

GOD'S WILL  
AND  
THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

NEW TESTAMENT / GOSPELS EDITION  
Third Edition

This document is a compilation of the teachings of Jesus Christ organized according to important themes. The words of Jesus are presented in red letters and they have been extracted from the World English Bible (WEB). The WEB is a Public Domain translation of the bible in modern English language that is easy to read and understand.

God's Will And The Purpose Of Life  
New Testament / Gospels Edition  
Third Edition  
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# Introduction

Close your eyes and take a deep breath. Take a moment and think about the overwhelming creation that surrounds you. Isn't it amazing that you are actually alive? How and when did life and existence begin? If you are like a great majority of people, you believe that God exists and He created us. Any other explanation for our existence would be incomplete.

So why did God make us and what does He want from us? As our Creator, what does He want for our future? Fortunately, God answered these questions in a very personal way by giving us Jesus of Nazareth. The teachings of Jesus provide perfect guidance for how to live according to God's Will. Also, Jesus helps us understand the purpose of our lives by explaining why we should strive to live in a way that pleases God. The reason is **ETERNAL SALVATION!** God loves us and He wants to save us by giving us the gift of eternal life in His presence. This wonderful gift of salvation is found in Jesus Christ and His teachings.

*The words and teachings of Jesus, as recorded in the historical gospels, contain absolute TRUTH that can only come from one source ..... God Himself!* If this amazing fact has previously been revealed to you, please enjoy this compilation and use it to better understand God's Will and the purpose of your life. To those who have never come to this most important realization, if you truly open your mind and continue to read on, God will reveal Himself to you in a magnificent and powerful way!

# Living According to God's Will

## Sermon on the Mount – The Essence of Christianity

### The Beatitudes

Jesus went up onto a mountain and taught the multitudes as follows .....

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

**Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.**

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.**

**Blessed are those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

**Blessed are you when people reproach you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you. [MATT 5: 3-12]**

### The Similes of Salt and Light

**You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. Neither do you light a lamp, and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. [MATT 5: 13-16]**

### Teaching about the Law

**Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most certainly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes<sup>1</sup> and Pharisees<sup>2</sup>, there is no way you will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. [MATT 5: 17-20]**

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<sup>1</sup> Scribes – a learned class of individuals in ancient Israel that would study the Scriptures and serve as copyists, editors, teachers, and jurists.

<sup>2</sup> Pharisees – a Jewish sect in ancient Israel noted for strict observance of religious rites and ceremonies of the written law and for insistence on the validity of their own traditions concerning the law.

## Teaching about Anger

You have heard that it was said to the ancient ones, “You shall not murder;” and “Whoever shall murder shall be in danger of the judgment.” But I tell you, that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment; and whoever shall say to his brother, “Raca!”<sup>3</sup> shall be in danger of the council; and whoever shall say, “You fool!” shall be in danger of the fire of Gehenna<sup>4</sup>.

If therefore you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are with him in the way; lest perhaps the prosecutor deliver you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and you be cast into prison. Most certainly I tell you, you shall by no means get out of there, until you have paid the last penny. [MATT 5: 21-26]

## Teaching about Adultery

You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery;” but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. [MATT 5: 27-30]

## Teaching about Divorce

It was also said, “Whoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorce,” but I tell you that whoever puts away his wife, except for the cause of sexual immorality, makes her an adulteress<sup>5</sup>; and whoever marries her when she is put away commits adultery. [MATT 5: 31-32]

## Teaching about Vows

Again you have heard that it was said to them of old time, “You shall not make false vows, but shall perform to the Lord your vows,” but I tell you, don’t swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is the throne of God; nor by the earth, for it is the footstool of his feet; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shall you swear by your head, for you can’t make one hair white or black. But let your “Yes” be “Yes” and your “No” be “No.” Whatever is more than these is of the evil one. [MATT 5: 33-37]

## Teaching about Retaliation

You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” But I tell you, don’t resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. If anyone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also. Whoever

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<sup>3</sup> ‘Raca’ – ‘empty headed’ or ‘idiot’.

<sup>4</sup> Gehenna – Hell.

<sup>5</sup> Makes her an adulteress – The assumption here is that the wife that is put away may remarry or have sexual relations outside of the marriage.

**compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and don't turn away him who desires to borrow from you. [MATT 5: 38-42]**

## **Love of Enemies**

**You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? If you only greet your friends, what more do you do than others? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. [MATT 5: 43-48]**

## **Teaching about Almsgiving**

**Be careful that you don't do your charitable giving before men, to be seen by them, or else you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Therefore when you do merciful deeds, don't sound a trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may get glory from men. Most certainly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you do merciful deeds, don't let your left hand know what your right hand does, so that your merciful deeds may be in secret, then your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. [MATT 6: 1-4]**

## **Teaching about Prayer**

**When you pray, you shall not be as the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Most certainly, I tell you, they have received their reward. But you, when you pray, enter into your inner chamber, and having shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

**In praying, don't use vain repetitions, as the Gentiles<sup>6</sup> do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking. Therefore don't be like them, for your Father knows what things you need, before you ask him.**

**Pray like this: "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen." For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don't forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. [MATT 6: 5-15]**

## **Teaching about Fasting**

**Moreover when you fast, don't be like the hypocrites, with sad faces. For they disfigure their faces, that they may be seen by men to be fasting. Most certainly I tell you, they have received their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face; so that**

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<sup>6</sup> Gentiles – People of a non-Jewish nation or a non-Jewish faith. Pagans or heathens.

**you are not seen by men to be fasting, but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. [MATT 6: 16-18]**

## **Treasures in Heaven**

**Don't lay up treasures for yourselves on the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume, and where thieves don't break through and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [MATT 6: 19-21]**

## **The Light of the Body**

**The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! [MATT 6: 22-23]**

## **God and Money**

**No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You can't serve both God and Mammon<sup>7</sup>. [MATT 6: 24]**

## **Dependence on God**

**Therefore, I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they?**

**Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?**

**Therefore don't be anxious, saying, "What will we eat?", "What will we drink?" or, "With what will we be clothed?" For the Gentiles seek after all these things, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient. [MATT 6: 25-34]**

## **Judging Others**

**Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but don't consider the beam that is in your own eye? Or how will you tell your brother, "Let me remove the speck from your eye;" and behold, the beam is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First remove the beam out of your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye. [MATT 7: 1-5]**

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<sup>7</sup> Mammon – Money.



## **Pearls to Swine**

**Don't give that which is holy to the dogs, neither throw your pearls before the pigs, lest perhaps they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. [MATT 7: 6]**

## **The Answer to Prayers**

**Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened. Or who is there among you, who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him? [MATT 7: 7-11]**

## **The Golden Rule**

**Therefore whatever you desire for men to do to you, you shall also do to them; for this is the law and the prophets. [MATT 7: 12]**

## **The Narrow Gate**

**Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter in by it. How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it. [MATT 7: 13-14]**

## **False Teachers**

**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do you gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree produces good fruit; but the corrupt tree produces evil fruit. A good tree can't produce evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't grow good fruit is cut down, and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them. [MATT 7: 15-20]**

## **The True Disciple**

**Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will tell me in that day, "Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?" Then I will tell them, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity<sup>8</sup>." [MATT 7: 21-23]**

## **The Two Foundations**

**Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock.**

**Everyone who hears these words of mine, and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell—and great was its fall. [MATT 7: 24-27]**

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<sup>8</sup> Iniquity – Sin or wickedness.

## Love and Serve God and Each Other

Jesus taught the disciples as follows .....

**If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his life? Or what will a man give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and then he will render to everyone according to his deeds. [MATT 16: 24-27]**

The mother of two of the apostles wanted Jesus to command that her two sons each sit one at his right hand and one at his left hand in his kingdom. When the other ten heard this, they became indignant with the brothers. Then Jesus called them and said .....

**You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you, but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. Whoever desires to be first among you shall be your bondservant, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. [MATT 20: 25-28]**

The apostles were arguing amongst themselves about who was the greatest. Jesus said to them .....

**If any man wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all. [MARK 9: 35]**

To test Jesus, one of the Pharisees asked him the following question, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?” Jesus replied .....

**“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. A second likewise is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments. [MATT 22: 37-40]**

To the multitudes and to his disciples, Jesus said .....

**He who is greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. [MATT 23: 11-12]**

On the feast of the Passover, before he was detained and condemned to death, Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. Prior to this Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and said .....

**Do you know what I have done to you? You call me, “Teacher” and “Lord.” You say so correctly, for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. [JOHN 13: 12-15]**

During the Last Supper, Jesus said to his disciples .....

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, just like I have loved you; that you also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. [JOHN 13: 34-35]**

At the Last Supper, Jesus also said the following to his disciples .....

**Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love. I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

**This is my commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do whatever I command you. [JOHN 15: 9-14]**

## Forgiveness and Repentance

While preaching in Galilee, Jesus said .....

**The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent, and believe in the Good News. [MARK 1: 15]**

While preaching in Capernaum, four people struggled greatly to carry a paralytic to where Jesus was. Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic .....

**Son, your sins are forgiven you.** But there were some of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak blasphemies like that? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, said to them, **Why do you reason these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to tell the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven;" or to say, "Arise, and take up your bed, and walk?" But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**—he said to the paralytic—**I tell you, arise, take up your mat, and go to your house.**

He arose, and immediately took up the mat, and went out in front of them all; so that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" [MARK 2: 5-12]

Later that day, Jesus and his disciples were eating with known sinners and tax collectors that had followed after Jesus. The scribes and the Pharisees, when they saw this, said to his disciples, "Why is it that he eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard it, he said to them .....

**Those who are healthy have no need for a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. [MARK 2: 16-17]**

In teaching us to pray, Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) which requests God's forgiveness as follows .....

**Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. [MATT 6: 12]**

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman taken in adultery. Having set her in the midst, they told him, "Teacher, we found this woman in adultery, in the very act. Now in our law, Moses commanded us to stone such. What then do you say about her?" They said this testing him, that they might have something to accuse him of. But Jesus stooped down, and wrote on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he looked up and said to them .....

**He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her.** Again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground.

They, when they heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning from the oldest, even to the last. Jesus was left alone with the woman where she was, in the middle. Jesus, standing up, saw her and said, **Woman, where are your accusers? Did no one condemn you?**

She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, **Neither do I condemn you. Go your way. From now on, sin no more.** [JOHN 8: 3-11]

While speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus stated .....

**He who is not with me is against me, and he who doesn't gather with me, scatters. Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in that which is to come.** [MATT 12: 30-32]

Jesus was criticized by the Jewish religious leaders for associating with shameful people such as dishonest tax collectors and other notorious sinners. In response, Jesus said .....

**Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep, and lost one of them, wouldn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one that was lost, until he found it? When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing. When he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!" I tell you that even so there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.** [LUKE 15: 4-7]

Providing further insight regarding this teaching about repentance, Jesus told this parable .....

**A certain man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me my share of your property." He divided his livelihood between them.**

**Not many days after, the younger son gathered all of this together and traveled into a far country. There he wasted his property with riotous living. When he had spent all of it, there arose a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. He went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wanted to fill his belly with the husks that the pigs ate, but no one gave him any.**

**But when he came to himself he said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough to spare, and I'm dying with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants."**

**He arose, and came to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.**

**The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat, and celebrate; for this, my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found." They began to celebrate.**

**Now his elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants to him, and asked what was going on. He said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy."**

**But he was angry, and would not go in. Therefore his father came out, and begged him. But he answered his father, “Behold, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed a commandment of yours, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this, your son, came, who has devoured your living with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.”**

**He said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But it was appropriate to celebrate and be glad, for this, your brother, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost, and is found.” [LUKE 15: 11-32]**

Jesus taught his disciples as follows .....

**If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in the day, and seven times returns, saying, “I repent,” you shall forgive him. [LUKE 17: 3-4]**

Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?” Jesus said to him .....

**I don’t tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven. [MATT 18: 21-22]**

Providing further insight regarding his teachings about forgiveness, Jesus said this parable .....

**Therefore the Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king, who wanted to reconcile accounts with his servants. When he had begun to reconcile, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents<sup>9</sup>. But because he couldn’t pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, with his wife, his children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.**

**The servant therefore fell down and kneeled before him, saying, “Lord, have patience with me, and I will repay you all!” The lord of that servant, being moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.**

**But that servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, who owed him one hundred denarii, and he grabbed him, and took him by the throat, saying, “Pay me what you owe!”**

**So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will repay you!” He would not, but went and cast him into prison, until he should pay back that which was due.**

**So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were exceedingly sorry, and came and told to their lord all that was done.**

**Then his lord called him in, and said to him, “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt, because you begged me. Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, even as I had mercy on you?”**

**His lord was angry, and delivered him to the tormentors, until he should pay all that was due to him. So my heavenly Father will also do to you, if you don’t each forgive your brother from your hearts for his misdeeds. [MATT 18: 23-35]**

While speaking to the chief priests and the elders of the people, Jesus stated .....

**Most certainly I tell you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn’t**

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<sup>9</sup> Talents – Ten thousand talents represents an extremely large sum of money, equivalent to about 60,000,000 denarii, where one denarius was typical of one day’s wages for agricultural labor.

**believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. When you saw it, you didn't even repent afterward, that you might believe him. [MATT 21: 31-32]**

While speaking to the Jews and Jewish religious leaders, Jesus said .....

**If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.**

They answered him, "We are Abraham's seed, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How do you say, 'You will be made free?'"

Jesus answered them, **Most certainly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is the bondservant of sin. A bondservant doesn't live in the house forever. A son remains forever. If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. [JOHN 8: 31-36]**

While crucified, and prior to his death, Jesus stated .....

**Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing. [LUKE 23: 34]**

## **Faith**

The Gospels contain numerous accounts of miraculous healings performed by Jesus. Jesus healed diseases and painful conditions of every kind including paralytics, epileptics, lepers and those that were deaf, mute and blind. There are also accounts where Jesus raised the dead and healed those possessed by evil spirits. On one occasion, there was a woman with a twelve year hemorrhage that struggled to touch Jesus' garment believing that just this touch would heal her. Upon her healing, Jesus said .....

**Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be cured of your disease. [MARK 5: 34]**

On another occasion, a boy with a deaf and mute spirit was brought to Jesus and the boy's father asked that if Jesus could do anything, to have compassion and help them. Jesus said to the boy's father .....

**If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes. [MARK 9: 23]** After Jesus had said this, the father cried out in tears that he believed and Jesus commanded the spirit to leave making the boy well again.

A Roman Centurion sent word asking Jesus to come and save a servant that was dear to him and at the point of death. When Jesus was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying to him, "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I am not worthy for you to come under my roof. Therefore I didn't even think myself worthy to come to you; but say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having under myself soldiers. I tell this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned and said to the multitude who followed him .....

**I tell you, I have not found such great faith, no, not in Israel.** Those who were sent, returning to the house, found that the servant who had been sick was well. [LUKE 7: 6-10]

When speaking to a crowd, Jesus was asked, "What must we do that we may work the works of God?" Jesus replied .....

**This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent. [JOHN 6: 29]**

Regarding faith, Jesus said to the apostles .....

**If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, “Be uprooted, and be planted in the sea,” and it would obey you. [LUKE 17: 6]**

The disciples asked Jesus why they were not able to cast out a demon that had possessed a boy. Jesus replied .....

**Because of your unbelief. For most certainly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. [MATT 17: 20]**

People were bringing their babies to Jesus, that he might touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus then summoned them, saying .....

**Allow the little children to come to me, and don’t hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Most certainly, I tell you, whoever doesn’t receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, he will in no way enter into it. [LUKE 18: 16-17]**

The disciples were in a boat in the middle of the sea and they were distressed by the waves and the strong wind. Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It’s a ghost!” and they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying .....

**Cheer up! It is I! Don’t be afraid.** Peter answered him and said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters.” He said, **Come!**

Peter stepped down from the boat, and walked on the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was strong, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, **You of little faith, why did you doubt?** When they got up into the boat, the wind ceased. Those who were in the boat came and worshiped him, saying, “You are truly the Son of God!” [MATT 14: 24-33]

After his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples. However, Thomas was not present and he did not believe that Jesus had appeared to them. He said, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Eight days later, Jesus appeared again to his disciples, with Thomas present, and he said to Thomas .....

**Reach here your finger, and see my hands. Reach here your hand, and put it into my side. Don’t be unbelieving, but believing.** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, **because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed. [JOHN 20: 25-29]**

## Humility

The disciples were discussing which of them would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus then called a small child over to him, set the child down among them, and said .....

**Most certainly I tell you, unless you turn, and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever therefore humbles himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. [MATT 18: 3-4]**

While in the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees, Jesus said .....

**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. [LUKE 14: 11]**

Regarding humility and obedience to God's will, Jesus said .....

**But who is there among you, having a servant plowing or keeping sheep, that will say, when he comes in from the field, "Come immediately and sit down at the table," and will not rather tell him, "Prepare my supper, clothe yourself properly, and serve me, while I eat and drink. Afterward you shall eat and drink"? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded? I think not. Even so you also, when you have done all the things that are commanded you, say, "We are unworthy servants. We have done our duty." [LUKE 17: 7-10]**

Jesus spoke this parable to certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others .....

**Two men went up into the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector.**

**The Pharisee stood and prayed to himself like this: "God, I thank you, that I am not like the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give tithes of all that I get."**

**But the tax collector, standing far away, wouldn't even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted. [LUKE 18: 10-14]**

## **Marriage**

Pharisees came to Jesus, testing him, and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?" Jesus answered .....

**Haven't you read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall join to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?" So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, don't let man tear apart. [MATT 19: 4-6]**

The Pharisees then asked Jesus, "Why then did Moses command us to give her a bill of divorce, and divorce her?" Jesus replied .....

**Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it has not been so. I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and he who marries her when she is divorced commits adultery. [MATT 19: 8-9]**



Jesus disciples then said to him, “If this is the case of the man with his wife, it is not expedient to marry.” Jesus replied .....

**Not all men can receive this saying, but those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs<sup>10</sup> who were born that way from their mother’s womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men; and there are eunuchs who made themselves eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven’s sake. He who is able to receive it, let him receive it. [MATT 19: 11-12]**

## Money and Material Things

While preaching to the multitudes, someone asked Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus replied .....

**Man, who made me a judge or an arbitrator over you? Beware! Keep yourselves from covetousness, for a man’s life doesn’t consist of the abundance of the things which he possesses. [LUKE 12: 14-15]**

To elaborate on this teaching, Jesus spoke the following parable .....

**The ground of a certain rich man brought forth abundantly. He reasoned within himself, saying, “What will I do, because I don’t have room to store my crops?” He said, “This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns, and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. I will tell my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. Take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.”**

**But God said to him, “You foolish one, tonight your soul is required of you. The things which you have prepared—whose will they be?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. [LUKE 12: 16-21]**

Jesus said to his disciples .....

**No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You aren’t able to serve God and mammon. [LUKE 16: 13]**

A young man that had observed God’s laws since his youth asked Jesus about what else he could do in seeking eternal life. Jesus said to him .....

**If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me. But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions.**

Jesus said to his disciples, **Most certainly I say to you, a rich man will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with difficulty. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God.**

When the disciples heard it, they were exceedingly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” Looking at them, Jesus said, **With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. [MATT 19: 21-26]**

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<sup>10</sup> Eunuchs – Interpreted to mean incapable of marriage. In this sentence, the word eunuch is a direct reference to celibacy caused by physical conditions or as a matter of individual choice for the good of God’s kingdom.

The Jewish people were conquered by the Roman government and forced to pay burdensome taxes. In trying to entrap Jesus and make him say something against the Roman government, the Pharisees asked, “Teacher, we know that you are honest, and teach the way of God in truth, no matter who you teach, for you aren’t partial to anyone. Tell us therefore, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” Jesus perceived their wickedness and said.....

**Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the tax money.** They brought to him a denarius. Jesus asked them, **Whose is this image and inscription?** They said to him, “Caesar’s.” **Then he said to them, Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.** [MATT 22: 15-21]

## Religious Tradition and God’s Church

John the Baptist spoke of one that was to come that was mightier than him. John explained that he could baptize others with water for repentance but that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. John felt unworthy even to carry the shoes of Jesus. Nonetheless, Jesus visited John in the Jordan River in order to be baptized by him. John hesitated and said “I need to be baptized by you, and you come to me?” In reply, Jesus said to John .....

**Allow it now, for this is the fitting way for us to fulfill all righteousness.** [MATT 3: 15]

The following verses describe actions taken by Jesus with special implications regarding the establishment of God’s church here on Earth, the authority given to people with religious vocations and the special calling that draws many to religious life .....

**He went up into the mountain, and called to himself those whom he wanted, and they went to him. He appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach, and to have authority to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons:** [MARK 3: 13-15]

Prior to sending the apostles on missionary journeys, Jesus commanded them as follows .....

**As you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons. Freely you received, so freely give.** [MATT 10: 7-8]

**Whoever doesn’t receive you, nor hear your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust from your feet. Most certainly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.**

**Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.** [MATT 10: 14-16]

Some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem, saying, “Why do your disciples disobey the tradition of the elders? For they don’t wash their hands when they eat bread.” Jesus answered .....

**Why do you also disobey the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, “Honor your father and your mother,” and, “He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.” But you say, “Whoever may tell his father or his mother, ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have gotten from me is a gift devoted to God,’ he shall not [need not] honor his father or mother.” You have made the commandment of God void because of your tradition. You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, “These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. And in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine rules made by men.”**

He summoned the multitude, and said to them, **Hear, and understand. That which enters into the mouth doesn't defile the man; but that which proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.** [MATT 15: 3-11]

Explaining further to his disciples, Jesus said .....

**Do you also still not understand? Don't you understand that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the belly, and then out of the body? But the things which proceed out of the mouth come out of the heart, and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimony, and blasphemies. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands doesn't defile the man.** [MATT 15: 15-20]

On a Sabbath<sup>11</sup> day, the disciples were breaking off heads of wheat in a field and eating the grain. Religious leaders claimed that they were breaking religious laws by harvesting grain on the Sabbath. In response, Jesus stated .....

**Did you never read what David did, when he had need, and was hungry—he, and those who were with him? How he entered into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the show bread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and gave also to those who were with him? The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.** [MARK 2: 25-28]

A Samaritan woman said to Jesus, “Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her .....

**Woman, believe me, the hour comes, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, will you worship the Father. You worship that which you don't know. We worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such to be his worshippers. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.** [JOHN 4: 20-24]

Response to Peter when he stated his belief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God .....

**Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter<sup>12</sup>, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades<sup>13</sup> will not prevail against it. I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven.** [MATT 16: 17-19]

Regarding forgiveness and the binding and loosing of sins, Jesus said to his disciples .....

**If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. But if he doesn't listen, take one or two more with you, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he**

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<sup>11</sup> Sabbath – Religious day of rest and worship.

<sup>12</sup> Peter – The name Peter means a small stone or rock.

<sup>13</sup> Hades – Hell.

**refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembly. If he refuses to hear the assembly also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Most certainly I tell you, whatever things you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever things you release on earth will have been released in heaven. [MATT 18: 15-18]**

In denouncing the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said the following to the crowds and to his disciples .....

**The scribes and the Pharisees sat on Moses' seat. All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but don't do their works; for they say, and don't do. For they bind heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them. [MATT 23: 2-4]**

**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith. But you ought to have done these, and not to have left the other undone. [MATT 23: 23]**

While observing rich people putting their gifts into the treasury, Jesus saw a poor widow put in two small coins. Jesus commented to his disciples .....

**Truly I tell you, this poor widow put in more than all of them, for all these put in gifts for God from their abundance, but she, out of her poverty, put in all that she had to live on. [LUKE 21: 3-4]**

Jesus performed a miracle by feeding five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. The next day, when many of these people were again with Jesus, he taught that he is the bread of life that came down from heaven and leads to eternal life. The Jews then murmured amongst themselves regarding this teaching and Jesus answered them as follows .....

**Don't murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day. It is written in the prophets, "They will all be taught by God." Therefore everyone who hears from the Father, and has learned, comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except he who is from God. He has seen the Father. Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.**

The Jews therefore contended with one another, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus therefore said to them, **Most certainly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you don't have life in yourselves. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he who feeds on me, he will also live because of me. This is the bread which came down out of heaven—not as our fathers ate the manna, and died. He who eats this bread will live forever. [JOHN 6: 43-58]**

On the feast of the Passover, before he was detained and condemned to death, Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. During this Last Supper, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying .....

**This is my body which is given for you. Do this in memory of me. [LUKE 22: 19]**

Then Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks for it and gave it to his disciples, saying .....

**All of you drink it, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the remission of sins. [MATT 26: 27-28]**

In a letter to the church of Corinth, the apostle Paul testified regarding Jesus' actions during the Last Supper. Paul wrote that Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said .....

**Take, eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me.** In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, **This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.** [1 COR 11: 24-25]

During the Last Supper with the apostles, Jesus said the following .....

**If you love me, keep my commandments. I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever,—the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more; but you will see me. Because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. One who has my commandments, and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him.** [JOHN 14: 15-21]

During the Last Supper, he also said .....

**When the Counselor has come, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will testify about me. You will also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.** [JOHN 15: 26-27]

After his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to his chosen apostles over a period of forty days. Being assembled together with them, he commanded them .....

**Don't depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you now restoring the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, **It isn't for you to know times or seasons which the Father has set within his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.** [ACTS 1: 4-8]

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said .....

**Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.** Then he breathed on them and told them, **Receive the Holy Spirit! Whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven them. Whoever's sins you retain, they have been retained.** [JOHN 20: 21-23]

After his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to his apostles and said .....

**All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.** [MATT 28: 18-20]

Prior to his ascension into heaven, Jesus appeared to the apostles. Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. He said to them .....

**Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. [LUKE 24: 45-47]**

## Spiritual Awakening

To Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, Jesus stated the following .....

**Most certainly, I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can't see the Kingdom of God.**

Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

Jesus answered, **Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and spirit, he can't enter into the Kingdom of God! That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't marvel that I said to you, "You must be born anew."** [JOHN 3: 3-7]

After teaching that he is the bread of life that came down from heaven and leads to eternal life, Jesus said the following to his disciples .....

**It is the spirit who gives life. The flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and are life. [JOHN 6: 63]**

While teaching in the temple, the Jews marveled at Jesus, saying, "How does this man know letters, having never been educated?" Jesus answered them and said .....

**My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me. If anyone desires to do his will, he will know about the teaching, whether it is from God, or if I am speaking from myself. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and no unrighteousness is in him. [JOHN 7: 16-18]**

Jesus said to the Pharisees .....

**I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life. [JOHN 8: 12]**

While discussing various things with the Jews and Jewish religious leaders, Jesus said .....

**Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it, and was glad.** The Jews therefore said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, **Most certainly, I tell you, before Abraham came into existence, I AM.** [JOHN 8: 56-58]

To a blind man that Jesus cured, he stated the following .....

**Do you believe in the Son of God?** He answered, "Who is he, Lord, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, **You have both seen him, and it is he who speaks with you.** He said, "Lord, I believe!" and he worshiped him. Jesus said, **I came into this world for judgment, that those who don't see may see; and that those who see may become blind.** [JOHN 9: 35-39]

The Jews said to Jesus, “How long will you hold us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them .....

**I told you, and you don't believe. The works that I do in my Father's name, these testify about me. But you don't believe, because you are not of my sheep, as I told you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give eternal life to them. They will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. [JOHN 10: 25-30]**

Speaking to a multitude, Jesus cried out and said .....

**Whoever believes in me, believes not in me, but in him who sent me. He who sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness. If anyone listens to my sayings, and doesn't believe, I don't judge him. For I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects me, and doesn't receive my sayings, has one who judges him. The word that I spoke, the same will judge him in the last day. For I spoke not from myself, but the Father who sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. I know that his commandment is eternal life. The things therefore which I speak, even as the Father has said to me, so I speak. [JOHN 12: 44-50]**

During the Last Supper with the apostles, Jesus said the following to his disciples .....

**Most certainly I tell you, he who receives whomever I send, receives me; and he who receives me, receives him who sent me. [JOHN 13: 20]**

**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on, you know him, and have seen him. [JOHN 14: 6-7]**

**If you love me, keep my commandments. I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, that he may be with you forever,—the Spirit of truth, whom the world can't receive; for it doesn't see him, neither knows him. You know him, for he lives with you, and will be in you. [JOHN 14: 15-17]**

**If a man loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our home with him. He who doesn't love me doesn't keep my words. The word which you hear isn't mine, but the Father's who sent me. I have said these things to you, while still living with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you. [JOHN 14: 23-26]**

Prior to his crucifixion and death, Pontius Pilate (the Roman Governor) asked Jesus, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered .....

**My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight, that I wouldn't be delivered to the Jews. But now my Kingdom is not from here.**

Pilate therefore said to him, “Are you a king then?” Jesus answered, **You say that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice. [JOHN 18: 36-37]**

## Respect for God and His Will

Prior to sending the twelve apostles on missionary journeys, Jesus said to his disciples .....

**Don't be afraid of those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. [MATT 10: 28]**

Jesus told the multitudes a parable about the word of God as follows .....

**Behold, a farmer went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them. Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn't have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of earth. When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked them: and others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. [MATT 13: 3-9]**

He then explained the meaning behind the parable as follows .....

**The seed is the word of God. Those along the road are those who hear, then the devil comes, and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; but these have no root, who believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation. That which fell among the thorns, these are those who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. What was sown on the good ground, this is he who hears the word, and understands it, who most certainly bears fruit, and brings forth, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. [LUKE 8: 11-15]**

Jesus said the following regarding servants of the Lord who know God's will but then decide to ignore or turn away from it .....

**That servant, who knew his lord's will, and didn't prepare, nor do what he wanted, will be beaten with many stripes, but he who didn't know, and did things worthy of stripes, will be beaten with few stripes. To whoever much is given, of him will much be required; and to whom much was entrusted, of him more will be asked. [LUKE 12: 47-48]**

## Final Instructions

After his death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to the apostles and said .....

**All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. [MATT 28: 18-20]**

Prior to his ascension into heaven, Jesus appeared to the apostles. Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. He said to them .....

**Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. [LUKE 24: 45-47]**



# Salvation – The Purpose of Life

## Eternal Life and Resurrection

To Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader, Jesus said the following .....

**For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. [JOHN 3: 16]**

While speaking to the Jews and Jewish religious leaders, Jesus said .....

**Most certainly I tell you, he who hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has eternal life, and doesn't come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. [JOHN 5: 24]**

Jesus performed a miracle by feeding five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. The next day, when many of these people were again with Jesus, he taught the following .....

**I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen me, and yet you don't believe. All those who the Father gives me will come to me. Him who comes to me I will in no way throw out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day. This is the will of the one who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son, and believes in him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. [JOHN 6: 35-40]**

To this same group of people, he also stated .....

**Most certainly, I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, that anyone may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Yes, the bread which I will give for the life of the world is my flesh. [JOHN 6: 47-51]**

While speaking to the Jews and Jewish religious leaders, Jesus said .....

**Most certainly, I tell you, if a person keeps my word, he will never see death. [JOHN 8: 51]**

Prior to raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said to Martha (Lazarus' sister) .....

**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. [JOHN 11: 25-26]**

## Judgment and the Kingdom of Heaven

While speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus said .....

**For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The good man out of his good treasure brings out good things, and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings out evil things. I tell you that every idle word that men speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

**For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned. [MATT 12: 34-37]**

While preaching to the multitudes, Jesus spoke the following parable .....

**The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while people slept, his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds also among the wheat, and went away.**

**But when the blade sprang up and brought forth fruit, then the darnel weeds appeared also. The servants of the householder came and said to him, “Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where did this darnel come from?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.”**

**The servants asked him, “Do you want us to go and gather them up?” But he said, “No, lest perhaps while you gather up the darnel weeds, you root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest time I will tell the reapers, First, gather up the darnel weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.” [MATT 13: 24-30]**

Jesus explained the meaning behind this parable as follows .....

**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the children of the Kingdom; and the darnel weeds are the children of the evil one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.**

**As therefore the darnel weeds are gathered up and burned with fire; so will it be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his Kingdom all things that cause stumbling, and those who do iniquity, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and the gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear. [MATT 13: 37-43]**

Another parable spoken by Jesus regarding Judgment and the Kingdom of Heaven .....

**Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet, that was cast into the sea, and gathered some fish of every kind, which, when it was filled, they drew up on the beach. They sat down, and gathered the good into containers, but the bad they threw away. So will it be in the end of the world. The angels will come forth, and separate the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. [MATT 13: 47-50]**

While traveling to Jerusalem, Jesus was asked, “Lord, are they few who are saved?” Jesus then answered .....

**Strive to enter in by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen up, and has shut the door, and you begin to stand outside, and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” then he will answer and tell you, “I don’t know you or where you come from.”**

**Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.” He will say, “I tell you, I don’t know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.”**

**There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. They will come from the east, west, north, and south, and will sit down in the Kingdom of God. Behold, there are some who are last who will be first, and there are some who are first who will be last. [LUKE 13: 24-30]**

Regarding temptations to sin, Jesus taught as follows .....

**Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him that a huge millstone should be hung around his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depths of the sea.**

**Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! For it must be that the occasions come, but woe to that person through whom the occasion comes! If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off, and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the Gehenna of fire. [MATT 18: 5-9]**

While teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus told the following parable .....

**For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who was the master of a household, who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.**

**He went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace. To them he said, "You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise.**

**About the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle. He said to them, "Why do you stand here all day idle?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and you will receive whatever is right."**

**When evening had come, the lord of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning from the last to the first." When those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. When the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise each received a denarius.**

**When they received it, they murmured against the master of the household, saying, "These last have spent one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat!"**

**But he answered one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree with me for a denarius? Take that which is yours, and go your way. It is my desire to give to this last just as much as to you. Isn't it lawful for me to do what I want to with what I own? Or is your eye evil, because I am good?" So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen. [MATT 20: 1-16]**

Another parable from Jesus about Judgment and the Kingdom of Heaven .....

**The Kingdom of Heaven is like a certain king, who made a marriage feast for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the marriage feast, but they would not come. Again he sent out other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have made ready my dinner. My oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the marriage feast!"**

**But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the rest grabbed his servants, and treated them shamefully, and killed them.**

**When the king heard that, he was angry, and sent his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those who were**

invited weren't worthy. Go therefore to the intersections of the highways, and as many as you may find, invite to the marriage feast."

Those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together as many as they found, both bad and good. The wedding was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man who didn't have on wedding clothing, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you come in here not wearing wedding clothing?" He was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, "Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness; there is where the weeping and grinding of teeth will be." For many are called, but few chosen. [MATT 22: 2-14]

The Sadducees were a religious group that did not believe in resurrection after death. They described to Jesus a situation where one woman married each of seven brothers as the brothers died off. Then the woman herself also died. Then they asked Jesus, "In the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be of them? For the seven had her as a wife." Jesus replied .....

**Isn't this because you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God? For when they will rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.**

**But about the dead, that they are raised; haven't you read in the book of Moses, about the Bush, how God spoke to him, saying, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are therefore badly mistaken.** [MARK 12: 23-27]

Regarding resurrection and judgment, Jesus said the following .....

**Most certainly, I tell you, the hour comes, and now is, when the dead will hear the Son of God's voice; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, even so he gave to the Son also to have life in himself. He also gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is a son of man. Don't marvel at this, for the hour comes, in which all that are in the tombs will hear his voice, and will come out; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.** [JOHN 5: 25-29]

The disciples asked Jesus, "What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered them .....

**Be careful that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will lead many astray. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you aren't troubled, for all this must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are the beginning of birth pains.**

**Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake. Then many will stumble, and will deliver up one another, and will hate one another. Many false prophets will arise, and will lead many astray. Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end, the same will be saved.**

**This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.**

When, therefore, you see the abomination of desolation,<sup>14</sup> which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take out things that are in his house. Let him who is in the field not return back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are with child and to nursing mothers in those days! Pray that your flight will not be in the winter, nor on a Sabbath, for then there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be.

Unless those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved. But for the sake of the chosen ones, those days will be shortened.

Then if any man tells you, "Behold, here is the Christ," or, "There," don't believe it. For there will arise false christs, and false prophets, and they will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. Behold, I have told you beforehand.

If therefore they tell you, "Behold, he is in the wilderness," don't go out; "Behold, he is in the inner chambers," don't believe it. For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For wherever the carcass is, there is where the vultures gather together.

But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch has now become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near. Even so you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Most certainly I tell you, this generation<sup>15</sup> will not pass away, until all these things are accomplished.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But no one knows of that day and hour, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and they didn't know until the flood came, and took them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and one will be left; two women grinding at the mill, one will be taken and one will be left.

Watch therefore, for you don't know in what hour your Lord comes. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore also be ready, for in an hour that you don't expect, the Son of Man will come.

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing so when he comes. Most certainly I tell you that he will set him over all that he has.

But if that evil servant should say in his heart, "My lord is delaying his coming," and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with the drunkards, the lord of that servant

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<sup>14</sup> Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11

<sup>15</sup> The word for "generation" (genea) can also be translated as "race."

will come in a day when he doesn't expect it, and in an hour when he doesn't know it, and will cut him in pieces, and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. There is where the weeping and grinding of teeth will be. [MATT 24: 4-51]

Another parable from Jesus about the Kingdom of Heaven .....

Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. Those who were foolish, when they took their lamps, took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Now while the bridegroom delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Behold! The bridegroom is coming! Come out to meet him!"

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "What if there isn't enough for us and you? You go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves."

While they went away to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

Afterward the other virgins also came, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But he answered, "Most certainly I tell you, I don't know you."

Watch therefore, for you don't know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. [MATT 25: 1-13]

Jesus also spoke the following parable .....

For it is like a man, going into another country, who called his own servants, and entrusted his goods to them.

To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately he who received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. In like manner he also who got the two gained another two. But he who received the one went away and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Now after a long time the lord of those servants came, and reconciled accounts with them. He who received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five talents besides them." His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

He also who got the two talents came and said, "Lord, you delivered to me two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents besides them." His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."

He also who had received the one talent came and said, "Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter. I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the earth. Behold, you have what is yours." But his lord answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant. You knew that I reap where I didn't sow, and gather where I didn't scatter. You ought therefore to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back my own with interest. Take away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who doesn't have, even that which

**he has will be taken away. Throw out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” [MATT 25: 14-30]**

Regarding final judgment, Jesus said the following .....

**But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. Before him all the nations will be gathered, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**

**Then the King will tell those on his right hand, “Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in; naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me.”**

**Then the righteous will answer him, saying, “Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?” The King will answer them, “Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”**

**Then he will say also to those on the left hand, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you didn’t give me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and you didn’t take me in; naked, and you didn’t clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.” Then they will also answer, saying, “Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and didn’t help you?”**

**Then he will answer them, saying, “Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you didn’t do it to one of the least of these, you didn’t do it to me.” These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. [MATT 25: 31-46]**

# Final Words

Through the teachings of Jesus, God gives us His perfect guidance for how to live according to His Will. He also tells us in a clear and compelling manner why we should strive to live this way. The reason is **ETERNAL SALVATION!** The Lord loves us and He wants to save us by giving us the gift of eternal life in His presence. After our physical death and God's final judgment, we will continue to exist in an immortal state of being. This state of being can be one of eternal punishment and suffering in the midst of all that is evil or it can be one of pure joy and happiness in the presence of Almighty God. The path to eternal salvation is found in Jesus Christ and his teachings!

Jesus tells us that the "Righteous" are saved and the "Wicked" are condemned. This teaching is a major problem for mankind since we know we are sinners and we all fall short of achieving total righteousness. If all people to some extent are "Wicked", how then can we ever hope to be saved? Fortunately, Jesus Christ provides the answer to this dilemma. According to His guidance, there is much we can do to seek God's grace and His gift of salvation; ***we must have faith in God, repent of our sins and strive to respect His Will.***

It is by faith that we have hope for salvation. Faith in God does not mean we will live perfect lives as we are only imperfect people. Faith is acknowledgement of God and hope in His promises. Faith is also love of God and a sincere desire to seek Him and His perfect Wisdom. In seeking Him, He blesses us with increased knowledge of what is right and wrong and with an increased desire to do what is right. When we sin and do what we know is wrong, we can choose to repent of our sin and strive to be better. When there is true faith in God, we repent and strive to become better because of the love and respect we have for Him. It is true that salvation is a gift from God and we can never be "good enough" to deserve this gift based on our actions since we all are sinners. However, our actions are an inseparable part of our faith in God, and only God, who sees and knows all, will pass final judgment on us after this physical life ends. This perspective on faith describes how having faith is a life-long and life-changing interaction with God that builds and strengthens our relationship with Him. As our faith grows, God's grace continuously transforms us and this transformation is evident in how we act. If we love and honor God with sincere faith and a repentant heart, He promises to have mercy and grant us the gift of eternal salvation despite our sinful nature.

In the Introduction, it was stated that ***the words and teachings of Jesus contain absolute TRUTH that can only come from God Himself!*** To those who have never believed in the words and teachings of Jesus, if you've read through this document with an open mind, God has undoubtedly touched you with His magnificent and powerful Wisdom. Please don't turn away from Him! Use your sense of reason and listen to God as He speaks to your intellect and your soul. ***Jesus Christ IS God! He is the Living Word of God and He is all of God's perfect TRUTH and WISDOM.*** From this day forward, trust your heart, have faith in Jesus and follow Him!

To those that are believers in Christ and His teachings, please read and study these pages often and repeatedly. The better you learn and remember His words, the more you can glorify God by living according to His Will, and the greater will be your ability to seek the gift of eternal life in the presence of Almighty God.

What an awesome and loving God! Our hearts should sing out to Him in thanks and praise each and every day. God loves us so much that He blessed us with life and all of His amazing creation. His love for us is so great that He also gave us the perfect path to follow for knowing Him and for seeking eternal salvation. That perfect path is Jesus Christ!

May the Lord bless you with Wisdom and Discernment!