

Counsels and Commandments
of
the Lord Jesus
in the New Testament

by
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We dedicate this collection of Scripture verses to all those Christians that never tire to learn from the Book of books, so as to become wiser in their talk and walk.

Acknowledgment

This book came about because of the discipline and enthusiasm of Willem-Jan van der Vlist, who not only came up with the idea for the subject, but also typed it out. His weekly desire to learn from the Word propelled me to gather the texts as given; with sparse comments. Without him this would and could not have been realized.

Introduction

In this book we have collected many counsels and commandments from the New Testament. Not in the first place doctrinal texts, but recommendations for our talk and walk in this world.

Many Christians read all kinds of magazines, Bible commentaries and other things; but reading the Bible by itself, they hardly get to do that. And that though the Bible itself gives us the advice to long for the pure 'milk', as many of us are still babies in the faith. The Bible verses contained in this work are however also meant for those Christians that are already longer on their way to the heavenly City. For them the advice holds, from the Bible itself, that the Word of the Lord 'live richly among you'.

We have been very sparing in providing comments, so as to let the Word speak for itself as much as possible. Somebody could counter that in that case one might as well just read the New Testament by itself. However in this book mainly direct and indirect counsels and commandments have been neatly collected as a subject by itself.

We have chosen the NKJ because of its clarity, beauty and reliability.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Matthew

5:2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

5 Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

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

7 Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

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

9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

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

*Growing in the faith begins with recognizing that you are poor of spirit and ends with the role of peace maker and being persecuted; just as the prophets of old were and about who people (also fellow Christians today) spoke evil.

13 " You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

*Being the salt and light of the world, that is spiritually, should be the goal of a believer.

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

*Commandment: let your light shine like a candle in the dark.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

*Even the smallest commandment is important. If you teach all commandments, do not forget about the little ones and do not blow them out of proportion either.

20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

*To be abundant in good works, more than a Pharisee, is a must!

22 "But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

*Do not be angry at your fellow and do not call him names.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

25 "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

*Reconcile yourself with your adversary.

28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

*Who looks at a woman to covet her, has in principle committed adultery. But that does not mean that, objectively, you cannot consider somebody beautiful.

36 "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.

*Do not swear; let your yes be yes and your no no.

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

*This does not mean that you should not defend your own life, or that of your wife and children.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

40 "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.

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

*If the government compels you to do something good, do the double.

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

*This counsel comes with a promise: vs 45a. 'That you may be children of your Father, Who is in heaven.'

6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

3 "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

4 "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

*Donations: do not let a third party know.

5 " And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

*Praying in private; no unnecessary repetitions or verbiage, but simple and straightforward.

20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

*Accumulate treasures in heaven. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be. The best thing is when the Lord Jesus is your all.

24 " No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*Do not serve the Mammon, but be not indifferent about money matters either.

25 " Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

*Food and clothing are not the very first priority for a Christian.

7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged.

*Do not judge, let alone condemn; yet one must necessarily make assessments and in a church and family there should be room for discipline. Therefore love the sinner, but hate the sin.

5 "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

*First the beam out of your own eye, then the speck out of the other's eye.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

7 " Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

*Do not just ask, seek and knock, but beseech, search and bang on heaven's door.

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

*What you want people to do to you, do that first to them; love them like yourself.

13 " Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

*One enters the narrow gate at conversion; but broad is the way to eternal perdition.

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

*Careful about feigning enemies of the cross; they will tear you apart.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

16 " You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

*Watch somebody's acts and know his character.

24 " Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

*The Lord Jesus is the true Rock; build your life on the rock and not on sand, it is quick sand.

8:22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

*Let the world be the world, it will take care of itself; but be not an enemy or too estranged.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

9:12 When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

*Those that are sick need a physician, so spiritually.

13 "But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

*How often we value our religious matters more than mercy; against this counsel.

15 And Jesus said to them, "Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.

*When the bridegroom is with you, then you do not have to fast. You should have Him (Jesus) in your heart. Genesis 24: Isaac and Rebecca. Isaac the bridegroom and Rebecca the bride and the servant (the Holy Spirit) that brings them together. Rebecca has Isaac already in her heart, so should we look forward to the coming of the Lord. However Paul and others did fast at occasion. This should be a personal

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from the New Testament*

matter, just like the giving of money and time and must not be imposed or coerced.

10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

*This is true Christian courage.

31 "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

*Do not fear for your basic necessities. He will not forsake you (though He may test you). For all the hairs of your head have been counted.

32 " Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

*Do not deny your Lord, certainly not when push comes to shove.

37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*Your priority should be your Love for the Lord Jesus. Yet the second commandment to love your fellow as yourself, is equal to the first commandment to love God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and with all your understanding.

38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

*Bear your own particular sorrow patiently, trusting ever.

39 "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

*Who finds complete satisfaction here below, will lose out in the end.

11:28 "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 "For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*True humility does not point the finger at others. Do not judge others and find peace.

12:30 "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

*The world is divided between the followers of Christ and those that are not, whether indifferent or hostile, or even sympathizing.

36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

*Every idle, unnecessary and certainly foolish word, will bring you into discredit and you will bear responsibility for it. Therefore, clean your language.

50 "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

*Whoever delights in God's will, the Lord delights in him or her and is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters. Paul calls the heavenly Jerusalem our mother and this then also holds even for the human side of our Lord.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

15:11 "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."

*Evil thoughts can make you stagger momentarily, but evil words can damage permanently.

18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

*Unless we become like a child, we cannot even enter the Kingdom of the Heavens. He that humbles himself like a child, will be great in the heavens.

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

*Where two bornagain people agree on earth about something and they request this (in the name of the Lord and according to His will; we may add from other scriptures), the Father will grant them their request.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

*Be forgiving. How much patience the Lord has had with the Pharisees and indeed with us.

19:6 "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

*What God has joined, people should not separate; with other words humans really can separate what the Lord has put together. But that should be avoided as much as possible.

22:21 They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

*Give to the government what belongs to the government and give to the Lord what is the Lord's. So pay your taxes and do your donations.

36 "Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?"

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from the New Testament*

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

38 "This is *the* first and great commandment.

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

40 "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

*The two great commandments 'Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your understanding' and 'Love your fellow man like yourself', sums up all laws. If one could do this, one would fulfill the ten commandments.

23:3 "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

4 "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers.

5 "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.

*Do what the Pharisees say, but do not according to their works...

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

24:42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

*You do not know when the Lord comes, so stay vigilant.

*25:1-34 Work hard with your abilities.

25:35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink?

38 'When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*?

39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

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43 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.'

46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

*Treat your fellow man as if he is the Lord Jesus, particularly the members of the household of faith.

26:52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

*They that draw the sword will perish by the sword. Violence sooner or later turns against yourself.

28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

*The great mandate of the Church.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Mark

1:17 Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

*Come, follow Me and become fishers of men.' This way we all can do the work of an evangelist, shod with the preparedness of the gospel.

4:23 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

*Spiritual: 'who that has ears let him hear.' The message is for those that truly love Him.

24 Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.

*Promise and warning.

25 "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*The condemned will stand naked before the white throne, spiritually.

6:31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.

*Take your rest when necessary.

50 For they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

*Be of good courage, I am with you, be not afraid.

9:7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

*This is my Son, listen to Him and obey (that is, listen to the entire bible!).

39 But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*Do not hinder people that act in the Name of the Lord, but that do not associate with you.

43 "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched --

*Renounce that part of your life that causes temptation.

10:9 "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

*When God has formed a marriage, do not disrupt it (so it really can happen, also in God's eyes!).

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

15 "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

*Let the little children come to the Lord Jesus; do not be an obstacle. As soon as a child can talk a little bit, bring him or her to the Lord with stories from the bible and godly songs.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

42 But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

44 "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

*If you desire to be great among your fellow believers, you should serve them with prayer, time, money, emotion and effort. Be a servant.

11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

*True faith does not doubt. But be not a fanatic.

25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

*When you pray, approaching the Lord, you should forgive anything you may hold against somebody.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

12:17 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.

*Pay your taxes and do your donations.

24 Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?"

13:5 And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

*Be very careful not to be misled. Knowledge of the Word makes you wise and independent.

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

*Do not worry too much as to what you will answer your prosecutors; the Holy Spirit will grant you wisdom.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

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

*Be vigilant and pray, for you do not know when your time comes, or when the Lord returns.

35 "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming -- in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning --

37 "And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

*Again, be vigilant.

14:38 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

*Be careful that you are not tempted. If you are vigilant enough and pray enough, you are kept from many temptations.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

*Do not forget to do also the work of an evangelist (certainly in your own family). In Psalm 148.9 David calls up even the mountains and all of creation to praise the Lord.

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Luke

3:10 So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

*This is giving away half of what you possess. But it is not granted to all of us to be able to do that.

13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

*Do not blackmail anybody, be content with your wages; do not ask more than the legally required taxes. In many countries there is much corruption, such as bribes when fined or when wanting a service.

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4:4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

*Every word of God gives life; that is the entire bible.

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

*We should only worship and serve God. The veneration and service of icons and saints, as well as of the mother of God supposedly, detracts of the service that is reserved for God the Father and God the Son. Yet Maria said that 'all generations will call me blessed' and Protestants seem to be poor in this. Just as one honors a king or queen, one can honor Maria, but not more than that. It makes no sense to pray to her. Like worship, that is reserved for the Father and the Son. Let us not forget that she is still in her grave!

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "

*Through a lifestyle or whatever act, we should not test the Lord God.

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24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.

*A prophet (somebody that preaches God's message) is not honored or listened to (let alone believed) in his own family or original environment.

6:20 Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed *are you* poor, For yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed *are you* who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed *are you* who weep now, For you shall laugh.

22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

24 "But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

*Well and woe put in contrast of each other.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

27 " But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

29 "To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either.

30 "Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back.

31 "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

*Love your enemies. That does not mean that you should be naïve and let people walk all over you. For then they will pluck you entirely. I think this applies to religious situations when your faith and faithfulness is called for.

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

*Here again we should not be naïve.

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36 "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

*Be merciful as your Father in heaven. This is a commandment.

37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

41 "And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye?

46 " But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?

47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and

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from the New Testament*

immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

*Build on Jesus as the sure foundation of your life and eternal destiny.

7:50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

*Go in peace upon meeting Jesus and He will care for the rest.

8:25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

*Where is your faith? It is our first and foremost duty to have faith.

9:35 And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

*Jesus is the beloved Son; listen to Him and obey.

48 and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me

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receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great."

54 And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

*Christians are capable of condemning each other in all kinds of things.

10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

*Do not rejoice in any power but in being saved.

11:41 "But rather give alms of such things as you have; then indeed all things are clean to you.

*Give as unto the Lord and you will be pure in all things (not just your conscience)!

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12:4 " And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

*Do not fear those that can kill you.

5 "But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!

*Fear Him that can throw you into hell.

8 "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

*Confess Him.

9 "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

*Do not deny Him.

11 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say.

12 "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."

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21 "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

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

*Do not worry. Do not gather treasures on earth, but in heaven.

25 "And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

31 "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

35 "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning;

*Be somebody that has something to do.

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from the New Testament*

40 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

*At all times be spiritually ready.

57 "Yes, and why, even of yourselves, do you not judge what is right?"

*Do not judge appearances, but the innerside.

13:32 And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third *day* I shall be perfected.'

*Be careful with what it says here (speaking up against the powers that be; only when they go clearly against Scripture).

14:11 "For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

13 "But when you give a feast, invite *the* poor, *the* maimed, *the* lame, *the* blind.

14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

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from the New Testament*

26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

*Life = soul: The old man of the soul. If your family wants to draw you away from the Lord, then God has the pre-eminence. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil, also the old Adam, also your (sinful) self. Other than that, here is question of a Hebrew idiom. See the story of Leah and Rachel, the first was hated and the other one loved. This means that Rachel was *preferred*. So in this verse.

27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

16:9 "And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

*Support people financially, so that they will reward you in heaven. The eternal tabernacles = heaven.

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10 "He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

12 "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

*Be faithful in what belongs to another, also as to public money through taxes.

17:1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe *to him* through whom they do come!

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

*Let us humble ourselves like unfit servants.

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18:7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"

*People that pray day and night to Him with upright hearts, will He not answer them?

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

17 "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

21:34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

*Do not be caught up unawares. Pray and be vigilant lest through too much care for worldly things you backslide.

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

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22:19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

*Do this to remember His Work on the cross,

40 When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

*Pray that you are not tempted, then the temptation is powerless.

23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Stephan prayed: "Do not lay this sin to their charge."

43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

*For people on their deathbed (Christians).

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24:25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

*We are backward people, slow of heart to believe.

38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

*The tendency to fear and doubt is wrong as well.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

John

1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

*Receive Him-Jesus.

17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*The law of works has been replaced by the law of grace, for Jesus fulfilled the law, If you reject the grace and truth of Jesus, then you reject God and you make Him a liar. If you want to keep the law out of thankfulness, you actually reject His grace and truth and you return to the law of works, just like the Galatians.

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

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*29b Look at the Lamb of God, Who takes away sin as origin and its efficacy. The law does not take away sin, but only exposes it.

2:5 His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do *it*."

*Listen to what Jesus says.

7 Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

*Water speaks of the working of the Holy Spirit and the changing of water into wine denotes spiritual joy.

16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

*Do not turn the Church into a business.

3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

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5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

*One must be born again through the Word in the Bible and through the Holy Spirit, else you cannot enter God's Kingdom.

7 "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

*To be born again means receiving and becoming a new nature.

30 "He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

*Jesus must become more important and I less important.

36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

*He who believes in the Son has eternal life.

4:14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him

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will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

*Drink the living water and you will never thirst again emotionally and spiritually.

23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

*Seek to become a worshiper, for the Father searches for such people (true worshipers are rare; God looks for them with a search light as it were).

5:8 Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."

*Getting up to walk the Christian walk.

6:27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

*Do not work for things that perish in the end, but work for the eternal things in the first place.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

*Eat the living bread and you will never hunger again.

54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

*When you build on the Work accomplished by Christ, then you have already eternal life in you in principle and you will be resurrected at His return.

7:17 "If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority*.

*When you desire to do God's will and start at least trying to do that, then you will find out whether Jesus spoke in the Name of God or out of Himself only (who speaks out of himself, seeks his own honor. Jesus Christ sought the honor of the Father).

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

*Do not judge what is on the outside, but what is on the inside.

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from the New Testament*

8:7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."

*Nobody is without sin.

10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

26 "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

30 "I and My Father are one."

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

32 Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?"

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33 The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

34 Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '?"

35 "If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken),

36 "do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

37 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

38 "but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him."

*If you do not believe me, believe my works.

11:43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

*Wake up you that are asleep! (This command is spoken, both to those that are dead in sins and trespasses and to those that have gone so astray that they sleep spiritually),

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12:7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

*Everywhere where the gospel is preached, Mary of Bethany will be mentioned, particularly her worship for the Lord. In this passage Christ states that the disciples always thought of the poor, but not always of Him. We, unfortunately, here in the West have also largely forgotten the poor. Therefore our so-called thinking and remembering of the Lord probably is a hollowed out show as well.

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

25 "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

*Die to the old Adam, then you will bear much fruit. If somebody wants to serve the Lord, let him follow Him.

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from the New Testament*

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.

45 "And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

*If you reject Jesus, you reject His words and then you are judged according to these selfsame words.

13:8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

*13:8b You must be washed spiritually, or you have no part in Him. Just your feet (your walk and testimony) must be washed. For in conversion you have been totally washed already.

14 "If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

*To wash somebody's feet, means to hold out a mirror in front of them in all love and humility. Most people do not want that. They do not want further spiritual learning.

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14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

*Do not let your heart be disturbed; believe in God and also believe in Jesus.

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.

*Do not just let your prayer end with the words 'We pray this in Jesus' Name'; but your life must be in accordance with His will.

15 " If you love Me, keep My commandments.

*That is the entire Bible as far as you understand its directions and you should grow in those.

15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

*Remain in Me and I in you.

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from the New Testament*

10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

*If you do this, you will stay in Christ's Love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

*That your joy may be complete. We must not go after cheap fun, but after deep spiritual joy.

12 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

*Remember the word that I spoke to you (in your conscience, your circumstances, criticisms and advice by others, etc.).

16:23 whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

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18:8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

*If you seek Me, let them go (that is over against governments that persecute Christians). Now they cannot take hold of Jesus Himself, they take on the Christians.

21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" -- knowing that it was the Lord.

*The Work has been finished, come and be joyful.

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me."

23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?"

*Follow Me.

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from the New Testament*

Acts

1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

*Predicting the times: people that do so are usually mistaken. They attempt to make predictions, for instance about the coming again of Christ. You must be very careful in laying the Bible next to the news. Many have gone wrong in this regard.

2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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*Repent, be convicted, be baptized; that is the beginning of Christian life.

3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

*Repent and convert, that your sins be washed off.

4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

*It is better to listen to God than people and even the authorities, if they want to prevent you from preaching; for example in Russia, China, Cuba, North Korea and Muslim countries.

5:4 "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out."

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*If you lie against the brethren, the Church, then you lie against God and you sadden the Holy Spirit.

6:3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

*When there are needs in a large church, then you must appoint deacons to organize things, but the Church (with a capital to denote all believers wherever they may be) must not become an organization, but is an organism that is dependent on the Lord for its growth. The organizers should not be lifted up and be put on a pedestal above the other believers, for Christ is the head of the Church and the Holy Spirit His representative.

8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

*The gospel brought about in a natural way.

9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

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*Awaiting God's direction, for He will make known to you what He wants you to do.

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

*Be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a command for our own benefit and that of others.

20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

*The heart of the gospel is that Jesus is the eternal Son of God.

10:2 a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

*It is important to give donations and alms, so your prayers may be answered sooner or later. It is important to pray in combination with charity.

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

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from the New Testament*

*What God has pronounced clean, we should not declare unclean.

34 Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

*God does not make a difference between people; the one is not more than the other.

11:29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

*Collect money for needs.

13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

*Served and fasted. Fasting is up to the individual believer and must not be forced on Christians.

15:10 "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?"

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11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

*Do not put a yoke on your neck with circumcision, or attempting to keep the law out of thankfulness. We are free from the law. You have died to the law when you have been born again. The law has been fulfilled by Christ. Love Him and then you keep the law spontaneously. For true Love fulfills all commandments by nature.

16:31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

*Study the Scriptures daily.

28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

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*We are His children, because we hail down from God. For Adam was made by God. All the earth is actually one big family.

18:11 And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

*It is important that the Word of God is ***learned***.

20:35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

*These words are not in the gospels, but Jesus did say them: It is better to give, therefore, than to receive (let alone to take).

23:11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

*Keep courage is an exhortation, but can also be considered a counsel.

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from the New Testament*

Romans

2:28 For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh;
29 but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.

*Be a Jew on the inside, circumcised in heart and spirit

3:4 Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, And may overcome when You are judged."

5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

*One attains to peace through faith.

6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

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2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Keep yourself dead to sin.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

*If you are under law, sin gets a hold of you (the letter kills, the spirit revives).

8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

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13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

*Dying here is meant spiritually in the first place.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

*You are only really a son/daughter of God when you are led by the Holy Spirit, if not, then you remain a naive child in faith.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

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17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

9 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

10 *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

11 *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

12 *rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;*

13 *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

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

15 *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

16 *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

17 *Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.*

18 *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

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from the New Testament*

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

20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

5 Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake.

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

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

9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not

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covet," and if *there is* any other commandment, are *all* summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

* True Love for the Lord Jesus and your fellow men (particularly your brothers and sisters in the faith), is the highest law.

10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

*Let us walk appropriately to the faith and our calling.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things.

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2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables.

3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him.

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

5 One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

*One has to accept and receive somebody that is weak in the faith. If someone claims that one should not eat pig's meat or even any meat, or coffee and tea; then one should not despise such a person. But the other way around, such a person should not condemn somebody that sees no harm in consuming such food. The same holds for the celebration of days like the Passover and Christmas.

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

*In other words, you should not despise your fellow believer as if he were below you; nor should you

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condemn him, because he is not strict enough in your eyes.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother's way.

*When a brother or sister is different from us in such things, then we should not cause a problem for such a one by judging them. Such things are not important enough. The same thing holds for the consumption of alcohol and perhaps the use of medicinal cannabis.

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;
17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
18 For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.

19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

22 Do you have faith? Have *it* to yourself before God. Happy *is* he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

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15:1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

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

7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

*Receive each other like Christ has received you.

10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"

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

16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

*Recommend each other and greet each other: vs 23.

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

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*Distance yourselves from those that cause sectarian divisions and general aberrations that are unhealthy as far as the faith is concerned.

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

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1 Corinthians

1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*.

27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

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3:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

*If you think you are wise in this world, then you deceive yourself.

4:1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.

10 Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or

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extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner -- not even to eat with such a person.

6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?

*Do not start a legal case against a brother (unless it is about a very serious matter).

4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

*The least respected in a church often have more wisdom.

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

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15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

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

7:1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*.

5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

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8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am;

9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

10 Now to the married I command, *yet* not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from *her* husband.

11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to *her* husband. And a husband is not to divorce *his* wife.

20 Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.

26 I suppose therefore that this is good because of the present distress -- that *it is* good for a man to remain as he is:

27 Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be loosed. Are you loosed from a wife? Do not seek a wife.

28 But even if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Nevertheless such will have trouble in the flesh, but I would spare you.

33 But he who is married cares about the things of the world -- how he may please *his* wife.

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38 So then he who gives *her* in marriage does well, but he who does not give *her* in marriage does better.

*Comment: the best way to interpret these verses is to explain the word 'virgin' as meaning 'one's virginity'. For it is clear that Paul is talking about containing oneself and about reaching an age of sexual maturity. It may be good formality to ask a virgin's father for her hand, but Rebecca's family also asked for her own opinion.

39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

40 But she is happier if she remains as she is, according to my judgment -- and I think I also have the Spirit of God.

8:2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.

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3 But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.

9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

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9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about?

*Explanation of 9:11-12. If we have given you spiritual things, for your own benefit, it should be understandable that we deserve a material benefit for our bodies.

12 If others are partakers of *this* right over you, *are* we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

7 And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."

8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;
9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

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10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

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

14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

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

28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness."

29 "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience?

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

32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,

11:1 Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

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from the New Testament*

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having *his* head covered, dishonors his head.

5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with *her* head uncovered dishonors her head, for that is one and the same as if her head were shaved.

6 For if a woman is not covered, let her also be shorn. But if it is shameful for a woman to be shorn or shaved, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover *his* head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

10 For this reason the woman ought to have *a symbol of authority on her head*, because of the angels.

13 Judge among yourselves. Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered?

14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him?

15 But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her* hair is given to her for a covering.

*In the world, for instance with fashion shows, people value long hair on women as a beautiful thing, but in many churches this feeling is dead. Head covering for Christian women is a godly principle.

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

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

12:31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

*Strive for the higher spiritual gifts, but particularly for true Love.

13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

5 I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.

*Prophesying is speaking biblical truths in the name of God.

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

18 I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;

19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

30 But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

*There are two main aberrations about speaking in tongues: 1. Forbidding it categorically 2. Practically making it obligatory.

40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

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15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

16:2 On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.

*If somebody is doing the work of the Lord, then most of the time somebody has something to say about it or against (part of) it, or somebody that is indifferent, or who despises it even, or is jealous.

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

14 Let all *that* you *do* be done with love.

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

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2 Corinthians

1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

2:10 Now whom you forgive anything, I also *forgive*. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

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5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

8 *We are* hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

*And God said: "Let there be light and there was light."
In spiritual things we also need God's light.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

5:1 For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

*Consolation as counsel.

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5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

6:3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

4 But in all *things* we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

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

18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Open *your hearts* to us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have cheated no one.

*Open your own heart to the apostle Paul, as one sent from the Lord.

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8:11 but now you also must complete the doing of *it*; that as *there was* a readiness to desire *it*, so *there also may be* a completion out of what *you* have.

12 For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.

9:5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which *you had* previously promised, that it may be ready as *a matter of* generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

6 But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

9 As it is written: He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.

10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness,

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10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

7 Do you look at things according to the outward appearance? If anyone is convinced in himself that he is Christ's, let him again consider this in himself, that just as he *is* Christ's, even so we *are* Christ's.

17 But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

18 For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

11:1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly -- and indeed you do bear with me.

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

*One should at the very least bear with Paul.

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19 For you put up with fools gladly, since you *yourselves* are wise!

20 For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours *you*, if one takes *from you*, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

12:9 And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

*My grace is sufficient for you. Paul is an example in this. Be content in the way the Lord goes with you. And as far as suffering goes, one has to accept that, no matter how hard it is.

13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

13 All the saints greet you.

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Galatians

1:1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

2 and all the brethren who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

5 to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

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

*Another gospel comes from the devil and the announcer of it is cursed - Jehovah Witnesses,

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Mormons, Muslims and others bring a false message about the Lord Jesus.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

20 (Now *concerning* the things which I write to you, indeed, before God, I do not lie.)

24 And they glorified God in me.

*Gladness that somebody was converted to the Christian faith.

2:4 And *this occurred* because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),

*Warning that people should be aware that there are many wolves in sheep's clothing.

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10 *They desired* only that we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.

14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

*This is what so-called Seventh-Day Adventists do on Saturday and others that turn Sunday into a Sabbath. This has never been said to the heathen. (This is a judaizing gospel. According to Exodus 35.3 they should not heat their houses on this day either. This verse shows the lie of all forms of judaizing!)

16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

19 "For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now

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live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

*It does not say that one must keep the law out of thankfulness, as some claim. Christ is the highest law.

3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

7 Therefore know that *only* those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, *saying*, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

9 So then those who *are* of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.

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*Verse 8 in the end points to the Millennium, when the nations will be blessed.

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

12 Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"),

17 And this I say, *that* the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect.

*Therefore David could say: "Blessed is the man whose sins have been covered and whose transgressions have been forgiven." For actually he should have been put to death, but because there exists a higher law, the Lord allowed him to live. This is the law of grace. Because the Lord Jesus was

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foreknown before the foundation of the earth as the slaughtered lamb. The gospel in Genesis 3 was also for people that lived before the flood. And the covenant with Abraham, a covenant based on faith, came a long time before the law of Moses.

19 What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

*Why then was the law of Moses given? So that sins would openly be called sins and in order that people would be conscious of them. And also because the Jewish people had invoked it on themselves when they exclaimed that they would perform everything the Lord commanded; only to worship the golden calf almost immediately. And I fear that every church and faith community has turned their own traditions into such a golden calf. And they force their leaders like the Israelites forced Aaron.

21 *Is* the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

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22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

* For Abraham there existed an earlier and higher law than the law of Moses, the law of faith. The Lord Jesus is the fulfilment of Moses' law and now He has become the highest law.

4:3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

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*All religions are based on some form of legalism, performing laws and traditions and customs. Only the Lord Jesus gives true liberty.

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

*Only in Christianity one is saved through Christ. All other religions preach that you have to save yourself in one way or another.

18 But it is good to be zealous in a good thing always, and not only when I am present with you.

25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children --

26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

*We also have a mother, the new Jerusalem: not some kind of 'holy mother church', but the Church that is composed of all true believers, wherever they may be.

30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this:
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest
you be consumed by one another!

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill
the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit
against the flesh; and these are contrary to one
another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the
law.

21b just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who
practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no
law.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

24 And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

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

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you *who are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5 For each one shall bear his own load.

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

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

*Warning: people do not keep their own norms and values.

14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Ephesians

2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand
that we should walk in them.

18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit
to the Father.

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and
foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and
members of the household of God,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles
and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief
cornerstone,

21 in whom the whole building, being joined together,
grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

3:1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles --

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

6 that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

9 and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

*No difference between Jew and gentile in Christ.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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from the New Testament*

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ --

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

*Exhortation: Ignorance is caused by the hardness of your heart.

21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

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23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*" for we are members of one another.

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

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

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

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

31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

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

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

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

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*.

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

*A thankful heart heals you, certainly your soul.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

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

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

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33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

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

6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

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8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

*What was said to slaves and slave owners, should be taken to heart by employees and bosses.

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

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

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

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

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16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --

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from the New Testament*

Philippians

1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

21 For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

*That the Lord may fill whole your life and being. To die is profit, as you will be with the Lord.

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

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28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

*Verse 6 and further are the explanation of verse 5 and the verses 2-4 lead up to 5.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

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13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,
15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

*Indirect counsel. You have to do the exact opposite.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;
30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

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*Have respect for fellow believers in the work of the Lord.

3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

*Rejoice in the Lord. That makes you safe and secure. Many Christians read many books and gather much information—also about the Bible, but studying the Bible itself and in an independent way, like the Bereans were doing, most do not attain to that.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

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11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

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

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

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19 whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame -- who set their mind on earthly things.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

*Be steadfast and persistent and consequent in the Lord.

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

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

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

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7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

*When you pray, do not forget to give thanks.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things.

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

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Colossians

1:9b that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

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2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

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

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

*There are many kinds of unchristian thinking that can deceive us when we are carried away.

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16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,
17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

*Things one has not seen, like the higher life of angels and then even base teaching on it. Dangerous fantasy.

3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

*Seek the things that are above. A direct commandment.

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from the New Testament*

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

*Direct commandment: mortify the efficacy of all kinds of sins by not giving into them and by furthering virtues. Covetousness here is greed.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

*Direct commandment.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,
10 and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

*Direct commandment.

12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.

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14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

*These should be the clothes of your new ego; you have to be dressed in them. When you clothe yourself in them, you will be a happy person. The secret of Paul's happiness. Whatever you may have against anybody, even when justified, forgive them. And elsewhere it says that we have to love one another. The highest commandment.

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

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

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

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

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

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

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

*22 Employers—employees

*23 Work with your heart; be glad in what you do; do it from your heart.

25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

*18-25 These are all direct commandments for a Christian.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

*For the employers.

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

3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

*Persevere in prayer and thanksgiving.

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

6 *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

*Salt here as the preserving quality of the Holy Spirit.

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1 Thessalonians

1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

*We should thank the people in our lives and thank God for them. But often we stare at each other's shortcomings. Therefore, particularly do not forget to thank for fellow believers.

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

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9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

*6 We are co-followers of Christ with the apostle Paul. Despite persecution it is possible to experience a measure of joy in the Holy Spirit.

*7 That we are examples for others.

*8 The fame of their faith known everywhere.

2:1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.

2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

*We can receive boldness through the Holy Spirit to witness about Christ Jesus. He accomplishes that by using the Bible in our hearts.

8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

*Sacrifice all for your fellow believers (if you are single) or for your wife and children; if necessary. But actually

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the correct translation is not 'lives', but 'souls'. This means that the apostle and his companions, bared all their emotions. Of course this does not mean that one must walk with one's heart on one's tongue.

10 You *are* witnesses, and God *a/so*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

*Somebody in the Work of the Lord should be practically blameless; a little folly can destroy everything.

11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children,

12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans,

*Imitate each other in what is good.

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3:3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

*Being strengthened and persevering in persecution.

4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

*Approach your own wife in a worthy manner.

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

8 Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

*6 Do not sleep with the wife of your brother.

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from the New Testament*

*8 You sin against God when you commit adultery.
And He will revenge it!

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that
I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by
God to love one another;

*Love one another.

11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your
own business, and to work with your own hands, as we
commanded you,

12 that you may walk properly toward those who are
outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

*We must occupy ourselves with our own things and
not be busybodies and in this way build up a good
reputation. For the world notices and understands
more than you realize.

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you
sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in
Jesus.

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from the New Testament*

*Our hope is the coming again of the Lord Jesus. That is the hope of the Church, His Bride.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5:1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

*Verse 3 is the explanation.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

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*Be vigilant and sober (but that does not mean we should be teetotalers).

9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

*Conversion is but a turning around that must be worked out.

10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

*A personal relation with the Lord Jesus. Do not allow anybody in between. For they would only hinder your growth and happiness (e.g. the pope, priests, a pastor, Mary and the so-called saints and not even your partner and children).

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

*Encouraging one another and building up each other.

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

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13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

*Those that fulfill a public function, should be recognized.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

*Those that are out of order should be corrected and those that are weak must be supported and not given a beating to boot.

15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

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

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

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from the New Testament*

*The Holy Spirit is a Person; God does have His limits. One can grieve the Holy Spirit so often that His efficacy in an area of your life is practically totally snuffed out.

20 Do not despise prophecies.

21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

*That you may be completely sanctified.

26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

*This depends on culture.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

2 Thessalonians

1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

5 *which is* manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,

12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

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

3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

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

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from the New Testament*

13 But as *for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.

14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.

15 Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

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from the New Testament*

1 Timothy

1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,

6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,

7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

15 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.

16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a

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pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

*Paul was the chief among sinners. So if he can be saved, anybody can.

18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

*It is important to have a good conscience and to keep it; because else you can deviate from the faith. For if you consciously reject the pangs of your conscience, that cannot be without consequences.

2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men,

2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

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4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

*Nobody in Christendom seems to make all four prayers, and yet they are among the most important mandates of the Lord:

Beseechings or wish prayers;
Prayers for needs;
Intercessory prayers;
Thanksgivings.

*4 The purpose is that people obtain the knowledge of the truth and that those that pray for them may live in peace and quiet of soul.

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

*Pray without anger and reasoning.

9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,

10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

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*As far as Christian women is concerned, the important thing is that the internal person is what should be their decorum. Some interpret that as that they should not wear jewelry at all. But that is an exaggeration. In that case a wedding ring and even a knot in the hair is forbidden, for those are outward decorations and a knot is an intertwining. While their husbands tend to wear expensive watches, buy haughty houses, cars and costumes.

11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.

12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.

*Reason of the counsel in the following two verses (13 and 14)

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

3:1 This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.

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2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

4 one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence

5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

*Commandment when somebody desires to be an elder.

8 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,

9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.

10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless.

*Commandment for deacons.

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11 Likewise *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.

*Commandment for the wives of elders and deacons.

12 Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well.

13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*Commandment for deacons.

4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

3 forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

*The Roman Catholic church forbids priests to marry. This is called here a teaching of demons (celibacy) and the result is homosexual practices and even pedophilia and all kinds of other problems such as sex with parishioners' wives, prostitutes, depressions and alcoholism. This has been going on now for more than 1500 years!

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Only very few Christians are given the gift of abstinence.

4 For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

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

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

5:1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers,

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2 older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity.

3 Honor widows who are really widows.

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

5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, *and not unless* she has been the wife of one man,

10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

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11 But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,

12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

13 And besides they learn *to be* idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

14 Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

17 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer *is* worthy of his wages."

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

20 Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

21 I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

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22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

6:1 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and *His* doctrine may not be blasphemed.

2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things.

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

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9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

14 that you keep *this* commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

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from the New Testament*

18 *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works,
ready to give, willing to share,
19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the
time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

20 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust,
avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and
contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge --
21 by professing it some have strayed concerning the
faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

2 Timothy

1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

*One can pray to receive a spiritual gift.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

9 who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

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

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14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

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

4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

*Sometimes it is necessary to have the mentality of a soldier..

5 And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

*We must play by God's rules, just like the Lord Jesus did.

6 The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.

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*A farmer works with crops. Therefore, we must be flexible. According to the circumstances we may have to be like a soldier, then like an athlete and then like a crop grower.

8 Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,

*Let us never forget that Christ Jesus conquered very death itself.

11 *This is* a faithful saying: For if we died with *Him*, We shall also live with *Him*.

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*. If we deny *Him*, He also will deny us.

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

14 Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

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

*We can also have to be like a craftsman or a worker.

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from the New Testament*

16 But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,

18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

*Conspiracy theories and all kinds of nonsense, must be left alone. But godless lies that grow like a cancer, you have to cleanse yourself from thoroughly.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

*We must make ourselves clean vessels that are fit for honorable purposes.

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

*Watching porn, masturbation and petting before marriage, are sins of the youth. When we are a little older, certainly middle aged, then we must FLEE such behavior. And together with friends and fellow

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believers we must seek to serve the Lord, each other and people in general and that from a pure heart.

23 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

26 and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

*A servant of Christ should be mild and capable of teaching, edification and correction.

3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

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5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

.

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

15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*Counsel.

4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

*We must be prepared for this, but wisely so. Solomon warns us that mockers will hate us and therefore they are best left alone. But wise people will listen.

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from the New Testament*

5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

*Sober in all things and not carried away.

15 You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

*A servant of God must be careful when powerful and influential people oppose him.

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

*We should socialize and keep up relations.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Titus

1:5b and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you --

6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.

7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,

8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled,

9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

* The task of overseers and elders is described here.

14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

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*Do not delve in Jewish fables, nor in laws and commandments of dubious teachers like Buddhists and what have you.

2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things --

4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

7 in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

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from the New Testament*

8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

9 *Exhort* bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all *things*, not answering back,

10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

*Bosses and employees.

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

*Indirect counsel.

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from the New Testament*

3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,

2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

8b that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

14 And let our *people* also learn to maintain good works, to *meet* urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

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from the New Testament*

Philemon

6 hat the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

* The goal is that there may be an effect on others.

14b that your good deed might not be by compulsion, as it were, but voluntary.

* That we do things voluntarily, not being coerced or forced.

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from the New Testament*

Hebrews

1:11 They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;

12 Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

* That we may consider that everything hastens to its end, as the psalm says that we may count our years and become wise.

2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

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*Paying good attention to the Bible; how can you escape if you reject such a great offer of salvation.

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

*Jesus, the perfect man, also had to learn things such as obedience through suffering. He is our great example.

15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

*People sin also because of the fear of death. This in the first place holds for the unconverted, secondly it holds for your own sins. Jesus wants to free us from fear.

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

* The Lord Jesus Himself was tempted and therefore can come to our rescue.

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from the New Testament*

3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house.

*Let us follow Jesus' faithfulness as an example.

6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

*To hold fast till the end, does not mean that our salvation depends on that, but like Sampson we can lose the path in a terrible way.

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

*This is what happened with David in the case of Bathsheba. He hardened his heart and even committed high treason and murder.

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13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,
15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 or who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses?

*We must not grieve God against us through a so-called wisdom of our own.

4:1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

*Let us fear the Lord, lest we fail.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

*They did not have enough faith. When you hear the Word of God, you have to work with it.

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from the New Testament*

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."

*If you want to hear his voice, you must not harden your heart.

10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

*There comes a time that you can rest from your Christian works and there will be a time of perfection for us.

12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*A direct counsel to read the Bible. It teaches you the best depth psychology. For it discerns your thoughts and the motivation of your heart.

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from the New Testament*

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

*That we hold fast to our confession like the Lord Jesus did.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

*We have to follow His example. Therefore suffering will not be spared us either.

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first

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principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

*As a believer you can regress from the higher things to the more basic things. In that case you cannot understand the deeper truths, because you have not grown.

6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
3 And this we will do if God permits.

*We must continue to complete stature and not stand still. One cannot follow Jesus if one stands still.

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4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,

5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.

7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;

8 but if it bears thorns and briars, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned.

*This does not apply to individual believers, but to groups or churches that lose their true witness. You do not have to fear that you can lose your salvation. Compare John 15, the true Vine. Those groups or churches that do not bear fruit will be taken away. Think also of the candlestick of Ephesus, that would be removed, if they would not return to their first love.

11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end,

12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

* Let us persevere to the end.

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18 that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil,

*Because God has sworn, we can have great confidence. That is the anchor of our ship.

7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

*The Lord Jesus prays for us faithfully.

9:14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

*That we may be servants of God with a pure conscience and consciousness.

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from the New Testament*

22b and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

*That we have been saved through the precious blood of Christ.

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

*We can approach the Lord Jesus, because the Work has been fulfilled.

10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come -- In the volume of the book it is written of Me -- To do Your will, O God.' "

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*The difference between Christianity and all other religions is that in other religions one has to save oneself with good deeds and offerings; but in Christianity Christ saves you with His precious blood.

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,
21 and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, 2 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.

24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

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26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

*This does not mean that when you once have been saved, you still can go lost; but it points to the Christian witness of a (few) generation(s) as in Ephesus. There the candlestick was taken away, John 15: the branch is removed (cf. Hebrews 6).

34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

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36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

*Whatever happens, it is possible to rejoice in God.

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

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

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

*That you do not meddle too much in worldly affairs; that we are strangers and pilgrims in a world that has crucified Christ.

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from the New Testament*

16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

*Now they seek something better. We should follow their example, the search for the New Jerusalem.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,
25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

*That you do not choose temporary pleasure, but persecution that brings eternal bliss.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented --
38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth*.

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*That you may lose you life, when you choose to follow Christ.

12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

*That you do not grow too tired and give up and even lose your crown.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

*Not having fought sin to the blood (torture of the martyrs).

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from the New Testament*

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

*Do not despise the discipline of the Lord.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be *dislocated*, but rather be healed.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

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

15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

16 lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven,

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels.

3 Remember the prisoners as if chained with them -- those who are mistreated -- since you yourselves are in the body also.

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4 Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5 *Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

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

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

*That a dedicated Christian should leave worldly systems and not even participate in great Christian main streams. Moses put the tent of witness outside of the camp, after the people had spoiled and lost their faith in God and so he called the faithful out to gather there unto the Lord.

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from the New Testament*

15 herefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

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

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James

1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

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

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

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10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

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

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

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

20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

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27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

2:1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality.

*Commandment.

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

9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.

13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

*Mercy goes higher and deeper than judgment.

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

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26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

8 But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

*What warning!!

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

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

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6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

*Counsel to be humble.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";

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14 whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

15 Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

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

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

11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord -- that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

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from the New Testament*

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

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

16 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,
20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

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from the New Testament*

1 Peter

1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

*Despite trials, try to give thanks to the Lord and be grateful for what He does give you.

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

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14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance;
15 but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct,
16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear;

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

*Love one another seriously and from a pure heart.

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

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4 Coming to Him as *to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious,
5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

*Commandment

12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

*Commandment

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme,

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14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good.

15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men --

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

18 Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

*Employees—employers

21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

*We are ordered by the Lord to be patient in suffering.

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3:1 Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,

2 when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear.

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

4 rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

*Commandment

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

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8 Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous;

9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.

10 For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit.

11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous, And His ears *are open* to their prayers; But the face of the LORD *is* against those who do evil."

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

17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

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4:1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

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

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

9 *Be* hospitable to one another without grumbling.

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

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

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

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

5:1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

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6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

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2 Peter

1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,
6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,
7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you will be* neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

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

11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

*Pay attention to prophecy and let it shine on you like a lamp.

2:19b for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

*You are slave of what has conquered you.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

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*Persevere in the faith and do not deviate to the right or to the left.

3:2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,

3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation."

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

*Every day is as a thousand years, because so much happens in a day.

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

15 and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation -- as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

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

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

1 John

1:3b that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

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

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

*He has not died for the sins of the entire world; that is universalism. World must be universe or cosmos in this case. Because he has also died for the cosmos, once there will be another new one.

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

*That we keep His commandments and when we do that, we know that we have come to know Him.

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

*Commandment

9 He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now.

10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.

*Commandment

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

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

*Remain in His sphere of influence, love, etc.

3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

*Sanctify yourself spiritually.

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

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

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

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

*Help your brother, when he is in need.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

*When your heart does not condemn you, you know you pray according to His will.

23 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.

24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

*That you do not believe all spirits.

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

*Commandment

5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

*Commandment

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

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

*E.g. sin sexually so you get aids, or binge drink that you get cirrhosis of the liver.

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

*E.g.: addiction to your car. In fact you can turn anything into an idol, even ideas.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

2 John

1:5c that we love one another.

6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

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

11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

*Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Moslems and other beliefs and sects should not be admitted into your home, when they come in this capacity and you should not even greet them then. When they are your colleagues, for instance, and do not visit you to preach their faith, then it is OK to associate with them. Also, when such people are in need, you can help them as a fellow man. So, if somebody comes to convert you to an antichristian faith, then close the door without greeting them, but of course when you are a nurse, or whatever, you should help them.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

3 John

1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Jude

1:3b to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

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

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

*Some Christians must be saved, for instance out of sects, or cults.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

Revelation

1:3 Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

17c "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18a "I *am* He who lives

2:4 "Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

5 "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place -- unless you repent.

*That you have left the first love of your conversion. Remember therefore from which you have fallen away, repent and renew your relation with the Lord Jesus.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

7 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

10a "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.

11 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '

16 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

*When a Christian has no compunction deviating from the good path.

17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*." '

25 "But hold fast what you have till I come.

*Is true for all bornagain people.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

26 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations --

27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' -- as I also have received from My Father;

28 "and I will give him the morning star.

29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

3:2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

3 "Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

6 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

13 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." '

18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

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

20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

*Among lukewarm Christians the Lord only converses with a few faithful ones.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." ' ' "

4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

*Worship is the highest good until all eternity.

13:9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

*Pay attention when you can and are willing.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.

16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

18:20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

*Babylon is the lying system of the devil that is meant to sow confusion and to fool souls and that since Nimrod. But eventually we see the definite judgment carried out by the greatest hater of God, the beast (see previous chapter).

19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

10b who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

*Commandment

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

*Commandment and counsel.

8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

9 Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

*If it then is sinful to kneel down for such a high ranking angel, then it is also sinful to bow for Mary or a so-called saint.

12 " And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

14 Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

*Counsel

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

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

*Counsel

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

*Counsel

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

*Counsel

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

*Desire of all those that love the Lord Jesus.

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

–the end--

*Counsels and Commandments of the Lord Jesus
from the New Testament*

