be accepted as true unless it is taught and upheld by the word of God, or that there is the liberty granted in the word of God to do so. In I Thessalonians 5:21, Paul wrote, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” This was written to the same people to whom Pauls said, “...hold the traditions which ye have been taught ...” (I Thessalonians 2:15). Notice the “proving” comes before the “holding.”

The author assures the reader that he has not accepted a tradition as true unless he has found it supported by the scriptures to his satisfaction. Nonetheless, the reader is encouraged and expected to read the scripture references for himself and consider diligently the matter. Every believer should be “fully persuaded in his own mind” (Romans 14:15) in what he receives to be true. I believe the greatest blessing of the good tradition is that much of it would go unnoticed if it were not for the churches who have faithfully kept the truth down through the centuries, and have proved these traditions through times and troubles.

The author encourages those with contrary opinions to seek the truth themselves rather than rely on hearsay. As one will study the word of God with pure motives I believe God will show him truth. The author hopes the reader will find value in this work.

This paper was submitted in fulfillment of the dissertation requirement for the Th.D. degree from Baptist Theological School of New England. This work has been revised since it was first conceived in January 1992. Revision was necessary to correct minor typographical errors, sentence syntax, references, etc.

For this and previous printed editions I have reworked the material again and again. As the author grows and matures, and as time is allowed to pass between readings, some things can be better stated. No truth has been changed, however, although this work has been in printed form for over ten years.

Many additions to the text have been made. The format and pagination have been changed. The supplement has been deleted. Since *21 Things* was first published there have been various printings. Each edition is more accurate (we are not yet perfect). This folio edition is newly formatted again, and it is printed in an entirely different manner than the previous experimental pocket-size booklet (octavo edition).

PREFACE FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION

The intent of this book is to reveal the truth in the word of God regarding the salvation of the soul, and the various things a person receives at the instant of salvation. The sole authority for the facts in this book is the word of God — specifically the King James Version (AV 1611) — which has been proved without a doubt by God and many other saints, to be the inspired, inerrant, complete, sufficient, and perfectly preserved word of God in the English language.

I take into consideration no experiences of individuals, as these experiences can easily be faulty, even with the sincerest of believers. The Holy Bible should always be taken as THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY for the believer's faith, and not the personal belief, creeds, dogmas, or opinions of any person or organization. I do not discount the benefit of these other things for non-Biblical interpretation.

The scriptures should always be received for what they say, as they always say clearly what they mean, and they mean what they say, without contradiction, in the King James Version of the Holy Bible. I, personally, do not believe the scriptures are to be "interpreted" (II Peter 1:20). Interpretation is for dreams, tongues or prophecy in the Old Testament, and for tongues and names in the New. God's says what He means and means what He says. If He didn't mean to say what He said, *he would not of said it!* BEWARE OF INTERPRETATIONS! It is by these that perversion and heresy comes. If you do not understand a part of scripture, seek God in prayer asking Him to give you understanding and make His word clear (Matthew 7:7). God has also given us pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11) to teach us using the scriptural method of rightly dividing (II Timothy 2:15). You would be amazed at how often God answer questions of scripture in the preaching and teaching of His servants.

I pray this book will be used for the Glory of God Almighty, who is the LORD Jesus Christ; and be a blessing to those who read it.

N. Sebastian Desent
January, 1992

Added note:

This little book has been requested by many and there are many testimonies of the blessings received by the reading of this book. Praise the Lord! I had not intended to reprint the book again, but, because of the many requests, I have decided to do it again. This book is reprinted in a new format as a result of the improved printing equipment received from the Lord. The requests of those who have read this book have prompted this book's re-printing.

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	i
PREFACES	iii
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER	
I. Salvation: The Escape from Hell	6
II. Spiritual Birth	10
III. Sin Cleansing	12
IV. Security in Christ	16
V. Sealing of the Holy Spirit	18
VI. Satisfied Spiritual Search	22
VII. Sleep Instead of Death	26
VIII. Soul that will Never Die	29
IX. Set Free	31
X. Strong Sovereign Saviour	35
XI. Strength to Overcome	37
XII. Safety Against Harm	40
XIII. Sanctification by God	43
XIV. Supplications Heard in Heaven	46
XV. Sufficient Supply for all Your Need .	49

XVI. Sound Mind	51
XVII. Sainthood Status	53
VIII. Spiritual Discernment	56
XIX. Sojourn on this Earth	58
XX. Seat of Judgment	60
XXI. Savings Account in Heaven	63
CONCLUSION	65

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ, who by His Grace gave me a Book, the Holy Bible (King James Version), with which to study, live by, use, and love.

And He also gave me a Person, the Holy Ghost, with whom I can discern the things of God. Thank you dear Lord Jesus.

And Jesus came and spake unto them,
saying, All power is given unto me
in heaven and in earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you:
and, lo, I am with you alway,
even unto the end of the world.
Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

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INTRODUCTION

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came
trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,
And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do
to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus
Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 16:29-31

In the context of the passage of scripture quoted above we find Paul and Silas imprisoned in Philippi during the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey. Paul and Silas had been beaten and imprisoned for preaching the Gospel of Christ. At midnight they prayed and sang praises to God. As a result of a great earthquake sent by God, the jailor awoke. (He should not have been sleeping on duty.) The jailor, seeing the doors opened and thinking the prisoners had escaped, was about to kill himself. The penalty for allowing prisoners to escape would be certain death (see Acts 12:19). Immediately, to prevent this jailor from committing suicide, Paul cries, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here." The jailor then calls for a light and comes to Paul "trembling."

What follows is the most important question a person can ever ask. In fact, it is the most important question for all of mankind. From the first century to the end of the world — which according to scripture will come — there is no question more essential to life and happiness. An incomplete life is the lot of one who does not ask this question, and an even more incomplete life if that person will not obey the true answer. That true and only answer is found in the Holy Bible.

The most important and essential question is, "What must I do to be saved?"

The answer to this question is answered immediately and plainly by the Apostle Paul when he says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." This is the answer from God's word to the important and essential question of life. The answer all should heed is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Bible states clearly that salvation is “by grace through faith,” as stated in Ephesians 2:8, 9:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

When Paul adds, “and thy house,” he is stating that the same way of salvation is available to the folks in that man's house, as clearly shown in the verses following (especially v. 34). This way of salvation is available to you and the folks in your house as well.

According to the Holy Bible, salvation is possible ONLY through Jesus Christ. That is why He came to this earth (Luke 19:10). Jesus Christ came to provide salvation to all who will believe. Forever recorded in scripture are these words:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the
life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:6

We are also shown the way of salvation in the book of Romans. There is a particular set of verses of scripture which is known as “The Roman's Road to Salvation.” This road has been followed by millions of people to find that saving faith in Jesus Christ. We will review these scriptures. Milestone 4 indicates how a person is saved according to the Bible. We must determine Biblically what salvation is, and how to get it, before starting the study of the twenty-one things a person receives at salvation.

Here then is the Roman's Road to Salvation:

Milestone 1: Realize you are a sinner.

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:10

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Romans 3:23

Milestone 2: Realize God loves you:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while
we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Milestone 3: Realize you deserve death and Hell because you are a sinner, and repent (change your heart and mind, turn from from sin and dead works, and turn to God and Jesus Christ):

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

Romans 5:12

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

Romans 6:23

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your
sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die
in your sins.

John 8:24

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all
likewise perish.

Luke 13:3

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now
commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 17:30

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks,
repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus
Christ.

Acts 20:21

But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at
Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea,
and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent
and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Acts 26:20

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death.

Revelation 20:14

Milestone 4: Do what God says to do to be saved:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Romans 10:9-11

Milestone 5: Take God at His word:

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

Romans 10:13

When, with a good and honest heart, a person does what God says to do to be saved, that person is given the gift of salvation from God the Father and is forever SAVED according to the word of God. God commands all men to repent (change their heart and mind — Acts 17:30) and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (I John 3:23). That is what a person does to be saved, and thus receive the gift of eternal life.

Repentance and faith are *not* works. Notice Ephesians 2:8, 9:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

The question for you, dear reader, is, do you believe with your heart that Jesus Christ died for your sins according to the scriptures? Do you believe He was buried, and rose again according to the scriptures? If so, you are saved by grace through faith. Do you believe the gospel (death, burial, and resurrection — I Corinthians 15:1-4) of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth (Romans 1:16, 17)? Have you put your complete trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation?

Now the promise of John 3:16 is best understood by experience:

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

This is Biblical salvation. The way to be saved is simple. It only takes an instant for a person to believe with the heart that Jesus died for him, that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

If you have never done this in sincerity and truth, allow me to encourage you to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ presented above. It is a direct commandment of God to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I John 3:23 says:

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important message given to mankind. The only thing God has provided for the forgiveness of sin is the Gospel of Jesus (II Corinthians 5:21), and there is no other acceptable sacrifice for sin (John 1:29; Hebrews 9:28).

When one believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he truly believes in his heart that the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is sufficient to forgive all his sins (see I Corinthians 15:1-8). He has received the gift of Salvation by faith. The penalty of sin, which is everlasting punishment, is paid for by Christ's death. Once saved according to the word of God, you will never perish in the Lake of Fire. This is Biblical salvation.

IF YOU ARE TRULY SAVED, YOU KNOW IT!

God has ordained salvation so that, if a person has *truly* received the gift of salvation, that person *knows* he has eternal life. If one has eternal life, he should know he has it. If a person doubts his salvation, that is an indication he needs to make sure of his salvation. Please note these verses:

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

II Timothy 1:12

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

I John 2:25

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 8:16

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

I John 5:10-13

THE BENEFIT OF PREACHING THE TRUTH

Biblical salvation being defined, we can now proceed to learn what twenty-one things a person receives at salvation. Although salvation is in no way limited to these twenty-one things, they are a good group of benefits to consider at the start of one's Christian walk. The best defense against false teaching — on the subject of salvation or any other — is the preaching of the TRUTH (John 17:17). We need not study the various false teachings in the world to defend the truth, but merely study and teach what the truth is, and by doing so we expose *all* falsehood.

We understand then that salvation is *not a process* whereby a person works to gain the reward of heaven. Salvation is a gift God gives to anyone the instant he believes on Jesus Christ.

According to the word of God, a believer receives these twenty-one things at the instant of salvation, whether or not he realizes their full impact, believes them, sees them, or even fully understands them. At the same time, understand that a person receives much more than these twenty-one things at salvation.

Because these twenty-one things are *given* to the believer at the time of salvation, they can never be lost — you have God's word on it!

Use your Bible to review the verses written in this book. May God bless you in your study.

Note: When the author uses the term believer, child of God, or saved person, he is referring to a person who has been saved according to the word of God as defined above.

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CHAPTER I

SALVATION: THE ESCAPE FROM HELL

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

Romans 10:13

First and foremost, the thing a person gets at salvation is salvation itself. To have salvation is to be rescued from everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire — hell fire — for one's sins. What a tremendous gift of God. No person could ever earn this reward — *it must be a gift of God*.

Most people do not consider it pleasant to speak on the subject of hell. Nevertheless, hell is real, and all unbelievers will be cast into hell (Psalm 9:17; II Peter chapter 2; Revelation 21:8). Those who are *not saved* will be cast into hell immediately following their earthly death (see Luke 16:22, 23). One must receive Christ as Saviour before he dies if he is to escape hell fire. God is not willing that anyone should perish in hell (II Peter 3:9). For this cause God gave His only begotten Son to suffer and die on the cross, so as to pay the penalty of sin for all who believe. The penalty of sin is death and hell. The penalty of sin is paid for by **CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD**. If a person receives God's gift he will not come into condemnation (John 3:16-18; 1:12).

The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the Final Judge, and He will cast all unbelievers into “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). If someone refuses to believe in Jesus, he will have to answer to Jesus for his unbelief.

These unsaved people will go to a place where the devil and his angels will eventually be delivered for punishment. These people have trampled underfoot the Son of God. They have rejected God's perfect Gift — Jesus Christ. God loves His Son, but He gave Him to be crucified by sinful man so that anyone could be saved through faith in Him.

How unworthy some people count themselves that they would reject Christ and hope to get to heaven some other way (Acts 13:46). Others do not even care where they will end up after death. For these Christ rejecters there awaits a terrible place called hell.

Some unbelievers are deceived (they deceive themselves, or have been deceived – Matthew 24:4; Mark 13:5; Luke 21:8; I Corinthians 6:9; II Thessalonians 2:10; II Timothy 3:7; Revelation 13:14). Other unbelievers purposely reject the reality of Hell, thinking that will eliminate the reality. What is interesting is that the devil himself knows everlasting fire is a reality, and knows that is his destiny (Matthew 25:41)

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

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:16-18

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 3:36

Hell is a real place. There are some who deny its existence, but their beliefs are not based on any facts, truth, or logic. These unbelievers risk so much on their *opinion*. The only *sure way* to know what comes after this life is over is to get the truth from God Himself. Why would anyone expect to see Christ-rejecting folks in heaven where Christ is Lord of all (Revelation 5:12-14; 21:23)? Is heaven a place for murderers, rapists, liars, drunkards, sodomites, whores, and self-righteous sinners who have no desire for God, His Son, or His word? The truth as declared in the Bible is that God has another place prepared for these people — *instead of heaven*.

The Bible describes hell as follows:

1. A place to be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).
2. A furnace of fire (Matthew 13:41, 42).
3. A place of torments (Luke 16:23).
4. A place of weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42).
5. A place to be cast into outer darkness (Matthew 8:12).
6. A place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:48).
7. A place located in the heart of the earth (compare Matthew 12:40 with Acts 2:27, 31).

The word "hell" is mentioned 54 times in the Bible (31 times in the Old Testament, 23 times in the New Testament). Jesus Christ spoke more of hell than any other person in the Bible.

Hell is a place God wants man to know about!

As Paul writes in chapter two, verse three of his Epistle to the Hebrews (and he is definitely the author), "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation...?"

According to the Bible, a person is saved by "grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). A person is not saved because he has been baptized, or because he is a member of a church, or because he is a good person. If this were true then there is no need for Jesus' sacrifice. God would not have endured the grief of providing His Son as a sacrifice for you and me if we could make it to heaven another way. Jesus said, "I am the way...no man cometh to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). A person is saved because he has put his faith in Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection. A person who has been relying on good works for salvation should be relieved when he learns that it is not by works (Galatians 2:16), but through faith in Christ that one receives the gift of salvation.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not
of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8, 9

So we see that a believer is saved from hell because he has put his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We see also that the scriptures clearly state that those who have not received the gift of Jesus Christ will be cast into a literal hell because of their rejection or unbelief of God's only begotten Son.

WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD?

One may ask why people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ would be cast into hell seeing they had no opportunity to receive the gift. Well, all deserve hell in the first place. If God cast everyone into hell right now and saved no one He would still be just and righteous. We must honour God's view of justice, not man's.

GOD'S PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

But we also know from the first four chapters of Paul's Epistle to the Romans that God reveals Himself to sinful man through His Creation first, the individual's conscience second, the word of God third, and finally through the Person of Jesus Christ. When anyone receives the revelation of God through His Creation, God will then work on that man's conscience. If that man receives the revelation of God through his conscious, God will then reveal Himself to that man through His word (the scriptures). Finally, if a man believes the word of God, he can be saved when he, by faith, believes Jesus Christ died for his sins, was buried, and rose again the third day.

If a man, wherever he may be in the world, rejects God by rejecting the revelation of God through His Creation, God is not bound to reveal Himself in the man's conscious. This shows the wickedness of the lie of Evolution. Evolution teaches that man created God, but the Bible teaches that God created man. Those who accept Evolution as true have cut themselves off from the revelation of God in their conscious.

That means that a man educated in the world of science who accepts Evolution is actually farther away from finding the truth that "Jesus Saves" than the aborigine in the Peruvian jungle who knows the heaven and earth had to be made by Someone.

I must say again that a man is not saved until he receives Jesus Christ. He is neither saved by receiving the truth of Creation, nor the truth of God manifested in his conscious, nor by merely believing that the Bible is the word of God and that it shows the way of salvation. These things bring him closer to the Truth (John 14:6). The Truth is Jesus Christ, and a man must believe in Him to be saved.

We see in scripture that God sees everything, even into the hearts of men (Proverbs 15:3; 20:27). God is able to send faithful men to preach the word to the heathen. God will also direct their efforts (Acts 10; 16:9). If we do not go, and the heathen perish, their blood is on our hands (Acts 20:26; Ezekiel 33:6-9; Romans 10:14, 15).

We thank God for His Gift of Salvation, Jesus Christ. It was He who died to pay the penalty for sin: death and hell. Believers truly rejoice that their names are written in the Book of Life (Revelation 21:12, 15). They will never have to experience any part of hell or eternal punishment in the lake of fire. We must be faithful to make this message known

By far, the escape from hell is not the only benefit to salvation as one will see as he reads on.

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 CHAPTER II:
 SPIRITUAL BIRTH

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

John 3:3

Jesus says that unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom (Romans 14:17) which is inside of the believer (Luke 17:21). It is also a spiritual kingdom into which a person enters upon salvation (John 3:5).

The kingdom of God is spiritual, and it should not be confused with the kingdom of heaven, which is that literal and visible kingdom that Jesus will set up on this earth when He returns (Matthew 25:34). The Kingdom of heaven is made up his servants, or those who claim to be his servants, from the nations (churches, professors of Christianity, etc.), the kingdom of God is made up of individuals who are born again. Because of the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God, a person must be “born” into it by the Holy Ghost. This spiritual birth occurs at salvation:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:
 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:12, 13

When a person receives Christ as his personal Saviour, that person is spiritually born (born again) of God into God's family, and becomes a son of God. This birth is irreversible. Once a person becomes a son of God he cannot be unborn out of God's family. When any father has a son, that son is a son of the father whether he behaves well or not. Behaviour has no bearing on whether or not you are someone's son. However, if you are God's son you had better behave as one, as God changes His children (Hebrews 12:6).

A saved person has God's seed in him according to I John 3:9, and hence has become a “new creature” in Christ. This new creature some benefits:

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II Corinthians 5:17

At the time of salvation, a believer becomes a “new creature,” and his old ways are gone. He has been born into a new life. We see a parable of this in nature when a caterpillar is turned into a butterfly, never again to crawl in the old nature.

Without salvation, a person does not have full understanding of the truth of life. After being “born again” into God's family, the believer's spiritual eyes are opened by God. He now has *new* understanding and *new* desires (see Chapter XVIII).

We know from Romans 5:17-21 that death reigned because of the disobedience of Adam. This is the reward of man's fleshly birth.

In that same passage we see that by the obedience of one Man, Jesus Christ, men can be made righteous. That righteousness comes from Christ with the spiritual birth. The reward of this spiritual birth is life everlasting.

When a person is born spiritually into God's family he now has God for his Father. The devil is no longer his father (compare John 8:44 with I John 3:8-10). A person is deceived if he thinks all people are God's children. A person must be “born again” to be a child of God. Until then they are considered a child of the devil.

God begets a person by His seed. That seed is the word of God (I Peter 1:22, 23). That seed of God is planted in a person's heart (Luke 8:15). If that person has a good and honest heart he will receive and believe the word of God (the Gospel), and as a new creature in Christ, he will bear righteous fruit (Mark 4:8; John 15:8).

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 CHAPTER III:
 SIN CLEANSING

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
 we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of
 Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

I John 1:7

Walking in the light is living the life of one of God's children. We see in I John 1:5 that God says *He* is that light, and those that *have fellowship with Him* are walking in the light (verse 6). A person can only have fellowship with God through Jesus Christ (see John 14:6). As a result of this fellowship, the believer also has fellowship with other believers.

The part of the verse we want to focus upon for the topic at hand is the part where it says, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.”

A person's sin has to be paid for before God can save him. Because “the wages of sin *is* death” (Romans 6:23), *someone's* death has to pay for every man's sin. That required debt that all men owe can be paid for with the death of Jesus Christ, which occurred on the cross of Calvary nearly two thousand years ago. A person must receive that payment to have sin cleansing, or he will die in his sins and be required to pay the penalty himself. The Bible also says, “...and without shedding of blood is no remission.” Only life's blood can pay for sin (and the life of the flesh is the blood). Christ's death and blood are provided by God to cleanse our sins, or to “justify” us according to Romans 5:9:

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we
 shall be saved from wrath through him.

Christ's sacrifice (or atonement, Romans 5:11) is sufficient to cleanse ANY person from ALL sin once and for all. We must realize this. For someone to say one can pay for his own sins some other way is contradicting the word of God. Good works can prevent sin, but they can never pay for past sins. Only blood can. The payment *God provided* for sins will be the *only payment* He accepts. He determines the cost *and* the payment. Believers are redeemed (or bought) by this precious blood of Jesus Christ (see I Peter 1:18-25). All of the post-crucifixion sins were future from the time of the cross. When God washes away a person's sins, He washes ALL of them away — past, present, and future. In God's omniscience He knows what sins a person will commit during his entire life; even before that person is born. When He forgives a person's sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, He forgives them all: past, present, and future. This forgiveness comes when a person believes on Christ.

There will be some folks who say they have no sin. This is a lie according to the word of God. Lying also is a sin. I John 1:8 says:

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Romans 3:23 says:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(You will also note that “all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone,” according to Revelation 21:8.)

God's forgives a person's sins when that person confesses them to God through Christ. No other person but God has the power to forgive sins. No priest, person, or angel can forgive sin. No great works or human sacrifice can forgive sin. Only God can forgive sin (Luke 5:18-26). Jesus, who is God manifest in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16), is shown as forgiving sins:

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

Mark 2:10-12

By confessing sins through Christ a person has forgiveness:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

Confession can be defined as one admitting to and agreeing with God that the sin he has committed is what it truly is — sin. Confession is identifying sin for what it is and seeing it the way God sees it, and agreeing with God that the sin is wicked and should be forsaken. Confession testifies to the need for Jesus' sacrifice. Hiding or justifying sin is not confession. Note that one needs confess his sins to God and ask for cleansing by the blood of Jesus Christ (I John 1:7). This can be done privately without the help of any man.

God also commands everyone to repent of their sins:

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 17:30

Jesus Christ commanded “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).

Repentance is a change of mind and heart. Repentance causes a man to turn from sin and turn to God in faith. A man should not omit repentance in his preaching of the Gospel. Neither should a man preach a modified gospel or a gospel of works. A gospel of works is “another gospel” according to the Bible. When a man preaches another gospel he is accursed according to Galatians 1:8.

Those who will not confess their sins to God will not prosper:

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

When a person believes on Christ as Saviour all his sins are washed away. Then, as he sins from time to time after salvation, he does not lose his salvation, but he is provoked by the Holy Ghost to confess them to God through Christ and have forgiveness, and therefore not reap the chastisement of the Lord. Unconfessed sin will also have to be answered for at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and will amount to a loss of rewards.

Christ illustrated sin cleansing when He washed the disciples' feet. When He came to Peter, Peter said, “Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.” Jesus answered, “He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit...” (See John 13:9, 10).

Although a believer is clean after salvation and has all his sins cleansed and washed away, there will be times when his spiritual “feet” get dirty from his walk in this world. For that uncleanness Christ provided His blood for cleansing also. A man who is washed in the blood of Christ will never have to feel unclean before God. He merely confesses his sins to God and he has forgiveness, and the peace that comes with the knowledge that he has been forgiven.

Having God's gift of salvation means there is never an instant where sin would require God sending the believer to hell. Why? Because all his sins are covered under the blood.

Complete forgiveness is not a license to sin, as God chastens His children for unconfessed and unforsaken sins. There is the law of reaping and sowing (Galatians 6:7, 8). If a child of God sins, there will be a time of reaping when he will wish he had not committed that sin (see Hebrews 12:6-11). There is also a sin unto death (I John 5:17). This is the sin that a believer will not confess and forsake. This is the sin that God will punish with physical death, although the believer still retains his salvation (I Corinthians 11:31, 32).

A true child of God hates sin because his Father in heaven hates sin, and he loves his Father.

CAN ONE SIN AWAY GRACE?

The question arises whether a man can sin too much. Can he sin so often or so long that he cannot be saved? *I think NOT!* God's grace and the efficacy of Jesus blood is more that sufficient to forgive all the sin of mankind, the devil and his angels, and whatever other evil there may be. This does not mean all will be saved, but the power is there:

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Romans 5:20

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

I Timothy 1:14, 15

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Ephesians 1:7

Sin is sin, and all are sinners. All can be saved, and whosoever can be saved. If God's grace extends to the lowest sinner who repents, it likewise extends to His child who asks forgiveness.

So we have considered yet another thing a person receives at the instant of salvation: a sin cleansing; and that is obtained by the blood of Jesus Christ.

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 CHAPTER IV:
 SECURITY IN CHRIST

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

It is plain to see in scripture that salvation, obtained by faith in Christ in an instant, can never be lost or taken away.

Security in Jesus Christ is one of the greatest principles in the word of God. To deny the security of salvation shows that one believes works are necessary for salvation: whether to earn it or keep it. To teach that a person can lose his salvation, which is a gift of God, is in total opposition to the truth as found in the Holy Bible (Ephesians 2:8, 9). A person is saved BY GRACE, not works!

The things listed in Romans 8:35-39 are all inclusive. Only a man who wants to work for salvation, rather than receive the free gift, would pervert the security we have in Christ. The truth of the word of God is that NOTHING can separate us from the love of Christ.

Jesus said in John 3:16, "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." What could be plainer? We see again in John 5:24:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Jesus said that a believer is “passed” from death unto life.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:
And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.
My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.
I and my Father are one.

John 10:27-30

God knows all the sins a child of His will commit before He saves him; and God forgives them ALL — through Christ — when that person believes on the Lord. God will never send a child of His to hell — never!

In Matthew 7:21-23, when Christ was showing the future state of the wicked, He is quoted as saying in verse twenty-three: “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Notice that Jesus said “I never knew you.” He would not have said “never” if there was a time when these lost folks were known by Him. John 10:27 says, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me....” If Jesus knows you, He knows you. If He doesn't, He doesn't. What could be plainer? God is not a man that He should lie. Jesus would not say, “I know them,” and later say, “I never knew you,” if He were speaking of the same people. God wants His children to be sure they have eternal life. John wrote in I John 5:13:

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

If you are saved, you should have the surety of salvation.

CHAPTER V:
SEALING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:13, 14

We see here that a believer, after he has “believed,” is sealed with the Holy Spirit, who was promised by Christ in John 16:7. A believer does not have to pray for the Holy Spirit, work to receive Him, or live right so that He will be given. The Holy Ghost is given as the earnest of his inheritance. All that is required for this sealing is that the man believes the gospel of salvation; trusting in Christ.

There is no account in scripture where anyone had to pray to receive the Holy Spirit. In Acts 8:14-17 the apostles prayed that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Ghost. The apostles had received the Holy Ghost already. They had received the Holy Ghost even before Pentecost (see John 20:22). The event in Acts 8 is an exceptional case in history in that:

- a) The apostles were involved.
- b) The apostles were the ones who prayed that others would receive the Holy Ghost. The ones who were to get the Holy Ghost did not pray to receive Him.
- c) This was before God had freely opened the door unto the Gentiles (Acts 11:17; 13:44-52). Samaritans were half-breed Jews. Only Jews had received the Holy Ghost before that time.

After Paul, who was the Apostle to the Gentiles, was called to preach the Gospel (see following verses: Acts 9:15; 10:45; 11:18; 13:47; 14:27; Romans 11:11, Galatians 2:8), God fixed the time of reception of the Holy Spirit at the time of believing, as we see in Ephesians 1:13. The believer does not have to pray for the Holy Spirit. Jesus seals the believer when he “believes.”

God seals the Holy Spirit inside the believer when He cleanses away all his sins. Both the cleansing and the sealing occur at the instant a person receives Christ. A believer is “sealed,” which means he cannot lose the Holy Spirit. And how can he? He cannot lose his salvation, much less something that was sealed until the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is the earnest, or promise, of the believer's redemption. He is the down payment a believer receives that guarantees the believer's salvation.

If God were to send a child of His to hell, He would have to send the Holy Spirit along with him because He is sealed inside that believer. For God to send Himself to hell with a believer is contrary to the word of God and common sense, and is very foolish.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

Although the believer has the ability to “grieve” the Holy Spirit by sin in his life, He will not leave him. The Holy Spirit will continue to be grieved by the sin. When a child of God sins it makes God unhappy. God is Holy. God makes believers feel the grieving of the Holy Spirit (like the feeling of being homesick) when they sin. A man knows he is saved when he senses the grief he causes the Spirit when he sins. The Holy Spirit does not “convict” anything: a man gets conviction from his own conscience (I John 4:13).

Paul said in I Corinthians 6:19, 20:

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Even though these believers in Corinth were involved in carnal sins they still had the Holy Spirit. Paul warned them in I Corinthians 3:17 to not defile the church or God would destroy them. This meant physical death, not hell fire (see I Corinthians 3:15).

Jesus has sealed the believer with the Holy Spirit knowing that the believer would sin. Jesus gave him the Holy Spirit to show him the hidden sins in his daily life so that he would confess them and forsake them, and thereby not continue to grieve the Holy Ghost.

Believers should strive to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Ephesians 5:18

A believer becomes filled with the Holy Spirit as he yields to God. When a believer is filled with the Spirit he can do the work of God which God has called him to do. Although there is only one "sealing," there are many "fillings." These fillings occur as God is allowed to get hold of the believer's life. As the believer dies to self, God is magnified in him.

The Bible also says:

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25

A believer will "live in the Spirit" because he is saved. To "walk in the Spirit" is to be Christ-like and to be yielded to the Holy Spirit so that God may direct the believer's path.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

When a believer is walking in the Spirit he will obey God's commandments as found in the Bible. If a person claims to be walking in the Spirit, yet has unconfessed and unforsaken sins in his life, and does things contrary to what the Bible teaches, that person is deceived and does not know the truth.

Here are a few things the Holy Spirit does for the believer:

1. Seals him until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13).
2. Comforts him in tribulation (John 16:7).
3. Guides him unto all truth (John 16:13).
4. Glorifies Jesus Christ; NOT Himself (John 16:13, 14).
5. Shows things to come & guides to all truth (John 16:13).
6. Convinces him of sin (John 16:8).
7. Gives him a Spiritual birth (John 3:5).
8. Gives him gifts "as he will" (I Corinthians 12:1-11).
9. Helps him pray (Romans 8:26, 27).
10. Sheds the love of God in his heart (Romans 5:5).
11. Gives him peace and joy (Romans 14:17).
12. Bears fruit in him (Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 5:9). These various types of fruit are defined in Galatians 5:22-23.
13. Speaks to him in the scriptures (Hebrew 3:7).
14. Witnesses of God's promises (Ephesians 1:13, 14).
15. Washes and renews him (Titus 3:5).
16. Calls him to service and sends him out through his local church (Acts 13:1-4; 8:29).
17. Justifies and sanctifies (I Timothy 3:16; II Thessalonians 2:13).
18. Strengthens him (Ephesians 3:16).
19. Bears in him the witness of salvation (Romans 8:16).
20. Teaches him (I Corinthians 2:14; Luke 12:12).

Lastly, the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to:

1. Not be fearful (II Timothy 1:7, 8).
2. Love as Christ (John 13:34; 15:12).
3. Allow his light (testimony) to shine by good works (Matthew 5:16).
4. Serve God faithfully (Philippians 4:13).
5. Endure afflictions & overcome the world (I John 5:4, 5).
6. Be a witness for Christ (Acts 1:8).
7. Resist the devil (James 4:7).

No where in the Bible does the Holy Ghost cause a person to fall down, act foolishly, shake with convulsions, or do or say something wrong.

CHAPTER VI:
SATISFIED SPIRITUAL SEARCH

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:13, 14

The sixth thing which a person receives at the time of salvation is great satisfaction. The spiritual search for that soul is now satisfied. The saved person no longer seeks an answer to life — he knows it. Jesus has the water of life (Revelation 22:1, 17) which quenches forever all spiritual searching. God has made man spirit, soul and body (I Thessalonians 5:23). Man is incomplete if his spirit is dead (Ephesians 2:1). Without the true God in his life, a man is dead spiritually. In that man's soul there is a void which yearns to be filled. A void which only God can fill. A void which God is pleased to fill.

Many try to fill this void with sex, drugs, sports, money, learning, entertainment, materialism, religion (which is not Jesus Christ), Eastern Mysticism, music, or many other things a person can find in this world. Someone who tries to fill this spiritual void with anything other than Jesus Christ will not be satisfied.

However, the soul who seeks after God “As the hart panteth after the water brooks” (Psalms 42:1, 2), will be satisfied with salvation and life, and will have a personal relationship with the God of the universe — Jesus Christ. Only through Jesus Christ our Lord can a person be truly satisfied. No other thing or person can fill the spiritual void except Christ.

This is why Jesus promised He would give in the believer a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

A believer will never need to go to anyone but his Lord Jesus Christ for spiritual satisfaction. In fact, I have never met a true believer who was ever dissatisfied with Jesus Christ.

Before finding salvation in Jesus Christ, a person may have been characterized as one who was searching or willing to try anything new. After Christ, however, a person will be characterized as being narrow-minded or unwilling to believe there is any other way to joy. This is so because a saved person has a new nature, full and free in Jesus Christ. This person knows there is nothing else besides salvation that can bring such full satisfaction to the soul.

People who search honestly and with a good heart for the truth in life will find the Truth. Jesus said, "...and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

There are, however, people who stubbornly reject salvation, who will not receive the Truth, and who will attempt to find truth elsewhere. In reference to these people, the Bible says they are:

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge
of the truth.

II Timothy 3:7

and:

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:22

and again:

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light,
neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be
reproved.

John 3:20

But, of course, this is not the Lord's will:

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God
our Saviour;
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.

I Timothy 2:3, 4

No one who has truly received salvation has ever regretted doing so. In fact, history tells of many who would rather experience death or torture than to deny the Lord Jesus Christ:

The Apostle Paul was willing to give his life for Christ (Acts 20:22-27). There were others:

Savonarola (1452-1498) endured, for his testimony of Christ, a month of torture before his death. Torture included his body being stretched on the rack, and then being tied with ropes so that he could be raised high above a stone floor, only to be dropped again and again. Before being burned to death he is quoted as saying:

My Saviour, though innocent, died for my sins, and
should I not give up this poor body out of love for
Him?¹

The death of John Huss (1369-1414) is similar. Before being burned at the stake, he said:

I shall die with joy today in the faith of the Gospel
which I have preached.²

There are hundreds of these testimonies by the martyrs of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says in I Peter 1:8, 9, regarding the Lord Jesus Christ:

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now
ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy
unspeakable and full of glory:
Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of
your souls.

Salvation is truly a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

1 David Otis Fuller, D.D., ed., *A Treasury of Evangelical Writings* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publ., 1971), pp., 99-101.

Also written in scripture is this:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not
as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your
heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

How true it is that at salvation the believer's hunger and thirst for righteousness is forever satisfied. He has such peace of heart and mind, and joy unspeakable, because he has truly found the Almighty God of the Universe, the Creator of all things. There is nothing greater.

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he
that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that
believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

The Bible also says that the kingdom of God is "...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). What true spiritual satisfaction this is.

CHAPTER VII:
SLEEP INSTEAD OF DEATH

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:51

One of the greatest treasures of salvation, which is given to the believer at the time of salvation, is the promise of a “sleep” instead of death. This promise will not manifest itself until the believer's walk on this earth is over. A believer in Christ will not see death. Jesus said:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my
saying, he shall never see death.

John 8:51

You may ask, How can this be? You may have known many believers who have died. The answer is simple: their soul did not die, and their “body” is asleep, waiting to be raised in the last day (John 6:39). That is why the death of a believer's body is called “sleep” in the Bible. There is no death for the believer. The believer's soul and spirit go immediately to be with the Lord when what we understand as death comes. Later, in the last day, the believer will be reunited with his body, which will be remade into a perfect, Christ-like body. When the time comes for the believer to be separated from his body at what we call death, he will be alive and well in heaven with his Saviour. Paul says this:

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be
absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:8

At what we know as death, the body or shell of a believer is shed, as a snake sheds its skin, and that shell is buried. The soul goes to be with the Lord, to live with Jesus forever.

Although that “shell” may deteriorate in the grave, be burned, be cast into the sea, or be eaten by wild animals; there is a “seed” (I Corinthians 15:38) in that body that will never be destroyed. When God chooses, He will find and take that seed, and rebuild a supernatural body for the believer to live in for eternity.

A believer then has no reason to fear death. Death for a child of God will be just like falling asleep. At that instant of sleep, the believer will immediately be in the presence of the Lord.

Paul says this in I Corinthians 15:55:

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy
victory?

The Bible also teaches that there will be some believers who will miss this “sleep” altogether. These will be those believers who are alive at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to remove His people from this earth. Jesus Christ is definitely coming back in a literal, physical return to set up His millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:4). Seven years before this Second Coming of Christ, Christ calls His believers out of the world. These called-out believers will never experience death. They will receive their glorified bodies in an instant.

Those folks who do not believe in the physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ will be very surprised when He indeed comes, especially if they are not prepared for Him.

Again, those who are alive in Christ at the coming of Christ for His believers will be caught up to heaven, without the experience of “sleep.” Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18. This is what some believers call the “rapture of the saints,” though this word is not used in the Holy Bible.

It is at this event — called the “catching up” (rapture) — when the believers who are asleep will also receive their new bodies. When Christ returns for His children, He will at that time give every believer that “heavenly” body He has promised them. That body belongs to the believer forever. This new body will never experience pain, disease, discomfort, age, or any other negative earthly affliction. Related to the resurrection of the dead, please read I Corinthians 15:35-58.

Paul says this to believers:

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed,
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last
trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall
be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:51, 52

We see then that at salvation the believer gets a promise of “sleep,” which will replace death. If, by chance, he is alive at the coming of Christ, then he will not even have this “sleep,” but he will be changed and taken to heaven in the “twinkling of an eye.”

CHAPTER VIII:
SOUL THAT WILL NEVER DIE

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

John 3:16

Here we see another promise of God given to those who are saved — those who “believe in him.” This promise is everlasting life.

Man was created by God, as recorded in Genesis chapters one and two. Here man had his beginning, and we see that God gave man life, and that it was a perfect life. Man sinned, and as a result of his sin, man dies.

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

Romans 6:23

With the gift of salvation comes eternal and everlasting life. Eternal life is that life which the believer will have when he lives with God, and through Him he will have part in a life without beginning or end. Everlasting life is the life the believer has now (this present life being the beginning of it), but it will continue forever.

The alternative to everlasting life is everlasting death in hell and the lake of fire:

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death.
And whosoever was not found written in the book of
life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14, 15

When a person receives Christ as his Saviour (John 1:12), he gets his name written in the book of life. The book is called the book of life because God records in it the names of those who have everlasting life. John 5:24 says believers are “passed from death unto life.” The believer’s soul (which is who that person really is; not the flesh covering the soul) will live forever and shall never die. The believer has everlasting life with Jesus Christ, and will rule and reign with Him for ever and ever (Revelation 21:5). This gift of everlasting life is given to all believers at the moment of salvation.

One songwriter said in regards to the blood shed by Christ on the cross, “Each drop of blood bought me a million years.” This is of course an understatement; Christ bought for us a life that will never end, and that life will be spent with Him eternally in heaven. All a person must do to inherit everlasting life is receive the gift of salvation as God commanded (John 1:12; I John 3:23).

Jesus said, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). This is a good question. It is the question that everyone should ask themselves — a question related to the priorities of life. Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. How many people have sold eternal life for a mess of perishable gain? May God help people to see the value of their soul.

Eternal life is truly a wonderful gift which one receives at salvation. A gift which can only be given by the Creator. A gift that could never be purchased by man.

CHAPTER IX:
SET FREE

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin,
but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of
doctrine which was delivered you.
Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants
of righteousness.

Romans 6:17, 18

Here is one of the most blessed benefits of salvation: the blessing of a believer being “made free” from sin. Sin reigns in the mortal body of an unsaved person and he has no strength, desire, or reason to resist its rulership. Sin is said to have dominion over this person (Romans 6:14). A unregenerate person is unable to resist the sinful lusts of his flesh. The Bible defines what these sins are in Galatians 5:19-21:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are
these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness,
lasciviousness,
Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations,
wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such
like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also
told you in time past, that they which do such things
shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

A believer will find that he is no longer a servant to the flesh. When Christ saves a person, He makes that person dead to sin:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,
that the body of sin might be destroyed, that
henceforth we should not serve sin.
For he that is dead is freed from sin.
Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with him:

Romans 6:6-8

Now that a person is saved and sin does not rule over him, he can live for God and resist the devil (James 4:7). A believer will not be able to live a life that is perfectly sinless, but he will definitely be able — by the grace of God — to live a life with the least amount of sin possible; and by living the sanctified life, make his life pleasing to God.

A believer has been bought by Christ as if he were a slave on the auction block (slave to sin). God took that believer and made him free to be His servant, and to live for Him (see I Corinthians 7:22-24).

The believer now has a new Master (in Heaven; Matthew 23:8-10). He must be obedient to God's will as revealed in the word of God primarily, and then, as he obeys the commandments set forth in the Bible, God will then lead him further in liberty, by the Holy Spirit:

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

II Corinthians 3:17

This liberty is the liberty to do right, not the liberty to sin. Paul said in Galatians 5:13:

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Believers have been set free from the bondage of sin so that they may serve one another in love under the leadership of the Holy Ghost. This liberty in no way diminishes the importance of the Holy Bible. It simply gives believers the unlimited opportunity to be servants to Christ their Master, and to one another, in love. Believers in fact have taken on a new ministry. Jesus said:

Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give thee rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am
meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto
your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

There is no reason why a believer should not keep Christ's commandments:

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

I John 5:3

Here are a few New Testament commandments which a believer is now able to obey because he has been set free from the law of sin:

1. Love God supremely (Mark 12:30, 31).
2. Love others as Christ loved him (John 13:34; 15:12).
3. Go preach the Gospel, baptize the converts, and teach them to obey the commands of Christ by doing them first (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 10:42). This is done through the church.
4. Confess and repent of sins (Acts 17:30; I John 1:9).
5. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and live by faith (I John 3:23).
6. Posses his vessel (body) in sanctification and honour and to abstain from fornication and defrauding his brother (I Thessalonians 4:1-6).
7. Keep his marriage together (I Corinthians 7:10-13).
8. Get scripture to the world so they may be saved (Romans 10:17; 16:26).
9. Not love money; follow righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness, and to fight the good fight of faith (I Timothy 6:11-14).
10. For women to be obedient to their husbands (I Corinthians 14:34; I Peter 3:1).
11. To study to be quiet, and to do his own business, and to work with his own hands (I Thessalonians 4:11).
12. That if one does not work he should not eat (II Thessalonians 3:10).
13. Withdraw from brethren who walk disorderly (II Thessalonians 3:16).
14. Honour his parents (no matter what his age is (Matthew 15:4; Ephesians 6:2).

Although there may seem to be many commandments in the New Testament (and there are more than these listed here), Christ gives the believer power to do them, and the believer now has the desire to keep them, because he has been “set free” from sin. The Bible says:

For this is the love of God, that we keep his
commandments: and his commandments are not
grievous.

I John 5:3

If a person truly loves Christ, then obeying His commandments will not be grievous.

We see, then, that at salvation, the believer is set free from the law of sin to serve God in liberty, according to God's holy word.

Believers also are told by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5:1:

Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made
us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of
bondage.

Let us use and keep our liberty to serve God, not being entangled in the belief that works are necessary for salvation.

CHAPTER X:
STRONG SOVEREIGN SAVIOUR WHO LOVES US

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name
written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:16

This verse describes the Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. This event is still to come in the future. Although there are many names given to Jesus Christ in scripture, this one by far stands out as the one which shows His true power, strength, and authority.

Christ came the first time as a Lamb to be slain for our sins (John 1:29). When He comes this next time He will be KING over the entire creation of God. The Bible shows us that this creation is His anyway:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made by him; and without him was not
any thing made that was made.
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,
(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-3, 14

Jesus Christ is Jehovah God Himself in the form of man:

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all;
and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's
hand.
I and my Father are one.

John 10:29, 30

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath
declared him.

John 1:18

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father: and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

John 14:9

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

I John 5:7

The Scriptures state clearly that Jesus Christ is indeed God Almighty. To attempt to strip Jesus of His Deity is to do the work of the Devil (Matthew 4:19).

Jesus Christ is all-powerful (Matthew 28:18-20). Not even the demons, the devil, and all the men in rebellion against God are a match for Jesus Christ (see Revelation 20:7-15).

Believers are in God's service, and they should "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:3). Christ is the good Shepherd, and believers are His sheep (John 10:12-14). God, though so powerful, loved us so much that He died for us, to save us from hell. He did this for us even though we did not deserve to be saved (Romans 5:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ desires that all men obey His commandments. Christ desires this is because He loves us, and it is to our benefit to be obedient. Obedient believers are rewarded both here and in heaven. Jesus Christ says this of believers if they do His commandments:

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 15:14, 15

Jesus Christ manifests Himself to believers as they are obedient to His will (John 14:21). What a Wonderful Sovereign Saviour we have in Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHAPTER XI:
STRENGTH TO OVERCOME

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is the victory that overcometh the world,
even our faith.

I John 5:4

Here in this chapter we will see how God gives believers the “victory” that overcomes the world.

The world as described in the Bible is a place where the lost people must find their pleasures. But the Bible tells believers not to love the world:

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

I John 2:15-17

Believers are not liked by the world. Jesus had these words to say:

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated
them, because they are not of the world, even as I am
not of the world.
I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the
world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the
evil.
They are not of the world, even as I am not of the
world.
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I
also sent them into the world

John 17:14-18

Christ knows that the world will hate believers. He said:

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

John 15:18-20

One might think that these words are disheartening. On the contrary, they are very encouraging words. The believer, because he is like Christ, has been separated from the world by the power of God. And there are many blessings associated with living a separated life for Christ. Remember what Christ said:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27

The world cannot give peace — you can tell that by reviewing your history books. But Christ gives believers great peace and more. He gives His children the victory that overcomes the world. Believers have overcome the lusts of the world and there should be nothing in the world that could ever “hold a candle” to Christ.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

I John 4:4

A believer's faith in Christ gives him the ability to overcome any and all obstacles that will ever come into his life. God will never allow anything to come into the believer's life that would overcome him:

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

I Corinthians 10:13

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:13

The Bible teaches that those who are saved have the faith that overcomes the world, and that they can accomplish the works for Christ while in this world, in spite of the resistance the world produces.

God has a work for every believer, and there is no reason why that believer cannot do the work which God has called him to do. God would be unjust to require of a man that which he could not do. The only reasons one can give for not doing the will of God are a lack of obedience and a lack of faith.

CHAPTER XII:
SAFETY AGAINST HARM

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but
safety is of the LORD.

Proverbs 21:31

The twelfth thing a person gets at salvation is safety of the LORD. God is interested in the welfare of His children. He gives them armour as recorded in Ephesians 6:10-19, which includes the “shield of faith” (v. 16). This is used as a defense. Also, there is the “sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” This can be used for both a defense and an offense. The word of God (King James Version) is “sharper than any twoedged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). It should be used carefully and effectively in attacks against the devil, and in defense against his attacks.

With the “shield of faith” (faith in Christ) “ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

True safety can only come through the LORD:

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the
souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the
hand of the wicked.

Psalm 97:10

We see in the book of Job (1:10), that God had “made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side.” The devil had no power to harm Job, his family, or his possessions without God's permission. Job was a man of God.

We see also in the book of II Kings (6:13-18) that God's man Elisha was surrounded by an enemy army. Elisha did not panic. He said, “Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.” After Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant with him, the Bible says in v. 17:

And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

God truly is the strong tower of safety:

The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10

A person is safe by putting his trust in the LORD:

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

This is the only true place of safety.

God tells us that there will be “perilous times” in the last days characterized by this passage:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God:
 Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

II Timothy 3:1-5

But we can always have peace and safety in God. The Apostle Paul went through much tribulation as he served the Lord, preaching the Gospel. He said this:

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.
 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

II Timothy 4:17, 18

42

God cares about His children even more than you care about yours. God will not allow harm to come upon any one of His own unless it is for a very good reason. Many times a short-term discomfort will prevent a person from having a long-term disaster.

God often uses trials to strengthen the believer, make him wiser, chastise him, or to make Himself known. In any case, God ALWAYS has the believer's good in mind.

CHAPTER XIII:
SANCTIFICATION BY GOD

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and the brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Jude 1

At salvation, a believer is sanctified by God. This sanctification is the setting apart of the holy believer for God's use.

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

II Thessalonians 2:13

But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.

Psalm 4:3

Sanctification is a work done to the believer by God through the power of the Holy Ghost. A believer is washed from sin, sanctified (made holy and set apart for God's work), and justified (sin paid for) by God at the time of salvation:

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

I Corinthians 6:11

Jesus made the believer holy by shedding His blood for him (Hebrews 13:12; I Peter 1:2). The blood of Jesus is applied to a believer's soul through the power of the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost in the believer sanctifies him for God's work, but there is another sanctification which the believer himself accomplishes by holy living. This sanctification is to set apart the body (vessel), so as to make it holy for God's work. Speaking of ungodly deeds, the Apostle Paul says this:

If a man therefore purge himself of these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

II Timothy 2:21

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

I Thessalonians 4:3, 4

This is known as progressive sanctification. God wants His children to be holy. He gives them the Holy Bible and the Holy Ghost by which they can know what sin is, so it can be confessed and forsaken. Read the following verses:

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

I Peter 1:15, 16

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 17:17

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:9

God sanctifies the believer's own soul, and then God commands the believer to sanctify his own "vessel." God has given His word, Spirit, and blood to accomplish this.

The Holy Ghost in the believer helps him to identify the sin in his life by "convincing" him of sin. This work provokes the believer to confess his sin. The Holy Ghost leads the believer to righteousness in this manner.

Paul writes:

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

Sin, resisting the leading of the Holy Ghost, and disobedience to the word of God "grieves" the Holy Spirit of God. The believer is told not to grieve the Holy Spirit. God is using the Holy Ghost to conform the believer to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29).

The benefit of personal sanctification of the believer is that God will use him, hear him (Psalm 4:3) and bear fruit through him:

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

John 15:8

Therefore, all believers should strive to keep their own bodies holy, keep their hearts and minds pure, and to keep sin out of the church. The blessings of God are multiplied upon those who defile not that which is holy.

CHAPTER XIV:
SUPPLICATIONS HEARD IN HEAVEN

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 14:13, 14

Jesus Christ wants the Father to be glorified. When the believer asks God for things in Jesus' name, the Father is glorified. God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world, and Jesus spoke the words of the Father (John 12:49, 50). His words can be trusted.

The prayers God heeds are those asked according to Jesus' will (or in His Name):

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

I John 5:13-15

God, who spared not His Son, would not hold back anything that would be good for the believer. Sometimes the believer “asks amiss” by requesting something that would harm him or set him back in the long run. God answers this prayer, but He answers, “no.”

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

James 4:2, 3

A believer should be careful that he prays in line with God's will. Here are a few things about prayer:

1. Jesus tells the believer what to say:
 - a) Read Luke 11:2-4
 - b) Included in this prayer is:
 - Praise to God
 - Glory to God
 - Recognizing God's power
 - Realizing God's will be done
 - Recognizing God's daily care
 - Recognizing God's mercy
 - c) Not to speak in "vain repetitions" (Matthew 6:7)
 - d) Pray that "ye enter not into temptation" (Luke 22:40)
2. Jesus tells the believer with what attitude to pray:
 - a) Read Luke 11:4
 - b) Asking God to forgive his sins (I John 1:9)
 - c) Having an attitude of humility.
 - d) Asking God to forgive others (especially those indebted to the believer). Note: Sin and trespass are pictured as debt in the Bible (Matthew 18:23-35; Luke 7:36-50).
 - e) You must be merciful toward others before asking God to be merciful with him.
 - f) Pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6, 7).
3. Jesus tells the believer how to pray:
 - a) Read Luke 11:5-8
 - b) Ask with "importunity" (that is with an urgency and with troublesomeness).
 - c) Keep the prayer before God continuously (I Thessalonians 5:17).
 - d) Pray and fast. Fasting shows God you mean business.
4. Jesus tells the believer to ask in expectation:
 - a) Read Luke 11:5-8
 - b) Ask in faith (James 1:5-7).

5. Remember the conditions:
 - a) Ask according to God's will (I John 5:14, 15).
 - b) You must keep His commandments (I John 3:22; James 1:25).
 - c) You must do those things that are pleasing in God's sight (I John 3:22).
 - d) You must be a giver himself (Luke 6:38; Galatians 6:7, 8).

6. Other things related to prayer:
 - a) Jesus often prayed.
 - b) Jesus would pray all night.
 - c) Jesus said to pray in secret; not for attention (Matthew 6:6).
 - d) Daniel set aside three times a day to pray (Daniel 6:10).
 - e) Believers are told to “pray without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17).
 - f) Prayer is part of the believer's spiritual armour (Ephesians 6:18).
 - g) The Holy Spirit helps the believer to pray (Romans 8:26, 27).

We see that, beginning at the time of salvation, God heeds the believer's prayers. He continues to hear his prayers and to answer them. Sometimes He answers “yes,” sometimes He answers “no,” and sometimes He says to “wait.” But God always answers our prayers according to His will and what is best for us (Romans 8:28).

The believer should always look forward to his time with God when he can speak to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

CHAPTER XV:
SUFFICIENT SUPPLY FOR ALL YOUR NEED

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

God is truly able to fulfill this promise. God created the world (John 1:1, 2), and He owns everything in it (Psalm 50:10; Matthew 5:35). God promises that His children will never lack food or clothing, or any necessary thing. Jesus said:

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalm 37:25

God can abundantly supply whatever we could ever want or need.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ephesians 3:20

The believer need not worry about food or clothing, or how God will take care of him. God truly is able. Paul wrote speaking of Abraham:

He staggered not at the promise of God through
unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised,
he was able also to perform.

Romans 4:20, 21

Believers are to live by faith, trusting in God. God has written in Romans 1:17, “The just shall live by faith.”

Let the believers thank God for His promise to take care of them, so that they with David can say:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalm 23:1

CHAPTER XVI:
SOUND MIND

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

II Timothy 1:7

How true it is that God has given the believer many things at salvation. The saved child of God should not fear. God is a strong tower of refuge (Proverbs 18:10), to which the believer may run at any time. God does not want His children to be fearful:

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Psalm 56:4

David said,

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear.

Psalm 27:3

Fear can be a terrible thing in the life of a person. Through Jesus Christ, fear is taken away through faith in Him.

When a person gets saved, God starts a healing process. Many have emotional and mental traumas which only the Great Physician can heal. Healing is not immediate, but the process starts immediately. God gives the believer a "sound mind." This process of healing will be accelerated as the believer reads his Bible, prays, and attends church faithfully, being conformed to the image of Christ.

God also gives the believer a spirit of love and of power. That power comes from God. The believer can now overcome temptation, trials, problems, and fears (I John 4:4).

The spirit of love also casts out fear:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

I John 4:18

All these things have to do with a sound mind. The sanest thing in life a person can do is to believe in the Creator (a person has to deceive himself into not believing this). Also, a person would have to be unbalanced to believe that there is no punishment for the evil in this world (i.e., sin; which is against God).

The truth is that there is a hell. Just as real as hell is the fact that God does not want folks to go there. He made a way out: faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, burial, and resurrection, to pay the penalty. Believers who know they are saved do not fear hell, or try to deny it.

When the maniac of Gadara met Jesus, he worshiped Him (Mark 5:6). When Jesus healed him of his affliction [which was a "Legion" of unclean spirits (Mark 5:9)], the Bible says the man was "sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind" (Mark 5:15). Notice the man was "in his right mind."

To understand the truth about life is to have a sound mind. To make the right decisions in life as a result of seeing the facts clearly is to have a sound mind also. It is wise and right to submit to God (rather than to be rebellious toward God), and it is very unwise and wrong to reject the Gospel of salvation. God says this in regards to knowing truth:

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.
 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

I Corinthians 2:14-16

Believers have the mind of Christ. They can discern spiritual things (see Chapter XVIII). Unbelievers do not operate with a totally sound mind. Their mind is not complete. They do not have the whole truth and therefore do not live according to all truth. When a person receives Christ as Saviour, he has a sound mind according to the word of God, and understands many things (see Ephesians 3:18-19). David says this regarding a good man:

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is
fixed, trusting in the Lord.

Psalm 112:7

CHAPTER XVII:
SAINTHOOD STATUS

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

I Corinthians 1:2

A person becomes a saint when he “calls upon the name of the Lord” (see Romans 10:13). Sainthood is achieved at the moment salvation, or when the believer believes. There are benefits to being a saint which we shall see.

To the saint there is an inheritance in heaven:

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 1:12

The mystery of “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27) is made manifest to the saints:

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Colossians 1:26

The saints of God shall possess the kingdom in which the Lord Jesus Christ will rule:

But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Daniel 7:18

The saints will return with the Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming:

To the end that he may stablish your hearts
unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father,
at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with all his
saints.

I Thessalonians 3:13

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of
these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten
thousands of his saints,

Jude 14

The saints will rule and judge with Christ in the kingdom. Paul said, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (I Corinthians 6:2).

Another benefit of being a saint of God is that all his needs are taken care of:

O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want
to them that fear him.

Psalm 34:9

Notice that saints should fear the Lord. This is shown by living rightly before the Lord, and doing those things that are pleasant in His sight:

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness,
let it not be once named among you, as becometh
saints;
Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting,
which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Ephesians 5:3, 4

The Holy Ghost helps the saint pray:

And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the
mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for
the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:27

Briefly, here are more things the Bible says in regard to the saints:

1. God keeps the feet of His saints so they will not fall (I Samuel 2:9).
2. God does not forsake His saints (Psalm 37:28).
3. God speaks peace to His saints (Psalm 85:8).
4. God preserves the souls of His saints (Psalm 97:10).
5. The death of God's saints are precious in His eyes (Psalm 116:15).
6. God preserves the way of His saints (Proverbs 2:8).
7. God's saints can comprehend the love of Christ and be filled with the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:18, 19).

Because the child of God becomes a saint at the instant of salvation, he then should live as one, and serve God faithfully.

By far, the greatest work of the saint of God is true love and charity. In I Corinthians 13:1-13, the great works of a charitable man are described. A true saint of God will strive toward these virtues. It is opposite of his new nature for a believer to be hateful:

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he
is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he
hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I John 4:20

It is a direct commandment of Christ to love man and love God (John 15:12; I John 3:23). Love is truly the evidence of a saint — the end of the commandment for the child of God.

CHAPTER XVIII:
SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of a man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:11-14

An unsaved man does not have the Spirit of God, and he therefore he cannot understand the things of God. In fact, the Bible says that those things are “foolishness unto him.”

This is not so with the saved person. When the believer receives the Holy Spirit at the instant of salvation, he has the ability to understand the things of God.

Teaching the truth to a lost person will usually end in the frustration of the teacher, and in the confusion of the student.

If someone is sincere in knowing the things of God, the first step is to make sure that he has believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that thereby he is born again.

The Holy Bible is unimportant to the lost, but every true child of God cannot live without the word of God. In fact, Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

It is no wonder that there are those who are enemies of the faith who would pervert the word of God with modernist versions. They do this to deceive those believers who have not learned the truth regarding the King James Version. A true believer will understand the truth once it has been explained to him.

The believer has the ability to discern between truth and error. Truth is found in the word of God, and we are told to try the spirits (in the sense of a legal trial):

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits
whether they are of God: because many false prophets
are gone out into the world.

I John 4:1

Every spirit should be tried against the word of God to insure it is from God, because there are “many false prophets.”

Because the believer has the Spirit of God indwelling him, the Spirit of God will teach him and guide him unto all truth (John 16:13).

An unsaved man cannot truly understand the Bible, but a believer can. God has opened his spiritual eyes so that he can understand the things of God. There also comes a desire to learn more of the things of God. There is no limit of what a believer can learn — the things of God are infinite (Romans 11:33)!

The child of God truly has the mind of Christ (I Corinthians 2:16).

CHAPTER XIX:
SOJOURN ON THIS EARTH

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

I Peter 1:17

At the time a person receives Christ (John 1:12), his citizenship changes. His home is no longer on earth. God has given him a new home in heaven (John 14:2).

Speaking of Old Testament saints, God says:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Hebrews 11:13-16

God is not ashamed to be the God of those who live according to His word, and live as though they are pilgrims in a foreign land.

Heaven is the home for the child of God, not this earth with its materialism, sin, and ungodliness.

The city God has prepared for them that love Him is described in Revelation 21:1-27. This passage of scripture is most beautiful, and will definitely be a blessing to anyone who reads it.

Jesus Christ said this regarding the believer's home in heaven:

Let not your hearts be troubled: ye believe in God,
believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not
so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for
you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come
again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am,
there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

How good God is to have such a wonderful place prepared for His children. Heaven truly is the home for the saved child of God. And this wonderful home is forever! Until then, the child of God lives this transitory earthly life in expectation of his final home, where he will live with his Lord and brethren forever. Whenever discouraged, believers should look forward to this home, and lay up treasures in heaven (see Chapter XXI).

CHAPTER XX:
SEAT OF JUDGMENT

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost
thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand
before the judgment seat of Christ.
For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every
knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess
to God.
So then every one of us shall give account of himself
to God.

Romans 14:10-12

All believers and unbelievers will be judged by God. There is a difference between the judgment of the believer — at the “judgment seat of Christ” — and the judgment of the unbeliever at the “great white throne” judgment (see Revelation 20:11-15). There is the difference of place, time, and purpose. The judgment seat of Christ occurs after the rapture, in the air, and for the purpose of rewarding the good works of the believer and to purge off the “dross” (evil works and unconfessed sins). This is done to prepare the believers for the marriage and marriage supper of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:5-10).

The believer's judgment is never to determine salvation, but what rewards are given. Salvation was determined when he believed the Gospel. The Great White Throne Judgment is for the unbelievers. Its timing occurs after the millennium.

The result of the Great White Throne Judgment is everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

There is no general judgment found in scripture. This is the false idea which teaches that all men will someday stand before God to have their good and evil works weighed to determine if they get heaven or hell. It is a lie of the Devil to deceive men.

Salvation is not and cannot be based on good works. Salvation is determined by whether a man has or has not believed on the Lord Jesus Christ (see John 3:16-18), thus having his sins washed away by the blood of Christ, which he shed on the old rugged cross.

Both judgments, however, have Jesus Christ as the Judge. God has committed all judgment unto the Son:

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed
all judgment unto the Son:
That all men should honour the Son, even as they
honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son
honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 5:22, 23

Jesus Christ is the Righteous Judge. He judges according to truth (Romans 2:2). Jesus said, "my judgment is just" in John 5:30, and all evidence will be revealed before Christ:

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men
shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the
day of judgment.

Matthew 12:36

Believers at the judgment seat of Christ will give an account of their service to God, and give an answer for their unfaithfulness. The recompense of unfaithfulness is a loss of rewards.

Believers should have "God First" in all they do, so that Christ will be pleased with them at the end of their life.

What should be the believer's reaction to this fact of future judgment? It is found in Paul's writing to the church at Corinth:

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of
Christ; that every one may receive the things done in
his body, according to that he hath done, whether it
be good or bad.
Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we
persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God;
and I trust also are made manifest in your
consciences.

II Corinthians 5:10, 11

The believers should “persuade men” to get saved if they are not, and then persuade them to live rightly according to the word of God.

One may ask what are the rewards for the evil works of a believer and unconfessed sin. This is found in I Corinthians (written to believers):

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.
 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.
 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;
 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.
 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

I Corinthians 3:9-16

The building spoken of here is the local church, where a believer should do his service for God. What the believer does in his life on earth will be judged by Christ. Evil works and unconfessed sins (called wood, hay, and stubble) will be burned up so that only the good remains. The believer will also be given rewards at the judgment seat of Christ as described in the next chapter.

CHAPTER XXI:
SAVINGS ACCOUNT IN HEAVEN

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

What the believer does here on earth determines what rewards he will have in heaven.

All of a believer's giving of money, gifts, time, talents, work, prayer, service, and whatever else he gives to God, will be rewarded by God in the manner of blessings here on earth, and as treasures in heaven. What a good deal this is.

Believers need to know that their labour for the Lord are not in vain:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:58

There are rewards in heaven for the Lord's work done on earth. Part of these rewards is given as crowns. There are five crowns a believer can earn while on earth:

1. Crown of rejoicing given as a reward for those who are saved as a result of a believer's work (I Thessalonians 2:19; Philippians 4:1). This is called the soul-winner's crown.
2. Crown of righteousness for those who love the Lord's appearing (II Timothy 4:8).

3. Crown of life for enduring temptation and loving the Lord, and suffering tribulation (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; 3:11).
4. Crown of glory for being an example to the church (I Peter 5:4).
5. Crown of incorruption for being the Lord's servant and living a holy life for Him (I Corinthians 9:25).

A believer should be blessed in knowing that there are potential rewards awaiting him for his service to the Lord. These rewards will be handed out at the judgment seat of Christ.

These truths in the Bible should encourage all believers to serve God faithfully and abstain from all ungodliness. These should really give the believer a true purpose in life.

CONCLUSION

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

Now that these twenty-one things a person receives at salvation have been described, I am sure that you can see the many blessings of being saved. Knowing that these things are received immediately upon salvation (although one may not realize them until later) will strengthen the believer, and will help him teach them to others. I ask you sincerely, should you not apply these things to your life, and live for Christ until He returns?

I hope this book has been a blessing to you and I pray the Lord will bless you in your life. I hope that if you have not received the gift of salvation, that you will do so today. You can review the Introduction of this book for an explanation of how to be saved.

Please write and tell me of whatever decision for Christ you may have made as a result of reading this book.

The End.

