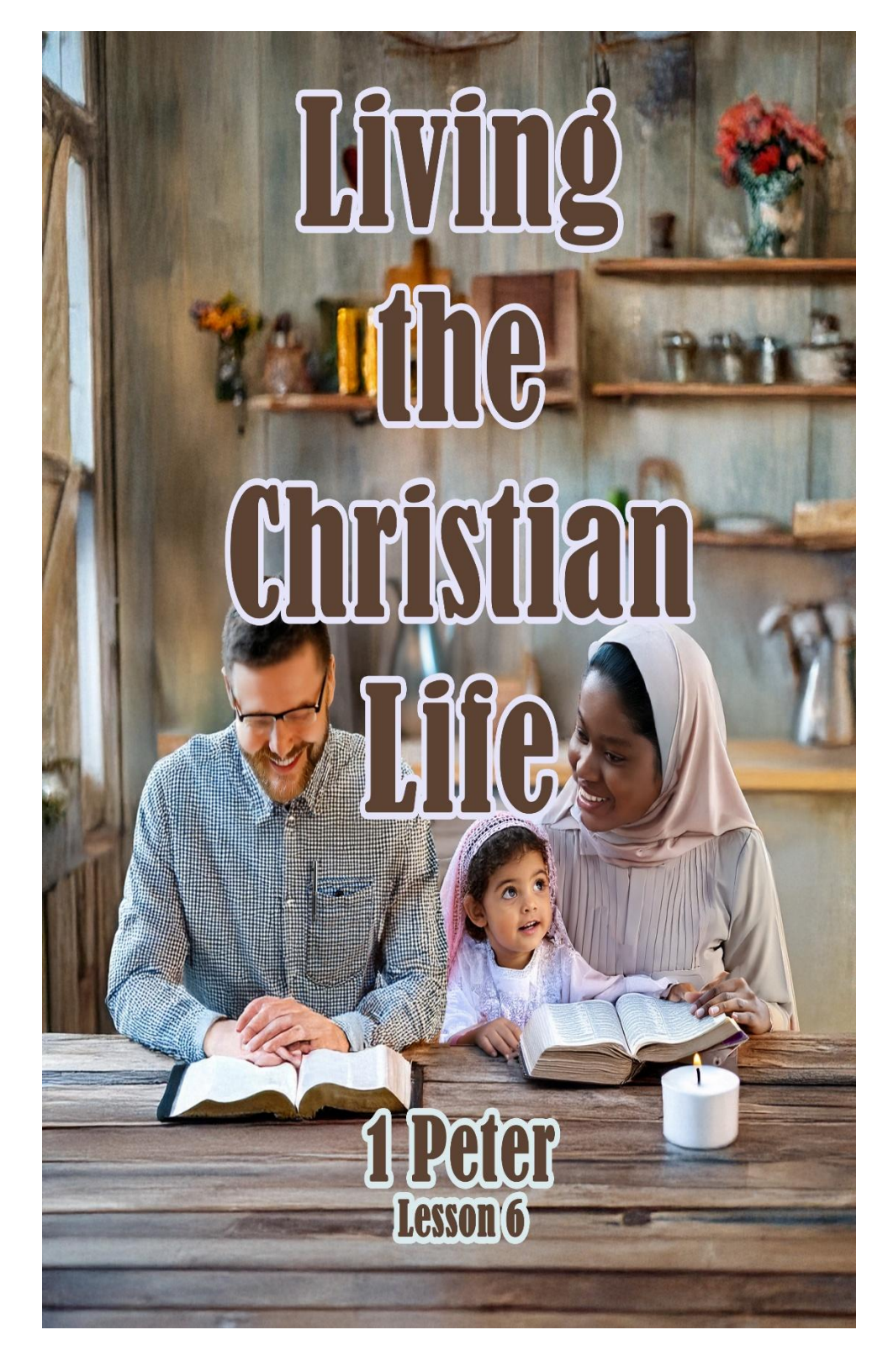


A photograph of a family of three—a man, a woman, and a young girl—sitting at a wooden table in a rustic kitchen. The man, wearing glasses and a checkered shirt, is smiling and looking at an open Bible on the table. The woman, wearing a pink hijab and a light-colored dress, is also smiling and looking at the Bible. The young girl, wearing a pink headscarf and a light-colored dress, is looking up at the woman. There are two open Bibles on the table. A small white candle with a yellow flame is lit on the table. The background shows a rustic kitchen with wooden shelves holding various items like a vase of red flowers, a teapot, and some jars. The text "Living the Christian Life" is overlaid on the image in a large, brown, serif font with a white outline.

Living the Christian Life

1 Peter
Lesson 6

Living the Christian Life

Lesson 6 – I Peter 1:18-25



Read I Peter 1:18-25 before you continue reading. As you read, pay close attention to the sincere love of God and His people that radiates from Peter's writings!

REVIEW: I Peter 1:18-25 – Peter wrote to the “strangers” which were the Jews and the Gentile believers that were “not of this world”, who were sanctified through the Spirit by their faith. They were “resurrected” to “new life” in Christ to a “living faith”, being “kept” by their faithfulness to God! They would be persecuted for their faith, but the trial of their faith was priceless “being more precious than gold”! Peter commanded them to strengthen their mind by being serious-minded and living in faith. Just as children, they are to have childlike faith conforming to the holiness of God as their example in everything in their lives. Since God is no respecter of persons, they must live their short lives on this earth in the fear of God.

Verse 18-19 *“Forasmuch as ye know [you see; understand] that ye were not redeemed [reclaimed; delivered from sin] with corruptible things [things that perish], as silver and gold [worthless eternally], from your vain [empty; profitless] conversation [behaviour; lifestyle] received by tradition from your fathers [something passed down to you; how you were raised to think – which is full of errors]; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot [which is perfect].”*

We know through Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit within us that we were not delivered from sin through the giving of money or any of this world's worthless “things”! You may have been raised to think that money is the blessing of God, but that thinking is empty and worthless. This thinking was “passed down” or received by tradition from your fathers, but salvation has nothing to do with any “things” of this world!

Nothing of this world redeemed you from the worthless life that you lived apart from God's grace through Christ! You can only be redeemed back to God by the precious blood of Christ that was shed at Calvary for your sins. Any person who denies themselves, takes up their cross, and follows Jesus in His steps after repenting of his sins will be redeemed and bought back by the precious blood of Christ.

Your redemption did not come from anything in this world that perishes. You do not have to be rich; nor does it take being famous, popular, or of a noble birth. Salvation is contrary to the thinking of this world, because God knows that those who are rich have a hard time denying themselves, taking up their cross, and following Jesus. They trust in their riches, which replaces their faith in God as Jesus told us in Mark 10:24,

*“And the disciples were astonished at His words.
But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children,
HOW HARD IS IT FOR THEM THAT **TRUST** IN RICHES
TO ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”*

The rich depend upon their money and comforts, instead of depending upon the Lord. This hinders them from humbling themselves before God. They feel that their riches are a blessing from God. They think that He has justified their wickedness by prospering them in this life! They refuse to seek His will or to depend upon Him, for they feel that they do not need God. They will not separate themselves from the things of the world that rule their hearts.

*“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare,
and into many foolish and hurtful lusts,
which **drown men** in destruction and perdition.
For the love of money is the root of all evil...”*

I Timothy 6:9-10

Money is not the sin; but man loves the power, independence, and pride that money causes in their heart. They “trust” in their money, so they do not need God. How many times has someone been faithful in serving God with very little, only to be “blessed” with a “little more” money and then turn away from God? God desires for you to depend upon Him for everything. Matthew 6:25 tells you what God says about complete dependence upon Him,

*“Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life,** what ye shall eat,
or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.
Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”*

In verse 33, Jesus finishes by telling us how to have the things that are God’s will,

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

Having “things” that enter your heart hinders you from having a relationship with the Lord. You take your eyes off the eternal, thinking that the “prosperity” that you have received is a “sign” that God is “blessing” you with things! Things are not a blessing from God! God’s blessings are eternal as we understand what God wants us to ask for in Luke 11:13,

*“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children:
how much more shall your Heavenly Father give THE HOLY SPIRIT
to them that ask Him?”*

The “prosperity” preachers don’t preach this truth! God wants to give us His Holy Spirit richly! None of the Apostles or Prophets were rich men in this world, yet they had true riches “stored up” in Heaven! Why would God want to “bless” you with the very things that will take you away from walking with Him? If God would bless His children with things, He expects those “things” or finances to be used to further the Kingdom of God! I Timothy 6:17-19 teaches this,

*“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded,
nor **TRUST IN UNCERTAIN RICHES**, but in the LIVING GOD,
Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they **do good**,
that they be **RICH IN GOOD WORKS, READY TO DISTRIBUTE** [pass out],
WILLING TO COMMUNICATE [share with others];
Laying up in store a good foundation against the time to come,
that they may LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE.”*

This is very contrary to the thinking of those who think that a comfortable wealthy life in this world is a sign of God’s blessings! You can now understand how shocked the disciples were when they heard the truth from Jesus about riches hindering the rich from eternal life in Luke 6:24,

*“But WOE UNTO YOU THAT ARE RICH!
For ye have [already] received your consolation [comfort].”*

These are the warning words of our Saviour, Who definitely knows the hearts of men. Jesus also warned very sternly of this in Luke 12:15,

*“And He said unto them, Take heed [watch your heart],
and BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS [craving things of the world]:
for a man’s life consisteth NOT in the ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS
which he possesseth.”*

This righteous thinking of Jesus goes against all that this world has taught us! The poor are covetous of the financially comfortable, the rich are covetous and never content with what they have, the poorer nations wish they lived in the wealthy nations, and multitudes who claim to be “Christians” teach that the “things of this world” are the blessings of God! What a mess!

Be content with what God has given to you... but if you desire to covet... covet the best gifts of God that help others to know Him.

*“But covet earnestly the best gifts:
and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”*

1 Corinthians 12:31

Those walking with God must “covet” or desire to please their Saviour, Who has commanded His children to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation! Money will not deliver you from your sins, nor will it help you to walk with God. The truth be told; money is the root of all evil, for your heart may trust in it causing you to take your eyes off of the Lord. I Corinthians 14:39 teaches you that preaching the gospel should be coveted... even to those of other “tongues” or languages.

“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”

If you have money... the furtherance of the Kingdom of God is what you use it for. If you don’t have money... do not covet money... use your hands, your mouth, your feet, and your heart to teach and train others for the Kingdom of God! This is priceless... money cannot buy this kind of love! Let the world “enjoy” their temporal things, while you focus on teaching others the love of God!

Verse 20-21 ***“Who verily was foreordained [determined beforehand] before the foundation of the world, but was manifest [revealed] in these last times for you, Who by Him {Jesus} do believe in God, that raised Him {Jesus} up from the dead, and gave Him {Jesus} glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”***

God knew before He had even created the world that Adam would rebel against Him causing man to need a Saviour. God had already planned to send His Son to die for the sins of the world before He even created the world! Those before the death of Christ were delivered from their sins by their faith in His coming. Those of us after His death look back to His death by faith for the redemption of our souls! Hebrews 9:26 explains,

*“For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world:
but now ONCE IN THE END OF THE WORLD
hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*

Though Jesus only died ONCE, His death which was a mystery in the Old Testament was the complete sacrifice for all of mankind. Faith is an enduring or lifetime action... not a one-time thought! Therefore, since the beginning of time all men are saved by their faith which is shown by their faithful actions. Ephesians 3:3&5 explains this in great detail.

*“How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery...
Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men,
as it is now revealed unto **His holy Apostles** and prophets by the Spirit.”*

It was foreordained by God, prophesied by the Old Testament prophets, and then explained to you in the Word of God by the Apostles. All the Apostles learned God’s plan for the grace given to the Gentiles from Jesus. They were personally trained for the work that God had for them in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, within the gospels, you have the complete “way of salvation” or gospel to be preached *“into all the world.”* [Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; Romans 10:18]

Christ's life and death was for the benefit and salvation of every person ever born, that they by faith will submit themselves to God. God the Father raised up Christ from the dead and glorified Him, so that you might know the glory and the mighty power of God and follow His steps. The key to this passage is that God has done all of this for "you". It benefits you **only if you serve, honor, and obey our Saviour!!**

*"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:
OF HOW MUCH SORER PUNISHMENT, suppose ye,
shall he be thought worthy, who hath
TRODDEN UNDER FOOT THE SON OF GOD,
and hath COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT,
wherewith he WAS SANCTIFIED, an unholy thing,
and hath done DESPITE UNTO THE SPIRIT OF GRACE?"*
Hebrews 10:28-29

In the Old Testament, the Jews were instantly punished for disobedience to God's law with little mercy. Today, God's punishment is MORE SEVERE, for man who continues in sin "tramples upon the sacrifice of Jesus" and "has no value in His blood of the New Covenant"! He is eternally lost and damned by his rebellion against God. Though he may live on this earth appearing to be "unpunished", he is without the presence of the Holy Spirit and cannot walk with God!

God has redeemed, sanctified, justified, and set you apart for the glory of God, if only you will deny yourself. Your faith in God is strengthened as you see the mighty power and ability of God! Your "hope" or faith is strengthened when you are persuaded to continue rejoicing in what God has laid up in store for you. By faith you know that He will act upon His promises. Philippians 1:6 also teaches us about this confidence,

*"Being **confident** of this very thing,
that He which hath begun a good work in you
will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

God is glorified and you benefit eternally, if you continue in the faith rooted and grounded in the Truth! Praise the LORD!

Verse 22-23 *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned [sincere; not fake] love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart [sincere motives] fervently [faithfully]: Being born again [a NEW MAN], not of corruptible seed [based upon your flesh], but of incorruptible [the children of God], by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

Now that you know that you must trust the Lord, it changes your entire life. You have not only trusted Him for salvation, but your actions and lifestyle is now patterned after His thinking. You begin to “purge” or purify your daily actions in obedience to the truth. Your obedience to God’s commands changes you from the inside out as II Timothy 2:21 teaches,

*“If a man therefore purge [cleanse his mind] himself from these,
he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified [separated],
and meet [prepared] for the Master’s use,
and prepared [ready to serve God] unto every good work.”*

Unfortunately, most desire to change by reforming [no change of heart] the outside appearance, instead of having true repentance that makes them “pure in heart”! We are to love righteousness and hate sin and its bondage. This begins within the heart and then automatically, by God’s grace, is evident in your actions and attitude. In this way, you again completely change as your outlook on life is completely different. Listen to what God says of Job in Job 1:1,

*“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job;
and that man was **perfect and upright**, and one **that feared God**,
and eschewed [hated] evil.”*

Job hated sin; therefore, he LOVED righteousness. God said that he was striving to be perfect and upright, because he feared God. God was so “impressed” with Job’s obedience that He “bragged” about Job to Satan in verse 8,

*“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job,
that **there is none like him in the earth**, a perfect and an upright man,
one that feareth God, and escheweth [hates] evil?”*

A genuine love of righteousness causes you to not care only for yourself anymore. It causes you to no longer be self-willed, envious, jealous, unforgiving, or contentious. The love that you express for others by your actions toward them is not fake... but true. The world does not know or understand true love, for their love is “lust” or temporary fulfillment of a “need”! But true love is of God as I John 4:7-8 teaches us,

*“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God;
and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”*

True love genuinely comes from the heart and is not forced or pretended. It is eternal love that cares about the eternal well-being of the person, not just the feeling of satisfying a person’s need! This is the same teaching that Jesus taught His disciples about true love one for another in John 15:12,

“This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.”

If you do not truly love the Lord and His commandments, it is hard to practice. Your flesh gets in the way of your actions, since you do not have the love of the truth. You must yield yourself over to complete trust in the Lord. This is explained in II Thessalonians 2:10-11,

“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

*And for this cause [because they love not the truth]
God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.”*

You can trust the Lord to care for you, since you know that He is in control of everything, even the heart of man as Proverbs 21:1 teaches us,

*“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water:
He turneth it whithersoever He will.”*

He hardened Pharaoh's heart [Exodus 7:13], He turned Nabal's heart to stone [I Samuel 25:37], He allowed the prophets to speak lies (since that was what the people wanted) as I Kings 22:23 shows,

*“Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit
in the mouth of all these thy prophets,
and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.”*

These seducing or lying spirits are also alive today in most pulpits. They do not want to repent or turn from their sins; therefore, God allows them to be deceived. They preach compromise and conformity to the world, because they have not the love of the truth that they might be saved. They speak of peace, when there is no peace. They are religious pretenders that continue to wallow in sin, because of their love for the world and the things of the world.

God controls the hearts of men and changes their hearts that have already determined rebellion against Him in order to do His will as Romans 9:18 tells us,

*“Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy,
and whom He will He hardeneth.”*

He can read hearts and knows those who desire to do right and those who desire to do wickedness. He will give to man what he desires, but man must understand that he must also pay the consequences and punishment of doing as he pleases. You cannot force anyone to serve God or to repent. You must love the truth and love the other person enough to warn them of the coming wrath of God upon all who love not the truth!

Verse 24-25 *“For all flesh [people] is as grass [lives a short life], and all the glory of man as the flower of grass [a short time]. The grass withereth [dies], and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word [eternal Word] which by the gospel is preached unto you.”*

Your life is but a “vapor”, yet you think that you have your entire life ahead of you. Your life is so short in comparison to eternal life. Are you willing to sacrifice eternal life for 70 years on this temporal earth doing as you please? How quickly your life passes from you! Before you know it, you will be standing before God, Who will either be your Heavenly Father... or your Judge to condemn you. James 4:14 explains just how short your life is,

*“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life?
It is even **a vapour**, that appeareth for **a little time**, and then vanisheth away.”*

In your thinking, your life lasts a long time; but in light of eternity that you will share with Jesus, your life is short. It is compared to *a vapour* or to grass that lasts such a short time. Psalms 103:14-16 tells you how the Lord looks at the shortness of your life.

*“For He knoweth our frame; **He remembereth that we are dust.**
As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
For the wind passeth over it, and **it is gone**;
and the place thereof shall know it no more.”*

Your life is so short! The worthless things of this world are gone before you know it! Those “things” that you worried about last year or last month, you probably don’t even remember because they are so very temporal! Only the life lived for the LORD will be of any value as you stand before God. There is a nice saying that really speaks to the heart:

“Only one life, and soon it will pass. Only what is done for Jesus will last.”

You have such a short time to serve God on earth. Only what is done for eternity is of any value. Seek first God’s Kingdom by keeping His commandments; for you are a sojourner, stranger, and a pilgrim! The things of this world are worthless to any person who is not of this world, as Jesus was not! Read John 8:23 and realize that we are to be as Christ (Philippians 2:5-8),

*“And He said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above:
ye are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders who were more interested in the temporary kingdom of Israel and their own comforts than they were about walking with God. Jesus said, “...*ye are of this world*...” because they were only concerned for the things of the world. They were blinded by the circumstances around them so much that they rejected their own salvation!

It is God’s eternal Word that promises you salvation and guarantees it. Isaiah 40:7-8 tells you that all that you see will fade away and wither, but God’s Word will live and abide forever.

*“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
because the Spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.
The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand for ever.”*

Mighty nations and powerful kings with terrorizing armies have ruled. People have feared and obeyed them more than the commandments of God, yet where are these rulers today? Kings have threatened Christians; mocked our stand for Christ; taken away our properties, lands, families, fortunes; killed the prophets of God; butchered the Apostles; tortured the saints, and yet look around! Where are they?!? They are awaiting judgment, just like every other person!

They are dead and the glory and majesty of their kingdoms have passed, yet the promises of God still endure. Those who have been faithful unto death will live eternally and rejoice with the Lord. One thing has endured from the foundation of the earth, and that is the Word of God. Jesus finished giving the law of God to God's children as He explained why He came in Matthew 5:17-18,

*"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets:
I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil [to finish; complete; fill up].
For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass,
one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,
till all be fulfilled [to cause to be generated; finished; complete; performed]."*

Those false teachers that teach that God's law does not apply to us today... reject the gospel of Jesus Christ which "finishes" the giving of the law from the mouth of God! They are messengers of satan that desire to promote sin in the lives of all men. When men practice sin they become the "servants" of the devil as Paul warns in Romans 6:16,

*"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey,
his servants ye are to whom ye obey;
whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"*

Rejection of the law of God is rejection of Jesus Christ, Who gave the law and also finished giving the law in the gospel! The gospel is the everlasting message from God to man, that man might learn to walk with God forever! Within the gospel, the promises of God are fulfilled from the beginning of time. God has been preaching the same message of repentance or turning from sin, since the Garden of Eden! When Adam rejected eternal life by listening to the serpent, he did the same as man does today when he rejects God's holy commandments!

*"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest,
any of you should seem to come short of it.*

*For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: ...
not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."*

Hebrews 4:1-2

This teaches us that the "gospel" was preached to those in the Old Testament, but they did not believe God's promise of redemption. The preaching that they heard did not create faith or faithfulness to God within them. They were not able to enter into God's rest, just as those today who reject the law of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. It has always been faith that delivers man from sin. What do you have your faith in?

When God says there will be judgment, it will happen. When He promises that He will never leave you nor forsake you, He will keep His promise. Stop rejecting God by listening to false teachers who justify your sin! When He promises a home in Heaven with Him, you can be sure that He will do it, if you are faithful to the end as He commanded you! Will you endure unto the end showing your faith in the gospel?

Nothing but sin in your life can separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. Though your outer shell of a body may die, you are promised eternal life through your faith. Nothing and no one can take that away from you, if you are faithful to God. Read and believe Romans 8:35-39,

*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written, For Thy sake we are killed all the day long;
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

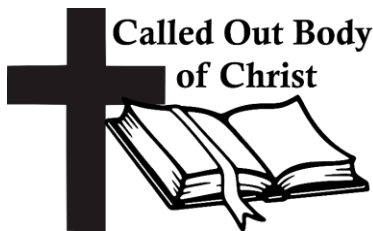
*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God,** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Again, notice he did not say “your sin”. For your sins against God separate you from His love! The wicked can take everything away, yet we will be the victors by surrendering to His Holy Spirit. Please yield to the Lord and obey His everlasting gospel as Revelation 14:6-7 reminds you!

*“And I saw another angel [messenger] fly in the midst of heaven,
HAVING **THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH**
unto them that dwell on the earth, and to **EVERY NATION**, and **KINDRED**,
and **TONGUE** [language], and **PEOPLE**, Saying with a loud voice,
FEAR GOD, AND GIVE GLORY TO HIM;
for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven,
and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”*

Since we know that this angel will preach this message to the entire world, shouldn't we be preaching this same message today? Isn't this the message of the eternal gospel spoken from the mouth of Jesus Christ in His gospel?

We have not been bought back to God through the things of this world, but through the precious perfect blood of Jesus. Jesus submitted Himself to the suffering of the cross, that we might also take up our cross daily to follow Him in His steps. Let us, brethren, purify ourselves so that God can find us worthy of eternal life through the promises given to us in the everlasting gospel. Our lives are so short... let's give them ALL to God for His glory!



**Called Out Body
of Christ**

1 (219) 883-5475

truth@calledoutbodyofchrist.com

www.calledoutbodyofchrist.com