



THE EXCHANGE

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The “Exchange”

Would you exchange something worthless for something priceless? Who wouldn't?

How about giving up your life that ends in death for eternal life that never ends? What would you pay for the privilege of living forever? From the beginning of time, man has tried to devise a way to live forever. Jesus wants to give you eternal life in exchange for your worthless life. Will you exchange this world and the death-causing sin that robs you of eternal life for everlasting life? Jesus came to give you the chance to make this “exchange”.

In order for you to see the need to “exchange” your life for eternal life, you must know the “end” of your life. You must understand the shortness of your life and the worthlessness of living for the things of this earth that do not bring love, joy, and peace to any person's heart! Though this world promises you satisfaction and contentment, you begin to realize that nothing in this world truly satisfies you. You were created to walk with God; yet the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things have hindered your walk with God.

Jesus wants you to think differently about the meaningless pleasures that keep you from the purpose for which He created you. Though these “things” promise you “life” and happiness, the end thereof are the ways of death as Proverbs 16:25 tells us,

*“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

Death comes as a result of your sins, which are the things that you do that are against the commandments of God. As you look around, you justify the wrong that you do; because you say that everyone else is doing it. Yes, the greatest majority of the world has rejected God, including those who claim to be “Christians”! Sin keeps every man from walking with God, no matter what they say with their mouths. Man shows his love for God by obeying His commandments as I John 2:4 warns us,

*“He that saith, **I know Him**, and keepeth not His commandments,
is a liar, and the truth is NOT in him.”*

Sin is the breaking of God's law that He outlined for all men to know what is right and what is wrong. We see the definition of sin in I John 3:4,

*“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth [breaks; disobeys] also the law:
for sin is the transgression [breaking; disobedience] of the law.”*

You know the basics of what is right and wrong, because God has given you a conscience that tells you that stealing, lying, and murder is a sin and is wrong. You realize that those who practice these sins receive the consequences of their actions, which is death as James 1:14-15 teaches,

*“But **every man** is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust,
and enticed [tempted].
Then when lust hath conceived [been imagined],
it bringeth forth [causes you to practice] sin:
and sin, when it is finished [committed], bringeth forth death.”*

This explanation of how every man sins or does wrong applies to all men, for all are tempted to sin. You must realize that sin keeps you from walking with God. If you desire to inherit eternal life, you must walk with God and keep His commandments. Walking with God is the very purpose for your existence. Every man is given this choice by God, and only those who choose to love the LORD with all their heart, soul, and mind will inherit eternal life as Jesus taught us in Matthew 22:37,

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind.”

You are now faced with a choice, which is given to all men by God. It is the purpose for which the entire world was created. You must choose whether you love your sinful life or eternal life with God. Jesus has outlined how to make that choice in Matthew 4:17,

*“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
Repent: for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”*

Repent means *“to think differently or afterwards with a feeling of remorse, regret, and sorrow”* or *“to reconsider your actions in shame.”* It is a change of thinking that will lead to a change of life by allowing the gospel to change your old worthless life into a new man that is renewed in obedience. Our lives that we live according to our own way must be “exchanged” for eternal life by obedience to the gospel, which obeys the law of God. Jesus must be our only “Master” as He taught us in Matthew 6:24,

*“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

Notice Jesus said “NO MAN” can serve their own sinful life and God. YE CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON [your own lusts]. Therefore, there must be a definite “exchange” of life that makes you a “new man”. The old man is the sinful way in which you lived before repentance. Having a change of thinking about your present worthless life opens your eyes to your present condition before God. It causes you to see the end of your life.

If you have truly repented, the new man is the “new life” in Christ that makes old things pass away, and all things become new. New friends, relationships, way of looking at everything, new purpose for living, new goals, new actions, new thoughts... everything in your life is completely new! This is expressed in Colossians 3:9-10,

*“Lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;
And have put on the new man,
which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him.”*

There is not a man that can receive eternal life while serving both God and this world! There must be an “exchange” from the old man to the new man as we give up our thinking that produces “death” to inherit eternal life forever with God! Jesus further explained this commitment in Mark 8:35,

*“For whosoever will save [hold on to] his life shall lose it [eternally];
but whosoever shall lose [give up] his life for
My sake and the gospel's, the same shall **save** [inherit eternal life] it.”*

Those seeking to inherit eternal life will only “find” eternal life when they give up or “exchange” their own lives for the new life of walking with God in obedience to His gospel. This life is a test given by God, and we must pass the test by denying ourselves of our own way, taking up our cross [putting to death the flesh], and following Jesus by living as He lived. Jesus taught this in John 12:25,

*“He that loveth his life [more than eternal life] shall lose it [lose eternal life];
and he that hateth his life in this world [exchanges his life]
shall keep it unto life eternal.”*

Jesus outlined the gospel clearly, so you can be delivered from the sin that brings death. He desires that you might walk with God while on this earth and inherit eternal life with Him forever. The path of the gospel leads us down only one of two roads, and Jesus explains perfectly what man must do to inherit eternal life. Every man must make this choice daily.

Jesus used a parable to illustrate that there are only two choices that man can make, which is either the **narrow way** or the **broad way**. The strait gate is the narrow way, which is a life of obedience [not a 5 second decision] to Jesus that leads to eternal life; and the wide gate is the broad way that leads to destruction. As we will learn, the broad way has an overcrowding of people choosing this path daily, for it appeals to the flesh. Those on the broad road use the excuse “everyone else is doing it”. Please be warned that they will receive the same end as “everyone else”.

*“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

Proverbs 16:25 & 14:12

The entire world is going the opposite way as we see the sinful lives and the consequences of sin every day. We see the death that man brings upon himself as he rejects his Creator to destroy himself with his sinful life in this world. Once we understand this, it is much easier for us to understand how Jesus outlines what we must do to “follow” Him in Luke 9:23,

*“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me.
For whosoever will save his life shall lose it:
but whosoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.”*

“THE SAME SHALL SAVE IT.” Anyone, no matter who they are, what nationality they are, how much money they have, or how “religious” they think they are, must repent of their sins by denying themselves of their own way, take up their cross daily by putting to death their own desires, lusts, and cravings, and follow Jesus in His steps. Jesus’ life is the example for us to follow that we might save our life and inherit eternal life. This denial and taking up of our cross is explained by Paul in Galatians 5:24,

“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

Just as Jesus was crucified on the physical cross as the sacrifice for our sins [the deeds we practice daily that are wrong], we must “crucify” or put to death our fleshly desires and repent [turn from our sins] by obeying the gospel. The gospel of Jesus through the “crucifixion” of the flesh “fulfils the law of God” by which all men are condemned! It is the daily practiced sins in our lives that keep us from God and from inheriting eternal life. By the grace of God, He has blessed us by first giving His law that teaches us the knowledge of sin, so that we know what is wrong. He also gave us the gospel that empowers us to go and sin no more through denial of the flesh.

Jesus explains this choice in a “parable” or an easy to understand short story in Matthew 7:13-27,

13. “Enter ye in at the strait [a narrow way with obstacles standing near] **gate** [to eternal life]...”

The strait gate is the only way that leads to eternal life, but strait means “*very narrow with obstacles*.” These obstacles are the “things of this world” that have deceived us into thinking that we cannot live without them, but they are really killing us spiritually. These obstacles will try to hinder you from continuing to obey the gospel. Everything in this world could become an obstacle to try to hinder you from making the decision to “*endure unto the end*” of the gospel path. The strait gate is explained in Revelation 22:14-15,

*“Blessed are they that do [obey] His commandments,
that they may have right to the Tree of Life,
and may enter in through the gates into the city* [the New Jerusalem].
*For without are dogs, and sorcerers [those who use drugs],
and whoremongers [sex outside of marriage], and murderers,
and idolaters [those who put anything before God],
and whosoever [anyone that] loveth and maketh a lie. ”*

The world and the false church think that Jesus’ commandments are too “narrow-minded”! They pretend to serve both God and this world! They boast of their sins that they commit in the name of “God’s grace”! This explains the broad way that the false church and the rest of the world is on.

*“...for wide [lots of room] is the gate, and broad [comfortable; easy] is the way,
that leadeth to destruction, and MANY there be which go in thereat. ”*

Wide makes much more room for the “many” [overcrowded] that live for the pleasures of their own life. The broad way is very wide, appearing easier with no obstacles, because “everyone else” is on this path. This is the path of acceptance from the world! This is the path that the churches full of lust and immorality are on. We see that **many** have chosen the life of rejecting the commandments of God, selfishness, religious lies, worldly lusts, self-centeredness, and the fulfilment of their own fleshly minds.

The word **“many”** here comes from the Greek root word *“polus”* from which we get our word **“populous”** meaning *“overcrowded; population.”* You can see the difference in size of the **“few”** that will “exchange” their lives for eternal life, and the MANY that will reject eternal life, because they love the world and all its sin. Read how many will follow the false teachers who peddle destructively wicked teachings in the last days in II Peter 2:2,

*“And **MANY** shall follow their [false teachers teaching damnable heresies] pernicious [harmful; destructive; wicked] ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”*

This overpopulated group follows each other down the broad way in defiance of righteousness shouting, *“Do your own thing!” “Live and let die!” “Have it your way!” “Live the dream!” “My way or the highway!” “Sin by the grace of God!” or “Freedom of religion!”* These people live for themselves while conforming to the fads, styles, and patterns of everyone around them.

Their lives must conform to the accepted thinking of all on the broad way that leads to destruction in order to be “accepted” by the world. They give in to “peer pressure” just “going with the flow” that will sweep them right into hell. These claim to be “free”, yet they are in bondage to their sins! This enslavement is their entire life as they are servants to their lusts as Jesus said in John 8:34,

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”

Men of this world are free to think as satan thinks whether religious, secular, or perverted. Those not “free” in the eyes of the world are those who obey the gospel and have turned from their sins. The broad way is the path of living for yourself and your own desires... but the end of that path leads to eternal destruction. After living a life of bondage and enslavement to their sin on this earth, they receive the wrath of God.

14. “Because strait [narrow with obstacles] is the gate, and narrow is the way [the lifestyle on this earth], which leadeth unto life [eternal life with God forever]...”

In comparison to the wide gate or way of the world that is very broad and “open for personal expression”, the strait gate is very narrow “minded” and seems very difficult in appearance. Turning from sin that causes death goes against what man wants in “their own” life. The narrow way of turning from sin leads to eternal life with no enslavement. It shows us how to live a life of temperance or self-control, honesty, purity, holiness, and in obedience to the gospel of Jesus that keeps all the commandments of God. Though it goes against your flesh, it will bring forth righteousness that gives you life; not only while walking with God on earth, but also eternally!

“...and few there be that find it.”

This is a true fact! It is very hard to believe that *“few”* will find eternal life since all the world is professing “Christianity”! You must read the words of Jesus for yourself! **“Few”** will enter in at the strait gate! Why will there be few? **Let’s read Jesus’ words as He answers someone asking this same question** in Luke 13:23-28,

*“Then said one unto **Him** {Jesus}, Lord, are there few that be saved?
And **He** {Jesus} said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate:
for **MANY**, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, AND SHALL NOT BE ABLE.
When once the Master of the house {Jesus} is risen up, and hath shut to the door,
and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying,
Lord, Lord, open unto us; and **He** shall answer and say unto you,*

***I know you not whence ye are:** Then shall ye begin to say,
We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets.
But He shall say, I tell you, **I know you not whence ye are; DEPART FROM ME,**
all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth...”*

Jesus shows us that “few” will be converted. He commands us individually, “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for MANY, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, **and shall not be able.**” What is our responsibility to God in this? Jesus commands us to strive, which comes from the Greek word that means to “agonize”! Jesus said, “to struggle, endeavor to accomplish, fight, labor fervently, strain, or wrestle.” These are all strong action words that give us a picture of the battle that we will have with our flesh, the world, and the devil. All of these are “obstacles” that block the way to the strait gate. They do all in their wicked power to keep us from entering that gate and remaining on the narrow road as we are commanded to “endure unto the end” to inherit eternal life!

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Matthew 24:13

The broad way is overcrowded with the “populous” of the world. They are living as they wish and fulfilling their lustful pleasures that reject the gospel of Jesus Christ. Though the greatest majority of them claim to be “Christians”, they are not “Christ-like”, for they do not obey the gospel [according to Scripture]. They reject the strait gate, and hate the Narrow Way! They desire to live their life after the lusts of their minds. The religious crowd promises eternal life with no “striving”, promising the “Simple Plan of Salvation” or the “Roman’s Road [to hell]”!

Paul gives the Ephesian Christians a reminder of how they used to live in Ephesians 2:2-3. This reminder will show us the life of those on the broad way.

*“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air;
the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
Among whom also we all **had** our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh,
fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;
and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”*

Notice how many times Paul reminds them “in time past”, “ye walked”, and “had” of which are all past tense. They were now on the Strait and Narrow Way of the gospel seeking to inherit eternal life. We see the comparison of how they “USED TO WALK” according to the way of the world and the devil. They followed the spirit of the world that “led” them on the broad way to destruction. They were fulfilling the desires of their flesh and mind, which brought upon them the wrath of God, just as the world does today!

It's amazing to know that every writer in the New Testament warns of false teachers coming to preach a "gospel" contrary to the gospel of Jesus! Jesus warns us of how they will come and what they actually will be.

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

Read the word of caution that Jesus gives to us in this verse! **"BEWARE"**! These false prophets come promising "grace" and blessings without repentance or an exchange of life! They do not teach or practice the gospel of Jesus...

*"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself
and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*

Luke 9:23

They do not think eternal life is worth "Striving for!" The broad way promises prosperity, comfort, freedom of religion, political acceptance by at least half of the world, and freedom to live as you think! They think that Jesus died on the cross for them that they might continue in sin free of any consequences or punishment! This is what makes them **RAVENING WOLVES!**

What is a "ravening wolf"? The Greek word for ravening means "uncaring, greedy, grasping, extortionate, preying, predatory, and wolfish." The love of money, fame, comfort, prosperity, and entertainment are the gospel that their churches teach drawing people to attend, that they might bring in money and the lusts of the flesh! Jesus explains in the next verse how we can identify them.

16. *"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"*

Jesus said that you will recognize them by their "fruit" or what their life produces. A grape vine produces grapes, not thorns! A fig tree produces figs, not thistles! We are talking about eternal life; so what righteousness, holiness, purity, temperance, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, or compassion does their life show? What does their life exhibit [bring forth, demonstrate, or offer] that is in agreement with the keeping of the commandments of God and the testimony and faith of Jesus Christ? What fruit do their lives produce? Do they live in righteousness and obey the gospel or are they worldly accepted, materialistic, dishonest, and ungodly? What is their lifestyle? Does it fulfil the will of God or their own will? What do they do or go after daily?

17. *"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."*

In this verse, Jesus gives us the comparison again between a good tree and a corrupt tree that shows by their "fruit" or lifestyle what type of tree they are. A "corrupt" or wicked tree lives a life of disobedience to the commandments of God. This life might be one of lying, cheating, stealing, lust, pornography, covetousness [craving more], etc. The "corrupt tree" is the person who lives for themselves in the flesh or according to their own desires. They do not care to obey God, because they want to please their flesh as Galatians 5:19-21 tells us,

*“Now the works [actions] of the flesh are manifest [revealed; shown],
which are these; Adultery [sex outside of marriage],
fornication [harlotry; pornography], uncleanness [sexually impure],
lasciviousness [sexual desire], Idolatry [putting anything or anyone before God],
witchcraft [drug use], hatred, variance [causing arguments], emulations [rage],
wrath, strife [disagreements], seditions [division], heresies [error],
Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings [rioting], and such like:
of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past,
that **they which do such things shall NOT inherit the Kingdom of God.**”*

This lists some of the sins that will keep any man that practices them out of heaven, no matter what they claim with their mouth. This list is the “evil fruit” or the actions of a “corrupt tree” that Jesus was talking about. A “good tree” that produces “good fruit” would not practice such sins. Jesus gives us a choice in Matthew 12:33,

*“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good;
or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt:
for the tree is known by his fruit.”*

This choice is given to all men as they hear the truth and decide daily what their life will be. Men are without excuse as they are freely given the choice by God to make their lives as they wish... including determining their eternal destiny! The decisions that they make each day will not only affect the outcome of their life while on this earth, but it will also determine whether they will receive eternal life. What a farmer plants in the ground, he will reap when it grows. If he plants peas, he will reap peas. If he allows weeds, all he will have to reap is the weeds that he allowed to grow. If we continue in sin, we will reap God’s judgment as Galatians 6:7 says,

*“Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

18. “A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

It is impossible for a good tree to produce evil fruit, for it would no longer be a “good tree”! It is impossible for an evil tree to produce good fruit, for it would no longer be an “evil tree”. There is no in-between. You are either seeking the Kingdom of God through repentance from sin, or you are continuing to fulfil the lusts of the flesh to your own eternal destruction. John explains this in I John 3:6-7,

*“Whosoever abideth in Him [Jesus]
sinneth not [does not daily practice sin willfully]:
whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him [does not follow Him],
neither known Him [obeyed His gospel].*

*Little children, let no man [false teachers] deceive you:
he that doeth righteousness [obeys the gospel and keeps the commandments of God]
is righteous, even as He is righteous.”*

In short, those who are seeking to inherit eternal life are striving to be righteous, just as Jesus is righteous, for He is our perfect example sent from God. Those who claim differently according to these verses have not seen or known Jesus. They have an imagination of a different Jesus. They do not walk in the steps of Jesus Christ, nor do they obey His gospel! They have chosen one of the two paths. If we read further, we will see who they follow and obey in I John 3:8-10,

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested [revealed],

that He {Jesus} might destroy the works of the devil.

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin [daily practice sin];

*for His Seed [Holy Spirit] remaineth in him: [he obeys the Holy Spirit leading]
and he **cannot sin** [practice sin habitually as a lifestyle], because he is born of God.*

In this the children of God are manifest [revealed], and the children of the devil:

whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,

neither he that loveth not his brother.”

It cannot be made any plainer than that! If you practice sin daily, you are following the devil and the way of this world. Jesus came to free you from the enslavement of sin and death by destroying the works of the devil in your daily life. If you are truly “born again”, you will not practice sin, for God has given you the Holy Spirit that will tell you when you are doing wrong. If you can practice sin daily with no conviction, then according to the Scriptures, you are not truly born of God!

God reveals to us and to the world who His children are by their fruits or obedient actions! His children keep the commandments of God and have the faith and testimony of Jesus Christ as is taught in Revelation 12:17 & 14:12,

“And the dragon [the devil] was wroth with the woman [the church],

and went to make war with the remnant of her seed [God’s obedient children],

*which **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD,***

AND HAVE THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST...

AND THE FAITH OF JESUS.”

The testimony of Jesus Christ is the godly obedient life that is completely different from the life of those of this world. **The faith of Jesus is the faithful life that they live.** God’s children are delivered from the wrath of God by their faith or faithfulness to Him.

19. “Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”

Jesus tells us the consequences of those who do not bear good fruit. It is the eternal end of all who do not obey the gospel. This is their choice, for they are daily given a choice to walk with God or to live as they please. They went against their God-given conscience, and they must now receive the result of their “evil fruit” or sinful lives. They are hewn down, which means they receive eternal death with no hope of eternal life. This is not the only place that Jesus teaches us this, for in John 15:2&6, He also explains this,

*“Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away...
If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered;
and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

This is the eternal end of those who do not bear the fruit of righteous obedience in their lives!

20. “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”

Such a short sentence, but so much meaning! Don’t listen to what people say, watch what they do! It’s in their actions that people tell you who they really are, not in their empty promises. Even the world will tell you of the people who are just blowhards that spew out lies while their lives show something completely different. Many claim to follow Jesus, yet their actions show that they only seek the money of the people who are financing their religious schemes. Their gospel is one of prosperity, politics, pleasure, and comfort on this earth. They do everything possible to escape persecution for taking a stand for righteousness.

21. “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in Heaven.”

Jesus emphasizes that only those who “doeth the will of My Father” will enter into the Kingdom of God. He tells us that just because someone calls Jesus “Lord”, does not mean that they will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The will of God is found in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ that “finishes giving” or teaches man how to keep God’s commandments. This is the will of God that we might show our love for Him by our obedience to Him as Jesus said in John 14:15,

“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”

Listen as Jesus explains what keeping His commandments shows in John 14:21 & 23-24,

*“He that hath My commandments, and **keepeth them** [obeys them],
he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father;
and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him...”*

*If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him,
and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him.*

***He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings:**
and the word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father’s which sent Me.”*

This is crystal clear teaching that those who do not “do” the will of God do not love Jesus or His Father, no matter what they say with their mouths. Jesus explains that the gospel is the Word of the Father sent to earth as God became man and dwelt among us giving us an example that we should follow His steps! Read this in I Peter 2:21,

*“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us,
leaving us an example, **that ye should follow His steps.***

*Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:
Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not;
but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.”*

Jesus left the perfect example for us, so that we are without excuse to follow His steps! He is the perfect example of holiness and trust in His Father while enduring the life of a man! How humbling for God to become man, dwell among man as a common person, and then allow those whom He created to reject Him, lie about Him, torture Him, and then put Him on a cross! After He had performed so many miracles and lived such a perfect life, man rejected His truth and killed Him! This is the life that He lived, that we might follow in His steps! Read His life outlined in Philippians 2:5-8,

*“Let this mind [thinking] be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant,
and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man,
He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

Jesus humbled Himself, so that He could be an example of humility for our lives. He was obedient unto death, that we might have a role model to follow! Did He do all that so that you could continue in your sin? NO! Did He die that you might continue doing the same sins that He died to forgive? NO! He died that you might live as He lived, so that you could walk with Him forever on this earth as He walked! He outlined the gospel which is the step by step instructions of how to do the will of His Father. Do not listen to those who say, “*Lord, Lord...*”, but they do not do as He commanded. They will receive His judgment as II Thessalonians 1:7-8 teaches,

*“And to you who are troubled rest with us,
when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,
In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God,
and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

22. “Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?”

Why do people not understand that wrong will be punished by God? Do they really think that they can disobey God and “get away with it”? Many that claim to follow Jesus will desire to use this same excuse as they are judged. They will look to their **religious pretense** for support of their nonexistent walk with God!

Their excuses sound impressive, just as the lives of those today claiming to “know Jesus”; but it will not be what they claim that justifies them, for **God will judge them according to their works**. God cannot be fooled by the speech of someone as man is, for God knows the heart and judges their works, whether they are obedient or disobedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it;
and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them:
and they were judged every man according to their works.”*

Revelation 20:13

Just because they claim to “know Jesus” and use His name does not mean that they are His children. Only those who do or practice righteousness are of God as we are reminded in I John 3:10,

*“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil:
whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,
neither he that loveth not his brother.”*

23. “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

Though we cannot comprehend that Jesus would not “know” someone that He created, the Greek words here for “never” mean *“not even at any time; never at all; neither at any time, nothing at any time.”* He “disowns” or “rejects” their claim that they are His! Because of their decision to reject the Strait and Narrow Way of His gospel, He rejects affiliation with them. The only souls allowed to inherit eternal life are those known by Jesus, because they keep His commandments. Luke 13:25 might make it a little clearer for us to understand.

*“When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door,
and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord,
open unto us; and He shall answer and say unto you,
I KNOW YOU NOT WHENCE YE ARE.”*

Here Jesus is saying that He does not know what place, state, source, or cause in which they originate. Their acceptance of the broad way and their following of the devil makes them “unaffiliated” with Jesus, who with their mouth they claim to be doing His “work”. The most important part of this verse to take to heart is the reason that Jesus claims not to know them... *“...ye that work iniquity.”* It is always sin that keeps us from fellowship with God. Those striving on the strait and narrow path must leave their sins at the gate, for there is no room on this gospel path for rebellion against God or sin practiced daily. Those who practice or commit sin daily are on the broad way that leads to destruction, no matter what they claim!

24. “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Those who “do” or “obey” the gospel, which are the “sayings” of Jesus, build their walk with God upon a solid foundation of truth. It takes much longer and is more difficult to “go against the flow” of the world who daily build upon sand. It takes time to dig deep and set the footings of a life of denial of self, crucifixion of the flesh, and following Jesus in His steps. His perfect life must be learned, studied, and through much patience and faithfulness lived as the battle with the flesh causes a peaceful struggle.

By yielding all to the will of God, a genuine walk with God can be established and founded upon the Rock, the gospel teachings of Jesus Christ. Once such a commitment is made as long as the child of God continues in the Words of Jesus, all the storms of life can come against the child of God who is walking by faith. No matter how great the fury, these “obstacles” or problems will not affect this person’s walk with God, unless that person turns aside to folly and sin. Make sure that your walk with God is on the Strait and Narrow Way in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ! Make sure that you continue in the Words of Jesus, then you will be His disciple indeed!

26. “And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

This is a story of disaster, though the beginning of the story looked much better than its dreadful end. At first, building upon sand or false teaching quickly produces so much more prosperity which may appear to be the “blessings of God”. Digging in sand is very easy with no resistance compared to digging and building upon rock. The sands of a sinful life have no foundation to build anything eternal. Because the foundation of walking in the flesh is sand, all that is built upon the lies of false teachers begins to show the stench of evil fruit. This brings death in the end.

For some time there may be an appearance of “godliness” called a “form of godliness”, but soon the truth comes out. The foundation of the life conducted on the broad way shows evil fruit. It is always easier and much more “comfortable” to the flesh to build upon sand, but the end thereof are the ways of death. When the storms of the consequences of sin and the wrath of God beat upon that life, it will fall; for there is no foundation of truth that will hold it from sinking into hell! This is the life of the world as everyone is following each other’s wretched life. There is no difference between any of the houses that are built upon sand, for they are all destroyed the same way! Yet, man still runs his “own life” in his “own thinking” following the will of satan his father.

It is very important for us to understand that it is sin that keeps us from living eternally as God originally intended for man. Jesus commands us to “...go and sin no more.” Jesus forgave the woman caught in adultery, but He gave her a commandment found in John 8:11,

*“She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her,
Neither do I condemn thee: **go, and sin no more**.”*

Jesus did not justify her sins, He simply forgave her for her sins with the command to go and sin no more. She could now exchange her sinful life for a life that kept the commandments of God and had the testimony and faith of Jesus. When we come to Him, He does not excuse or justify the wrong that we have done. **He simply forgives us and exchanges our sinful life for a “new life” in obedience to Him!** Not only does He forgive us when we repent and turn from sin, but He empowers us by giving us the Holy Spirit as a “down payment” of our salvation.

This is the exchange that every person seeking to inherit eternal life must make. The choice is given as we have read. Though there seems to be many roads with many opinions, there are only two roads as Jesus taught... a Strait and Narrow Way through obedience to the gospel that leads to life eternal, and the broad way that the majority of the world has chosen which leads to death, destruction, and eternal damnation. Which road will you choose?

In His perfect love, God has done everything possible to make this decision available to you. He created you; gave you His thinking in His righteous law; became man to teach you how to fulfil those laws; died as the perfect sacrifice to wash away your sins; and offers you the gift of the Holy Spirit. The exchange of the old man to the new man will give you eternal life, if you will only repent of your sins and turn to Him with all your heart. This is the decision to love God more than you love your sins, this world, and your own way!

You can exchange a worthless life in this world for the priceless gift of eternal life. God will give you a “new life” that glorifies Him on this earth. He will make you a “new man” or “new woman” that fulfils the purpose for which He created you. He promises to completely change your life for your own benefit in Mark 10:29-30,

*“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you,
There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother,
or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the gospel’s,
But he shall receive an hundredfold **now in this time**, houses, and brethren,
and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions;
and **in the world to come eternal life.**”*

This “exchange” of life causes you to have a completely new life and purpose for living. This exchange is explained in II Corinthians 5:17,

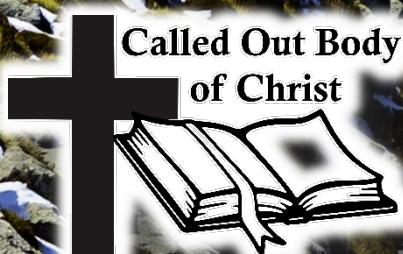
*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new creature**:
old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.**”*

Once you have made the decision to strive to enter in at the Strait Gate on the Narrow Way, you need to daily fellowship with others who are going this same way. God has designed the fellowship of believers or those “called out” of the world [the meaning of the word “church”] to encourage you to be faithful to Him!

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