

THE PLAN
OF
SALVATION

THE SEVEN STEPS
TO
ETERNAL LIFE

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

This book was written for any person who desires to study the teaching of God's word in an orderly manner. In this book, the author does not pretend to have brought out all the gems of the Bible truths. It has been written for the sole purpose of revealing the false teaching that have infiltrated the Christian churches of today, and to encourage God's people to search the scriptures to see what is being taught can be proven by God's Holy Words. Our desire is that the truth will set you free and you will be free indeed.

Religious people talk about "Getting Saved." Yet even most religious people understand no more of what the Bible teaches about Salvation--the real meaning of the word "Salvation." Do you realize not one in a hundred knows what it is--how to get it--when you receive it? Don't be to sure you do! Here, once for all, is the truth made so plain you will understand it!

Do you know that most people who think that they have "Born Again" actually have no more real conception of what it means? Many religious people talk about being "Born Again"--yet they don't really know what Jesus meant by those words. The truth is surprising, startling--here made so plain you will understand!

What was accomplished by Jesus death? It paid the penalty--it wiped out your guilty past--Justified you of your guilt--Reconciled you to God. But did it save you? No! You have to be Converted--a changed person. Your whole concept and direction of life must be changed!

Remember, too, as you read and study along what is set forth herewith, is not just for the unsaved, but for those who are professing to be followers of Jesus Christ. Why? Satan has deceived most professing Christians in the Churches to believe many lies. It is well to remember that, even in the days of the Apostles, their pens and voices often cried out against the errors that were coming into the Churches, and Paul, especially, had to meet these things. The Churches lost its simplicity, and gradually but surely, teaching falsely took over the place of Christian truth.

OUR COUNTRY CHURCH

With all the country roads, one might have to search,
to see among the trees, a well kept country church;
7th Day church of God, but it welcomes one and all,
what difference does it make, when we hear our master call.

As you walk in among the friendly crowd,
suddenly you feel quite proud.
To be a part, in some small way,
to worship in the house of the Lord today.

You can wear silk or gingham, and not feel out of place,
most important is to wear that smile upon your face,
as we start our service with song and prayer,
you can be sure most of the good folks will be there.

Our Elder and Pastor, a Godly man,
will meet you at the door to shake your hand.
“Good morning,” you will hear him say,
“so glad to have you on this Sabbath Day.”

The doors are always open to all,
wouldn't you like to call?
We need the church to keep in touch,
with our Lord we need so much.

So if you live close or far away,
come pay us a visit next Saturday.
If you have no church to attend,
come make our church, your church,
my friend.

My Dear Sister,
Lila M. (Chatfield) Page.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

Have you every asked yourself, “where an I going to spend eternity?” Its is curious that many people make elaborate plans for their short life on earth, but sometimes fail to plan for eternity, Yet planning for eternity is what accepting God’s plan of *Salvation* is all about.

Do you realize not one in a hundred knows what it is--how to get it--when you receive it? Don’t be too sure you do! Here, once foe all, is the Truth made so plain you will really understand it.

During this study its is my earnest desire and prayer to God that many who now have false hope will come to find it out. May the Lord be pleased to undeceive those of you who will be studying this book that are deceived. May your mind not be conclusive about this matter; for if ii is, and you are not truly saved., you will continue in your foolish presumption and pride until you lose your soul forever.

Sanctification, Justification and Reconciliation, Regeneration, are just a few of the words the Bible used in the plan of *Salvation*. Then, there is *Manifestation, Transformation, Purification*, and *Condemnation*. Let us be honest--doesn’t some of these religious terms seem vague, and meaningless, when you stop to think about it?

Now let us see just what some of these words mean. *Sanctification*: the process of God’s Grace by which the Believer is separated from sin and become dedicated to God’s righteousness accomplished by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit; *Sanctification* results in Holiness, or *Purification* from the guilt and power of sin.

Sanctification is God’s work. We are *Sanctified* by God the Father and Jesus the Son. Perfect holiness is God’s command and purpose. *Sanctification* is a process that

continues Purifying our loves as a believer; only after death are the saints referred to as perfect.

Sanctification: The believer's works. Number of commands in the Bible imply that the believer also have a responsibility in the process of being ***Sanctified***. We are commanded to be "Holy," to be perfect, and in the finality, we must walk in the Spirit.

Justification: The process by which sinful human beings are made acceptable to a Holy God. Christianity is unique because of its teaching of ***Justification*** by Grace. ***Justification*** is God's declaration that the demands of His Laws have been fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son. The basis for this ***Justification*** is the death of Jesus Christ. Paul tells us that "God was in Christ ***Reconciling*** the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them." This ***Reconciliation*** covers all sins. "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being ***Sanctified***."

Justification, then, is based on the works of Christ, accomplished through His blood and brought ***to*** His people through His Resurrection. ***Justification*** by Faith although the Lord Jesus Christ has paid the price for our ***Justification***, it is through our Faith that He is received and His righteousness is experienced and enjoyed. Faith is considered righteousness, not as the works of man, but as a "Gift" and works of God.

Reconciliation: The process by which God and man are brought together again. The Bible teaches that God and man are Alienated from one another because of God's Holiness and man's sinfulness. Although God loves the sinner. Therefore, by the Bible's definition of ***Reconciliation***, both parties are affected.. Through the sacrifice of Christ, man's sin is atoned and God's wrath is appeased. Thus, a relationship of hostility and ***Alienation*** is changed into one peace and fellowship.

Regeneration: The new Birth and **“Regeneration”** do not represent successive stages in spiritual experience, they refer to the same event, but view it in a different aspect. The New Birth stressed the communication of spiritual life in contrast to spiritual death. **Regeneration** stresses the inception of a state of things in contrast with the old.

Haven't you honestly been a bit confused by this religious terminology? You hear people talk about “Sin” “Getting Saved,” “Under the Law or Under Grace,” **“Justification,” “Sanctification,”** “Heaven,” “Hell,” **“Predestination,”** and dozens of other terms. Haven't these words been pretty vague to you--rather meaningless? But after this study you will understand this Biblical terminology in a Christian way.

I am of the firm and deepening conviction that there has never been a time in the history of the Christian dispensation when there were more deceived people in the churches of our land than there are at this present time. It's not as easy as many people suppose to find one who truly knows the Lord. Surely, they are not to be found in every church, and most probably they few in any church. John Wesley said, “Many people have been inoculated with a mild dose of Christianity that makes them immune to the real thing.” I believe this to be a descriptive and true statement today.

Salvation represents the work of God to rescue man from eternal ruin and death caused by sin. To be Saved means dealing with the cause of our being “Lost.” Being “Lost” means being separated from God because of sin.

Salvation leads to eternal life. It is the work of God to find lost men. It is free by. Taking the Seven Steps described in the Bible to receive this glorious “Gift” must never be understood as man's work instead of God's work. Therefore, when we meet God's conditions to receive Salvation, we are accepting His Gift of eternal life. What then,

must we do to be saved?

Before the foundation, or creation of the world; before the law was given, or any sacrifice prescribed by it, its whole sacrificial system was appointed in reference to this fore appointed Lamb, and consequently from Him derived all its significance and virtues. It was a promise as part of God's ***Foreordained*** plan. We are redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

"Who verily was ***Foreordained*** before the foundation of the world (creation) but was manifest in these last days for us" (1 Peter 1:18-20). We all knew that it was some 4000 years after creation that Jesus died for the sins of all men. During that 4000 years those dear ones look forward to Calvary according to God's ***Foreordained*** plan, and we look back. In that ***Foreordained*** plan God gave us eternal life. "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot not lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).

"Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world (creation), that we should be holy and without blame before Him in Love" (Eph.1:3-5). God's plan was ***Manifested*** before the world was created because God knew that man would sin. Man was helpless to redeem himself, so God showed His love (John 3:16). Why! What was man's condition that he needed ***Salvation***, deliverance ***Preservation***, and safety? "Because we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom.3:23). "Alienated and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph.2:12).

Peter gives us some very helpful insight; information. Here Peter says of Jesus, "who truly was ***Foreordained*** before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in the last

time for you.” Christ was promised before the foundation of the world but was given to us when God said it was time. Time began for man when he created Adam. Jesus was **Foreordained** (promised) in God’s divine plans to come as man’s redeemer, before the creation of the world. His going forth was planned by Almighty God back there before creation. You and I as Christians, were chosen in Christ, and He **Predestinated** us for adoption to and by God, before the foundation of the universe (Eph.1:3-5). Yet the execution of that promise did not happen for a thousands of years.

Now let us make our journey down the seven roads to eternal life. These roads to **Salvation** is as sharp as the razors edge. Anything less than total **Conformity** to the goodness of God, which can be sins of **Omission** or sins of **Commission**, is short of **Sanctification**. We are hallowed, set apart, to do and not to do as God’s Word commands.

The word **Salvation** summarized the status and experience of every believer in Jesus, the Christ. And **Salvation**, in the New Testament sense, relates directly to sin. If nothing else, we can say with Jesus and the Apostles that God’s children have already been saved from the guilt and penalty of their sins; are yet to be saved from the presence and possibility of all sin for eternity. Is **Salvation** a place, a **Destination**, a **Condition**, a **Reward** or what? And where would you turn in the Bible to find it?.

It’s about time to get to the plain why, what, how, and when, so you can see it clearly, plainly, right in your Bible! Why should the most important thing in life be a vague, mysterious, superstitious, ethereal, meaningless thing?

The purpose of this writing is to explore how such a great **Salvation** is presented in Scripture. What must I do to be saved, when and why and how? Instead of expecting all

the answers in a single text, let us hunt for clues as we search the Bible.

While the real truth must come from the Bible, the dictionary definition may help a little. Webster's dictionary defines "**Salvation**" as: "The saving of man from the spiritual consequences of sin; especially deliverance from sin and eternal damnation; **Preservation** from destruction, failure, or evil."

What must I do to be saved? This question was asked of Paul and Silas by a prison keeper in the city of Philippi of Macedonia. The reply was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30-31).

Lest we think that Paul meant that **Salvation** came as the result of belief alone, we need to read the next verse: "And they spoke unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in the house" (Acts 16:32).

No subject pertaining to Christian **Salvation** is more generally misunderstood than that of being saved on just believing! Just "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," is a popular teaching today. And that statement is absolutely true if you understand what kind of Believing is required!

Unfortunately millions are being deceived--let to trust in believing only. That will never save one single soul by a very popular, and very false teaching. It is customary to quote only a part of a scripture on this subject--reading a false meaning into them--and thus by subtle half truths and popular teaching, shackle most of the Christendom to spiritual blindness and deception.

Before we start our Bible study on the plan of Salvation, let us learn some of the great big Bible words and their meaning. As we learn about Jesus Christ, it will help to learn about two long words the New Testament uses in close meaning to our Savior and Lord:

Justified and Sanctified..

If Jesus is my savior, I have been ***Justified*** from my sins. When He died on the cross, He paid the debt I owed. Because He did, God freely forgives us as we trust His Son, and He treat us “***Just***” as if we never sinned. By His ***Grace***, we stand 100 percent pure and clean in His sight--just like Christ. Our faults and failures no longer count against us as long as we remain in Christ by ***Faith***. This is ***Justification***--me in Christ--and it gives us assurance of eternal ***Salvation*** all along this difficult journey of life.

If Jesus is our Lord, we are being ***Sanctified*** from our sins. When God forgive us at first by our ***Faith*** and ***Repentance***, He also place His Spirit in us, and we become a new baby in Christ; by His ***Grace***, we yield to the Spirit’s work. Through the Word we grow, and we are changed little by little into the image of His Son. We may be short of being perfect of what we ought to be, but we press on toward that perfect goal. This is ***Sanctification***--Christ in us--and it confirms our confidence that we are, indeed, His Son or daughter! Trust Him for ***Justification***, and obey Him for ***Sanctification***. Without one, we really don’t have the other.

Is ***Salvation*** a Gift? No. There is not one scripture that states that ***Salvation*** is a “Free Gift.” A statement which is very controversial, to say the least. Furthermore, if ***Salvation*** is a free Gift, then God must see to it that every person who has ever lived and Believed must be saved, otherwise He would be a “respector of person.” This “Free Gift” would become a possession of everyone; even the “devil also believe, and trembles” (James 2:19).

Let us go to our favorite verse; John 3:16: “God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have

everlasting life.” *Salvation* requires, yes demands, that a person Believe in Him in order to be saved! No Belief: no *Salvation*. But is just Believing enough?

Modern day evangelicals seems to present a watered--down partial gospel that is more deceptive and dangerous than no gospel at all. They falsely tell people that all they need to do is “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved” (Acts 16:31). Without explaining what the word “Believe” means. The New Testaments “Belief” covers various levels of personal commitment where intelligent agreement to a truth as in James 2:19. A Belief in or confident attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one’s life. One cannot be saved by just *Believing* in one God. To Believe that there is one God, is the beginning of Salvation, however you are not saved by just Believing.

Many Evangelical preachers urge people to invite Jesus into your heart to be saved, using the verse “but as many as received Him, to them gave he power (right or privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them that Believe on His name” (John 1:12). There is much more to being saved than just asking Jesus into your heart. Receiving Christ “involves being *Born Again*, not of our human will, but by the spirit of God” (John 1:13). Being *Born Again* is more a superficial religious experience. It is being *Transformed* from living by human life to living by the divine life of Christ in us (Gal.2:20).

Then there is the verse that says “For by Grace are you saved through Faith; and not of yourselves: it is a Gift of God” (Eph.2:8).. Paul is saying that having Believed by the power of the Holy Spirit, you received and were sealed by the Holy Spirit of the promise; so that this Salvation is in no sense of yourselves, but is a “Free Gift” of God and not of any kind of works. But Salvation is not a (Free Gift), but a way of escaping eternal death

through the blood of Jesus Christ. God's (Free Gift) to mankind was Jesus Christ.

- * "Repent--turn from self and sin, to Jesus Christ--to be saved" (Acts 2:38).
- * "Except you Repent, you all shall likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).
- * "He that Believe and is Baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).
- * "Hereby we do know that we know Him, If we keep all His Commandments" (1 John 2:3).
- * "With the mouth confession is made unto *Salvation*" (Rom.10:10).

If Salvation is a "Free Gift," why did Paul say Confession and Belief and much more were necessary? A "Free Gift" would make no demands whatever for one to be saved. Does Believing and becoming a Christian complete our Christian experience or just the beginning of it? Yes, there is a Divine plan for one to have eternal life, that plan consists of *Sanctification, Justification, Reconciliation and Transformation*.

How may we know that many religious people are lost? First, we know because of the plain declaration of scriptures. "Not every one that smith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the well of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in my name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt.7:21-13).

These scriptures plainly teaches that many religious people are lost. The word "*Many*" means a majority. If only a minority of religious people are lost, our Lord would have used the word "*Few*." The reason He used "*Many*" is to convey the idea that the religious people who are lost are in the majority and not a minority.

The Bible says, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **“Many”** there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **“Few”** there be that find it.” (Matt.7:13-14). In describing the people who goes into the lake of fire, our Lord referred to them as being “Many.” Remember, these words were addressed to religious rather than irreligious people.

Before we go into the study of the seven steps to Salvation, let us consider Paul’s statement, “For the wages of sin is death: but the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom.6:23). The Apostle does not say that the wages of righteousness merit eternal life: no, but this eternal life, even to the righteous, is the gracious “Gift of God.” And even this gracious Gift comes through Jesus Christ our Lord. He alone has procured it, and it is given to only those who finds redemption in His Blood. God’s love for mankind was the cause for His sending as a “Free Gift” His blessed, Holy and Pure Son as the necessary sacrifice and atonement for man’s sins (without the shedding of blood is no remission), and it is only as the blood of Jesus is applied to one’s heart that man’s sins are forgiven and washed away (Heb.9:22).

Wages of sin is eternal death. Wages of righteousness is eternal life. Webster’s dictionary tell us that wages is ”Compensation, Payment for labor or services.” When we define Grace as a “Free Gift” of **Salvation**, which, of course, is not; is the normal concept that the people believe. In the context of Eph. 2:4-9 are found the following divine attributes: mercy, love, and Grace; all of which are involved in our **Salvation**, but none of which, in and of itself, grants **Salvation** to mankind. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom.6:23), “and all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, without hope”

(Rom.3:23), Christ came and paid the price. The “Free Gift” for the sins of mankind was no other than Jesus Christ. So here we can see that Compensation is **Obedience** to the word of God

There are many “Free Gifts” given to man from God: there is the Gift of righteousness (Rom.5:17). The Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The Gift of Grace (Eph.4:7). The Gift of Eternal Life (Rom.6:23), and The Indescribable Gift (2 Con.9:15). The free Gift of Prophecy (1 Cor.13:2). “Every good Gift and every perfect Gift is from above” (James 1:17). “Now there are diversities of Gifts, but is from the same Spirit” (1 Con.12:4).

Before receiving the “Gift of the Holy Spirit” (or Baptism of the Holy Spirit, as many use the term), there is the Divine order of works, “**Believe, Repent** and be **Baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:37-39). According to Divine orders as giving here: **Believing, Repenting.** and **Baptism,** must come first and then, “and ye shall receive the Free Gift of the Holy Spirit.” We must be made free from sin and cleaned up before God will come in by His Holy Spirit to dwell.

Now we come to the secondary work of the Holy Spirit in the church. All members must be filled with the “Holy Spirit of the promise” (Eph.5:18, 9-11) so that we can have a life of “righteousness and true holiness” (Eph.4:24). But then there is nine Gifts of the Spirit, as listed (1 Cor.12:1-11), as tools or works to be used in the ministry in the Churches and in Evangelistic preaching of the Gospel. There is a time and place for the use of these Gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are many things a person must do before a person can be saved, then idea of a “Free Gift” is null and void.

Salvation represent the works of God to rescue man from eternal ruin and death cause

by sin. To be saved means dealing with the cause of our being “lost.” Being “lost” means being separated from and out of contact with God because of sin.

Salvation leads to eternal life. It is the works of God to find lost men. It is free. Taken the seven steps described in the Bible to receive this glorious Gift must never be understood as our works instead of God’s works. Therefore, when we meet God’s conditions to received *Salvation*, we are accepting His “Free Gift” of eternal life.

What is the First Steps to eternal life and the forgiving of our sins? “We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23). We all have to *Believe*, this is the first step! The Bible says that when we *Believe* in Jesus Christ, we are made right with God. Being brought into this relationship is the First Step to finding peace of mind.

Each one of us owns an enormous debt of sin that we carry inside. Sin is not confined to indecent action, lies, murder, stealing, or the like. It is rebellion against God. And where there is such disharmony, there is lack of inner peace.

There are many opinion today concerning bring saved, and what is necessary to achieve it. Some says one needs only to accept it: it’s free. Others clam that you are not saved until you’ve been baptized in water, while others say that the “New Birth” comes about when one speaks in another language. But what does the Scripture say?

The necessary steps begin with *Believing* but we must explain what the word means: to have faith, trust, commitment, cling to, and relies on. It means to entrust our entire life in the present life time and trust in our eternal life to Jesus Christ.

It is true that no one earn *Salvation* or deeds or good works. It is also true that no one deserves to be saved. Therefore, all deserve death; not *Salvation*. Only God’s divine intervention has made it possible for us to be saved. The kind of peace we should be

looking for dwells in the care of our being. It helps us deal with life outwardly because God has dealt with us inwardly first.

This is what it means to **Believe** in Christ. It is the opposite of ignoring His existence. Belief in Jesus is not head knowledge that He lived and was a great teacher, nor is it merely admitting that He is the Son of God who died and was resurrected.

Rather, **Believing** in Christ means placing our full confidence in Him. It is resting the entire weight of our hope on Him, that He is the only Savior who can release us from the debt of sin.

But Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, he said that since Christ died for all, "that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Con.5:15). Take note of the fact that he is speaking of a Christian way of Life. Here, the self life ends. The Christian cannot serve God and mammon: it just can't be done, it is impossible "to serve two masters" (Matt.6:24).

One of the greatest fallacies of so--call "Nominal Christian" is that it assumes that the only demand heaven makes upon the **Believer** is for him to accept Christ as his personal Savior. This novel idea claims that no work is required of any Believer, regarding his soul's Salvation. Duty, obligation and law are all relegated to the ash can. This makes a very palatable form of religion for the carnal minded, and the proof is in the millions that have gladly accepted its teaching.

He who will faithfully study the Bible and the plain words of Christ, as they are presented in the four gospels, will surely come to the conclusion that the Christian Faith demands all the Believer's life.

"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 the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (1 Thes.5:23).

The *Believer's* complete *Sanctification* and peace with God comes through *Sanctification* of the body, soul and spirit. A partial *Sanctification* of body, soul and spirit does not result in complete peace with God. “There is no peace, for the wicked” (Isa.57:21). Just as there is no peace with God to the unsaved, there is no peace with God to those who do not have *Sanctification* of the body, soul, and spirit. Complete *Sanctification* take care of the conduct of the *Believers*.

If we have taken time to prepare for a long, happy life on earth, why not take the time and necessary Steps to receive God’s Gift of eternal life? Through *Believing, Repentance, Baptism and Faith*, we can respond to God’s offer and be made to live for Him. So the first step to eternal life must start with *Believing*.

The Second step we all must take to receive *Justification* instead of *Condemnation*, is the *Repentance* of one sins. Then, through Jesus Christ we can have *Sanctification* and be able to have *Transformation* to a new life.

What does it mean to *Repent*? How does it affect our *Salvation*? “Except ye *Repent* ye shall all like perish” (Luke 13:3). Conviction is a strong sense of guilt with the realization of a need of help. This works out in two ways: man’s part and God’s part. Man’s part has to do with his conscience; that inward knowledge of right and wrong. “And they which heard it, being convicted, by their conscience, went out one by one” (John 8:9). This inner knowledge, or conscience, is given to every rational person as a personal guide for his protection and well being. The conscience can be strengthened or abuse (1 Tim. 4:2). But with the right conscience and motivation it can be the means of

leading a person to God.

In the second chapter of Acts: Peter; a disciple of Christ, preached a sermon in which he told of Jesus Christ identity. He called his listener to **Believe** Jesus. The text then informed us that Peter's words brought a sense of conviction to the people's heart. They cried out, "Men and Brethren, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)?

Then Peter told them they must do two things: He said, "**Repent** and be **Baptized**, every one you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **Forgiveness** of your sins" (Acts 2:38). In this one verse Peter listed two important responses we must make to receive eternal life. When we realize that God has worked out our **Salvation** by offering his dear Son, we feel a sense of sorrow for our sins. This sorrow leads us to **Confess** our sins. This sorrow leads us to **Confess** our sins to God with the assurance that he will forgive and purify us (1 John 1:9).

Let us begin with Jesus' exhortation. Twice in these five verses Jesus stated that "Except ye **Repent**, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:1-5). **Repentance** is an absolute necessity in order to obtain **Salvation**. Not only is it required for a sinner, or unconverted person, it must remain a necessity for everyone who walks with God.

Jesus place **Repentance** in front of, or with, **Belief** of the gospel. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: **Repent** ye, and **Believe** the gospel" (Mark 1:15). And the great commission was given that they were to preach "**Repentance** and remission of sins in the name of Jesus" (Luke 24:47). Paul obeyed the command in all of his ministry, he kept back nothing that was profitable to the Jews and the Greeks. To all, the message was "**Repentance** toward God and **Faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20-21). This **Salvation, Reclamation, Redemption, Reconciliation, Ransomed,**

yes, Salvage of mankind rest totally upon the willingness of Jesus the Son of God to suffer and die the death of a vile sinner.

Repentance is mentioned so much in the New Testament, it is amazing that anyone could think they could be saved without it. Paul stated that God “now commendeth all men everywhere to **Repent**” (Acts 17:30). Notice that he didn’t say ”be **Baptized**,” he said **Repent**. But it is important to be **baptized** in the name of Jesus, because it is an act of **Faith** required to seal our part of the New Covenant with God.

The process of feeling sorrow for one self and confessing our sins is called **Repentance**. Genuine **Repentance** always bring about change. “Godly sorrow brings **Repentance** that leads to **Salvation** and leaves no regret” (2 Cor.7:10). In other words, God used our sorrows for sin to lead us to change of heart that leads to **Sanctification**. Before we **Repent**, we accept sin as a normal way of life. But when we **Repent**, we see how serious sin is. It brings death. Therefore, **Repentance** cause us to be aware at all times of God’s will for our lives.

Repentance is a deliberate act of the will. It is a recognition of and a confession of the sins of the past and present, with all due remorse for said sins, and it includes a promise and determination that those sins will never be repeated. True **Repentance** is an absolute necessity in order to obtain **Salvation**.

Amid all the many ways (roads) taught by many preachers today in Jesus’ name, there is only one road to eternal life. The Bible says that “Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way (singular) which leadeth to life.” Yes, Jesus said there is only one strait gate and one narrow road, or way to eternal life, and broad is the road (way) and wide is the gate that leadeth “to destruction“ and **Many** will “go in thereat“ (Matt 7:12-14)..

Only a ***Few*** will find that one gate and narrow road to eternal life. Why? Jesus taught plainly what that narrow way to eternal life is. We must have “a **Reconciliation** with God” (2 Cor.5:17-20). “Abstain from all appearance of Evil” (1 Thes.5:22). “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be **Transformed** by the renewing of your mind, and that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom.12:1-2).

One of the most attention demanding and thorough provoking scripture to be found in the Bible comes from the spoken words of Jesus. Listen to this passage: “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. **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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt.7:21-23).

This scriptures lead me to believe that multitude of religious people who expect to get in God’s kingdom when they die will instead be cast into the “lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt.25:41).

Repentance means that one will no longer take part in the practices of the worldly people around him, that he will separate himself from the common pagan beliefs and life styles of today.

Many **Repentance** in most modern churches has been the result based on Sentiment rather than on **Faith** in revealing truth. The music and sermons are not designed, not to focus on truth, but to stir up feeling. Biblical **Repentance** is never motivated by mere

emotion or sentiment, but is generated by a process of reason based on facts of the gospel. To a large extent we have exchange reason for emotion and sentiment. The emphasis is on one's experience and feelings. These may be mistaken for **Faith**, but when the circumstances change, so does our **Faith**. Emotional exhortation may stir up people to feel that they are having a religious experience, but if it is not grounded in a reasoned **Belief** in the gospel it is devoid of power. It is the power of God that brings men to **Repentance** and it is the gospel, when understood and believed.

Repentance means to turn around your life, to change with God's help from living sinfully to a life in Christ. It is an emotional experience, a crushing to our ego; self reproach that is really costly to our human spirit. It means a complete change in our way of thinking and living.

The third step to **Sanctification, Justification** and **Reconciliation** is water **Baptism**. There are several verses of scriptures which are used to prove that water **Baptism** is necessary for a person to acquire **Salvation**. **Baptism** will not save anyone; only the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away our sins. But when we **Repent** and are **Baptized**, we enter into a covenant with God.

Yes, the Gospel commands us to do both, "**Repent** and be **Baptized** in the name of Jesus for the Remission of sins" (Acts 2:37-38). **Baptism** is the act of **Faith** required to seal our part of the New covenant with God. Why? **Baptism** is the third step in becoming a Christian or a "New Creature" in Christ Jesus. Water **Baptism** alone cannot wash away our sins (Acts 22:14-16). Many a sinner who has gone into the water a dry sinner and comes up out of the water a wet one.

After **Repentance**, we must have **Baptism** in name of Jesus' for the forgiveness of our

sins (Acts 2:38). We may express **Faith** in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and as our personal Savior, we may be sorry for our sins and confess that we are sinful, we may be determined to obey God's word. But until we are Baptized in water in the name of Jesus, our response to God's offer of eternal life is incomplete.

Jesus Commanded that all His **Believing** followers be **Baptized**. Just before His ascension to heaven, He told His disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, **Baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt.28:19-20).

The New Testament describes Christian **Baptism** as a burial ceremony.

"Know ye not, that as many of us as were **Baptized** into Jesus Christ were **Baptized** into His Death? Therefore we are buried with Him by **Baptism** into His death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His **Resurrection**" (Rom.6:3-4).

Paul used symbolic participation in the death and **Resurrection** of Christ to teach us the true significance of **Baptism**. Paul explains that through **Baptism** the **Believer** symbolically illustrates the death of his sinful nature by burying it, then rising from burial to living a new life in harmony with God's words (Rom.6:7).

When we **Believe** the gospel and turn to God in **Repentance** we die to sin. And in **Baptism** we, by **Faith**, bury that past life of sin with Christ to walk a new life thereafter.

To get or receive the **Justification**, note, in Paul's writing to the Roman Church: "Therefore being **Justified** by **Faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom also we have access by Faith into this Grace wherein we stand, and

rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom.5:1-2).

The fourth step that we must have to receive eternal life is **Faith**; which is of the utmost importance and essential *to Salvation*, for “**Without Faith**, it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must **Believe** that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Heb.11:6).

True **Faith** is a belief in, or having confidence, in our attitude toward God, involving commitment to His will for one’s life. **Faith** was already present in the experience of many people in the Old Testament as a key element of their spiritual lives. In chapter eleven of Hebrews the various heroes of the Old Testament is describe as living by **Faith**.

Faith is part the of Christian life from the beginning to the end. As it is the instrument by which the **Gift of Salvation** is received. **Faith** is thus distinct from the basis of **Salvation**, which is **Grace**, and from the outworking of **Salvation**, which is God’s work. The Apostle Paul declared that **Salvation** is through **Faith**, not of works (Eph.2:8-9).

Faith can also refer to the teaching of the Bible, the “**Faith** which was once delivered to the Saints” (Jude 3). **Faith** has been weakened in meaning, so that many people use it to mean self-confidence, but in the Bible, true **Faith** is confidence in God or Christ, not in oneself.

Since **Faith** is a **Gift** from God and it is an essential part of **Salvation** it must be kept alive and operating, else its dies. And when **Faith** dies, the person dies also (Spiritually). Dead **Faith** is worthless. It is a dead person which is buried under a mound of worldliness, pleasure, greed, carnality, and self.

Faith is a trust; trusting God to be in control of our lives and all that we do. It is trusting God to be in control if every condition in which we find ourselves. Most

Christians today decide what they will do and expect God to make it work. They have their own plans, their own program, their way of life and they want God to bless them. This is not **Faith**, it is not trust. This is not the position of a Christian in relationship with God.

The **Faith** that pleases God is not the mountain moving, miracle working **Faith** (Matt.17:20). It is the trust that a little child shows when he puts his hand into his father's hand as they walk through the darkness. He is confident that his father will protect him and lead him safely home. The Christian needs to practice that kind of **Faith** if he wishes to please God.

“When thou passes through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the river, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isa.43:2). This is **Faith** in action. We, as Christians, should **Believe** and live it.

God-given **Faith** is a reward for **Obedience**. The more one obeys the Will and the Word of God; God Will, will be our **Faith**. **Faith** is a **Gift** of God.

To get or receive the **Justification** from God, one must first **Believe**, be **Baptized** and **Repent**, “therefore being **Justified** by **Faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by **Faith** into this **Grace** wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom.5:1-2).

What is meant by man's **Justification** by **Faith** in Jesus' death and resurrection? The word “just” means “righteous, or right.” To “**Justify**” means “to make, or declare right, or righteous.” Since all are under sin and death before God, and Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins, the **Justification** by **Grace**, through **Faith**, would mean the

Forgiveness of all our past sins, making our record clean as through we had committed no sins.

Let Apostle Paul explain this further: “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: being *Justified* freely by His *Grace* through the *Redemption* that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God has set forth to be a *propitiation* through *Faith* in His blood; to declare His righteousness for Remission of Sins that are past---That He might be just, and the Justifier of him that Believeth in Jesus” (Rom.3:23-26). This is plain and to the point, that our *Justification* means the forgiveness of all past and future sins, bringing peace with God, when we by *Faith* accept what God through His Son has purchased for us at Calvary. This makes peace with God (Rom.8:1-4). “In whom we have *Redemption* through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to His riches of His *Grace*” (Rom.3:24-25).

God has saved us in order that He may display through ages to come his surpassing wealth of Grace and goodness toward us in Jesus Christ. The new life begun will endure forever, so the *Manifestation* of God’s *Grace* will be always renewing itself. With a like purpose. He heaps up words to describe the magnitude of the divine goodness and declare once more, “For by *Grace* you have been saved, as by *Faith*; and not of yourselves: it is the *Gift* of God” (Eph.2:8). This time Paul dwells on the condition of *Faith* which is necessary on our part before the *Grace* can be operative. It is *Faith* only that can avail: for *Salvation* is not your doing but God’s *Gift*.

When we witness to a person on whom the Grace of God rests, we see visibly different character traits. This happened in the early Church. When the gospel was preached to the Grecians at Antioch, “The hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number

believed, and turned unto the Lord” (Acts 11:21).

First let us look at the definition of Grace when used in theology as it is define by Webster’s Twentieth Century Dictionary: **Grace** (1) “the free unmerited love and favor of God; (2) divine influence of the Spirit in renewing the heart and restraining from sin. (3) a state of **Reconciliation** to God” (Rom.5:10).

It was God’s **Grace** that sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for our sins, the just for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18). “Much more then, being now **Justified** by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” (Rom.5:6-11. We must **Believe** that Jesus died for our sins and that God raised the dead for our **Justification** (Rom.4:25).

The book of Acts expands our insight into **Grace** as a New Testaments concept. “**Grace**” expresses the effectiveness of the Apostles’ preaching: “With great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ: and **Grace** was upon all” (Acts 4:33).

All the scriptures which attest to Jesus’ death gives meaning to **Grace** (Forgiveness) of sins. :And He (Jesus) is the **Propitiation** (Atonement) for our sins: “And not for ours only, but also for sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

Now we come to the misunderstanding text in Ephesians 2:8-9. :For by **Grace** are ye saved through **Faith**; and not of yourselves: it is the **Gift** of God: and not of works, lest any man should boast.” In the light of many other texts, lets us look at verses 1-9 prayerfully and carefully. They had been saved (past tense), but what from? What was their condition before **receiving** this great **Salvation**, God’s **Gift** to them? Verses 1-2 says that they “were dead in trespasses and sin,” and obeying the spirit of disobedience. But God had saved them from that life of sin, forgiving (**Grace**) the past. “But God, who

is rich in mercy, for His love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sin, but quickened (made alive) us, together with Christ, “By **Grace** ye are saved” (Verses 4-5). This is the **Salvation** they received by **Grace**, through **Faith**, not by works, but by the **Grace** of God. These Ephesian brethren had been forgiven and given a new heart by the **Grace** of God. What was God’s objective in making them new creatures (2 Cor.5:17-18)? “For we are His workmanship, created in Jesus Christ unto good works (obedience to God’s Ten Commandments), which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph.2:10). **Grace** brings us from the guilt and bondage of sin unto a life of **Obedience**.

“For the Grace of God that bringeth Salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lust” (Repent--turn from all sins). Then what? “We should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world” (Titus 2:11-14).

These scriptures teach that the Gospel of Grace instructs those who receive **Salvation** from past sins and given a new life in Christ, must live holy, **Obedient** lives thereafter, working out their **Salvation** (Phil. 2:12-13).

Because none of us is perfect, Peter admonished that we grow first in **Grace** (the divine influence of God in our lives) and second is in knowledge of our Lord. Peter didn’t advise us to increase in unmerited favor of God in the sense of **Salvation**, but to increase in what brings God’ pleasure, showing His divine influence in our hearts and minds. This is aided by our growth in the knowledge of Jesus Christ,

Since saving **Grace** is the preeminent unmerited favor of God, some people suggest that God tolerate our continuing to practice sin (that would show plainly we do not merit **Salvation**). They reason, “God doesn’t see our sins because of the blood of Christ.”

Therefore, He doesn't see our continuing to sin. This is what we call "**Cheap Grace**," "once you are saved always saved, all you need is to **Believe**," and many others. To claim God's unmerited favor while exhibiting characteristics of a child of the devil is blasphemy against the concept of **Grace**. "What shall we say them? Shall we continue to sin, that **Grace** may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein" (Rom.6:1-2)?

By "**Cheap Grace**" we refer to the misconception that **Salvation** through the **Grace** of God does not necessitate our living a sinless life, since we have nothing to pay. How would continuing in sin compare with the effects of God's **Grace** so evident in the lives of the early Christians? "Grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33).

The effect of **Grace** on mankind could not possibly allow man to continue in sin for the very reason that we are "not under the Law but under **Grace**" (Rom.6:14). God's **Grace** removes Sin! It cleanses our heart, giving us a new outlook on life.

Grace and God's moral law (Ten Commandments) works together in the Christians Life. We have found that God's laws that defines sin works with **Grace**. Does the Law that gives the knowledge of sin to both Jews and Gentiles suddenly become contrary to **Grace** at Calvary (Rom.9:23-24)? "Eternal Security" in Christ, apart from **Obedience** to God's laws, is not taught in the New Testament Scriptures. Jesus came to save "His people from (not in) their sins" (Matt.1:21). John makes it very plain that Jesus came to take away our sins, not to annul or abolish the Law that gives the knowledge of sin.

With our unwavering **Faith** in Christ as Savior (Acts 8:37-38), we must **Repent** and turn from all our **Transgressions** (Eze.18:27-28); start a new life of **Obedience** (Acts 2:37-28) and then we must, with **Faith**, be **Baptized**, and in **Baptism**, by our **Faith**, bury

that past life of sins with Jesus in the watery grave. Having done this, “we also should walk in newness of Life” (Rom.6:3-6). “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body (old life) of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin, but live a life of ***Obedience***” (Rom.8:1-4).

Salvation by ***Grace*** and ***Faith*** in Christ does not “make void” the Law of God. ***Faith*** “establishes it” (Rom.3:31). How? By writing that “Holy, Just and Good Law (Rom.7:12) in our hearts by the Spirit of God” (2 Cor.3:3; Jer.31:33-34) so “that it becomes the rule of our lives, obeying in ***Love***, given to us by God’s Spirit” (Rom.5:5; 1 John 5:3).

To summarize--we must have Laws to prevent lawlessness. We must have ***Grace*** when we fail the Law. ***Grace*** gives us the ability to keep the Law. We keep the Law because we love Him. Our father’s Laws are now written in our minds and hearts (Heb.10:11-12, 16-17) (***Law and Grace***). But when we fail (Isa.6:4-6; Rom.3:23) and then ***Confess*** our sins, He is faithful and just (***Grace***) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). “If we say we don’t sin--we make Him a liar” (1 John 1:10). “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23).

The writer of Hebrews speaks of an unholy thing they “have done despite unto the Spirit of Grace” (Heb.10:29), and say for those who sin willfully after they have received knowledge of the truth, “there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation” (Heb.10:26-27).

So what do we conclude by studying the ***Manifestation*** of God’s ***Grace***? How is it to affect us? Peter summarizes it best (1 Peter 4:1-10).

The effect of ***Grace*** on mankind could not possibly allow man to continue in sin for

the very reason that we are not under the Law but under **Grace**. God's **Grace** removes sin! It cleanses our heart, giving us a new outlook on life.

So just what is sin? Why do we need God's **Grace**? Where did sin begin? Sin entered the world "by one man Adam, and when he did, sin entered the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned" (Rom.5:12). "For in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be alive" (1 Cor.15:21-22). Genesis chapter 3 tells of Adam and Eve's sin and their being driven from their Edenic home and the right to the Tree of Life taken from them. Here is where "sin entered the world, and the death by sin" (Rom.5:12). The death penalty was pronounced upon them there. Sin entered, but what is sin? "Whosoever committed sin **Transgresseth** also the Law (Ten Commandments): for sin is the **Transgression** of the Law" (1 John 3:4). "For where no law is, there is no **Transgression**" (Rom.4:15). There is no sin if there is no Law. So Paul's question really is, shall we continue breaking God's Law because we are not under the Law? "God forbid" (Rom.6:1). His answer literally means, "How shall we who are dead to sin **Transgress** the Law (Ten Commandments) and continue breaking the Law" (Rom.6:2)?

Sin is not represented in the Bible as the absence of good, or as an illusion that seems from our human limitation; sin is portrayed as a real and positive evil. Sin is more than unwise, inexpedient, calamitous behavior, that produces sorrow and distress. It is rebellion against God's Laws (Ten Commandments), the standard of righteousness (Psa.119:166). We can sin also by **Transgression** of God's will, ether by committing to do what God's Law requires or by doing what it forbids. The **Transgression** can be in Thought (1 John 2:11); by Words (Matt.5:22); or by Deeds (Rom.1:32).

Prejudice and showing partiality, is also breaking the Law. To be Law--abiding, we

must keep all of the Ten Commandments, even those we do not like! Christian freedom imposes a greater responsibility to keep the Spirit of the Law. “For whosoever shall keep the Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” Why? Because we will be judged by the Law of liberty; the **“Ten Commandments”** (James 2:9-13).

The fifth step for a person who is seeking **Salvation** is to be **Born Again**. **Salvation**, in the New Testament, related directly to sin. If nothing else, we can say with Jesus and the Apostles that God’s children have already been **Saved** from the guilt and penalty of their sins, and now being **Saved** from the grip and practice of our sins, and will yet be **Saved** from the presence and possibility of all sin for eternity.

Do you know what being **“Born Again”** means? Don’t be to sure you know! Many religious people talk about being **“Born Again”**--yet they don’t really know what Jesus meant by those words. This is surprising, startling---here made so plain you will understand what **Salvation** and being **“Born Again”** means!

It may come as a surprise to some that **Salvation** and being **Born Again** are not synonymous. As we all know, a child’s birth is an event that happens to him once at the beginning of life. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye must be **Born Again**” (John 3:7). He then explained that He was speaking of a spiritual birth. As with a physical birth, the spiritual birth also is the beginning of life; a spiritual life. It is often referred to as being **Saved**, but unlike being **“Born Again,”** to be **“Saved”** is an ongoing rather than a once only event. In brief being **“Born Again”** is an event, once in a life time. Being **Saved** is a process (1 Cor.15:1-2). The babe in Christ was forgiven and **Saved** from sin, from then on we are **“Being Saved,”** and as long as we walk upright and we who “endure to the end, shall be **Saved”** (Matt.24:13). The scripture gives no credence to such doctrines as

“once *Saved*, always *Saved*.”

We must *Believe* and *Repent*, and then be *Baptized*, into the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way to be *Born* into the family of God. We are not only a new *Born* baby into the family of God, but now, most of all, we have a new relationship with God. It is plain that God desires a relationship, not mere *Obedience* to His Commandments. Like a Father He wants a loving trust, not fear. When any person exercises that *Faith* in Christ, the resulting life can only be described as having come from “*Being Born*” all over again, a new birth.

Perhaps the concluding part should suggest a related truth. After birth, comes growth and maturity. That is as much a part of God’s plan as is the first step of spiritual rebirth.

There are prerequisites to bring *Born Again*, or *Saved*. *Believing*, *Baptism*, and *Repentance* is the first steps toward being *Born* of the *Spirit*. Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt.4:17). Paul speaks of Jesus as “The author of eternal *Salvation* unto all of them that obey Him” (Heb.5:9). *Repentance* is the most important act of *Obedience* to God in a Christian life. There is no other way to be *Born* (as a new Baby) into the family of God and be *saved*.

Peter advise that “*Newborn* babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). Thus babes become children, but adolescents need more nourishments than milk alone can provide. We must grow to maturity.

If a *New Born* does not receive proper nourishment, he will die in infancy. Sadly, this has happen to many. Why? First, we must recognize the fact that, “It is not in man to direct his own steps” (Jer.10:23). “The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be” (Rom.8:7). “For to be carnally minded

is death; but to be spiritual minded is life and peace” (Rom.8:6).

After becoming a new babe in Christ, we must first “hunger and thirst after righteousness” (Matt.5:6). Then, “Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life” (John 5:39). To a person just beginning his or her journey unto **Salvation** it is best to begin reading the plain teaching of Jesus and His Apostles called the Bible which is the road map to eternal life. Why? Because “the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto **Sanctification** to everyone that **believe**” (Rom.1:16).

Why is it so important to study the word of God so we can become mature Christians? The little bit of knowledge (milk) is not enough. “Therefore, leaving the principles (word of the beginning) of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection” (maturity) (Heb.6:1). “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind (false) of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in vain to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things which is the head, even Christ” (Eph.4:14-15). “This strong meat (God’s word) belongs unto them that are of full age“ (Heb.5:14).

“The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto **Salvation** to everyone that **Believeth.**” “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you” (Col.3:16). The importance of Jesus words cannot be overemphasized. “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). There is no other way! Jesus came to redeem men from their fallen state; by His Words and Life. He pointed the way. It is the way of the cross. “He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up the cross daily, and follow me” (Luke 9:23). “Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:27).

The joy of the gospel is that our relationship with God is not in daily jeopardy based on our performance of works. The message of the New Covenant is that we have a right to be in God's household because we were **Born** to Him. He called us. He brought us to a spiritual **New Birth** and placed us in His family. He made us heirs of His Kingdom through Jesus Christ His Son. Wherefore my brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure for if ye do the things, ye shall never fall.

The sixth step in the plan of **Salvation** is **Obedience**. This is speaking of the Ten Commandments as Romans chapter 7 verse 7 clearly quotes from the Law. And the divine rule says, "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb.12:14-15). Holiness means **Obedience** from the heart of all to that Holy Law. Without that **Obedience** to this Holy Law, no man will see God, or be **Saved**.

We receive **Justification** (Rom.5:1), free pardon from all our past sins (Rom.3:23-25). We are clean, "seeing ye have **Purified** your soul in obeying the truth through the spirit--- being **Born Again**" (1 Peter 1:21-23). By God's Words, we have seen so far: **Grace**, mercy, kindness, clemency, unmerited favor, merciful, divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in our life, compassion, gratitude, love, Law-All the rules of conduct established by God; that are applicable for the Christians today.

Having freely given of His (God's) **Grace**, He **Saved** us from our sins (Matt.1:21-22). He makes us clean, and the old life is dead and buried (Rom.6:3-10).. This sane **Grace** teaches us to live righteous, Godly, and **Obedient** lives in this world (Titus 2:12-15). The gospel teaches **Obedience** to all the **Commandments!** "Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I came not to destroy (the Law), but to fulfill...till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the Law, till all be

fulfilled. Not one jot was changed nor was the Law abolished (Matt.5:18).

We must do and teach all of the *Ten Commandments* as part of the Gospel. It must be emphasized the importance of these *Commandments* often loud and clear, those who will hear. This is a message which is seldom uttered among the Christian clergy, allegedly because the majority do not want to hear it. Too many people object to the idea of obligation of requirements in order to please God. They demanded free *Salvation*, free *Grace*, freedom from *Law*, freedom from *Restraint*, freedom to do as one wishes, and still maintain citizenship in the Kingdom of God.

Many churches in their eagerness to bring the lost into their fold have accommodated unbelievers with a pattern of worldliness that is acceptable to the general unbelieving public. Churches try to accommodate themselves to the current fads in the world. The effort is to attract youth through entertainment rather than to offer them a challenge to take up the cross and follow Jesus, To the rich young ruler of the book of Mark chapter 10, verses 17-22, the message was that if he wanted to follow Jesus, he had to give up his worldly concept, his ambition to be rich, and become totally dependent upon Christ. The things he loved most he had to give up in order to be a follower of Jesus.

The *“Easy Believer”* that is so popular today doesn’t resemble the gospel of the Kingdom Jesus preached. It is tragic when many take the worldly ambition of the flesh, give them religious titles and peddle them as God’s given “ministries.” It is about time we stop offering the world entertainment, fun, games, and a “health and wealth” gospel, and challenge both youth and aged to take seriously the call of Jesus to deny self, take up the cross and follow Him.

Is *Obedience* to God’s *Ten Commandments* required for us to have eternal life? Yes,

by drawing close to God is the process of *Sanctification*. The cleansing of the Soul is *Sanctification*. This *Purification* of the heart is *Sanctification*. *Sanctification* assures that we will be effective and productive Christians if we love God and keep His *Commandments*. The fact remains that keeping the *Commandments* that Jesus gave is the only acceptable evidence that we love God.

“Why call me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)? The great Commission should forever be sufficient cause for anyone to recognize the importance of obeying the *Commandments* which Jesus gave to His disciples, irrespective of any other portion of Holy writ anywhere else in the Bible. This does not override nor contradict the doctrine of *Grace*; there is no conflict here. We are saved by *Grace* through *Faith*, but that does not relieve us of the obligation of obeying whatsoever Jesus commanded His people to do. Grace is the empowerment needed to observe (obey, keep, do), His *Commandments*.

God, after this, said of His *Salvation* for bringing people from this fallen world into Eternal and Perfect life with God. “My *Salvation* is gone forth...My *Salvation* shall be forever...that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Laws” (Isa.51:5-7).

“If ye keep my *Commandments*, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s *Commandments*, and abide in His Love” (John 15:10).

“He that hath my *Commandments*, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:” (John 14:21a).

In sum, growing Christians not only maintain *Faith* in Jesus, but strive daily to follow in His steps. It is inappropriate to claim Christ and not be willing to do what He says. “He that rejected me, and received not my words, hath one that judgeth him the word that

I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last days” (John 12:48). This includes our **Obedience**, not just the moral standards of the **Ten Commandments**, but to all that Christ **Commanded** concerning attitudes, lifestyle, and concern for others. We must not only talk like Christians, but we must walk like Christians, dress like Christians. Anything less is mere lip service. Why should we be so concerned about God’s **Commandments**? Because we will be judged by the Law of Liberty (Commandments) “Without mercy” (James 2:12-13).

“Now by this we know that we know Him (Jesus), if we keep His **Commandments**. He that saith, I know Him, and keep not His **Commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:3-4).

The **Ten Commandments** are still relevant today. The world desperately needs to see the name and character of God displayed in the lives of Christians who still take His Words seriously. These **Commandments** particularly coupled with the teaching of Christ and Paul’s, are still the best guidelines for practical daily living known to man. “Wherefore the Law is Holy, and the **Commandments** Holy, and Just, and Good (Rom.7:12).

Why Is God’s **Commandments** so important to know and keep? Paul tells us that “he would not known sin, but by the Law” (Rom.7:7). “For this is the love of God, that we keep His **Commandments**: and His **Commandments** are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). Why? Because “whosoever committed sin transgress also the Law: for sin is the transgression (breaking) of the Law” (1 John 3:4). John is speaking of sin; the author wishes to make clear that he speaking of actual infraction of the moral Law. Hence, to sin (meaning to break the moral Laws, to do wrong), is to belong to the devil: to remain

in Christ is to be righteous as He is righteous (meaning to practice righteousness, to do right) (1 John 3:7). Jesus said, “if you love me keep my *Commandments*” (John 14:15). “He That hath my *Commandments* and keep them, he it is that love me” (John 14:21). “If a man love me, he will keep my Words” (John 14:23). “But, he that love me not keepeth not my saying” (John 14:24).

The ultimatum is clear and positive: Jesus demands *Obedience* to His teaching. Refusal to do so (or at least put forth an effort), indicates a condition of rebellion and defiance of the Words of the Creator, a most serious offense. Let us not suppose that He looks the other way when people purposely, deliberately, and intentionally disregard His Words and Teaching.

Although God gave the *Ten Commandments* to His People through Moses at Mount Sinai more than 4,000 years ago, they are still relevant today. They have an abiding significance, for God’s Character is unchangeable. These Laws originate from God and from His Eternal Character; therefore, moral value cannot be changed.

You will find in Scripture that there were Laws, as well as Statutes and Judgments given. God’s covenant with Israel was the **Ten Commandments**. “If ye will obey My voice indeed and keep my covenant, then you will be a peculiar treasure unto me” (Ex.19:5). God “wrote them with His own finger” (Ex.31:18), upon “Two tables of Stones” (Deut.4:13). God’s Scriptures says, ”He that turneth away his ears from the Law even his prayers shall be an *Abomination*” (Prov.28:9). There are many more Scriptures telling us the need for Christians to keep God’s *Ten Commandments* in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament.

Among the last words Christ gave to the people of the world after His **Resurrection**

and *Ascension*, were His words emphasizing the following of God's *Commandments* for *Salvation* into the eternal and perfect life: "Blessed are they that do God's *Commandments* so that they may have the "Right" to enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev.22:14). Along with the statement, "Here are they that keeps the *Commandments* of God and the *Faith* of Jesus" (Rev.14:12), David said, "The Law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul" (Psa.19:7). And because the woman (Church) that were keeping God's *Commandments*; this made the great Dragon, that Old Serpent, the Devil furious and he went to make war with the small group that keeps the *Commandments* of God and the *Testimony* of Jesus Christ (Rev.12:17).

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish any thing from it, that ye may keep the *Commandments* of the Lord your God, which I command you" (Deut. 4:2; Rev.22:18-19). "I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal.3:6). And the scripture says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever" (Heb.13:8).

God speaks of a "Foundation of paths of generations to dwell in" and says of his *Sabbath* being a very important *Commandment* of His *Ten Commandment* Law, and emphasizing the blessing He bestows for keeping His *Sabbath* by saying, "If thou turn away thy foot from the *Sabbath*, from doing thy pleasure on My Holy Day, and call the *Sabbath* a delight, the Holy of the Lord, honorable and shalt honor Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, or speaking thine own words; then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon high places of the earth" (Isa.58:12-14). Why? Because "God *Blessed* and *Sanctified* the Seventh Day *Sabbath* and made it Holy" (Gen.2:3; Ex.20:11).

God's desire for His human creations to remember Him and His creations of the world

and all people and all else therein, He created the **Sabbath** on the Seventh Day (Gen.2:2-3). And said “Remember the **Sabbath** day to keep it holy, the Seventh Day is the **Sabbath** of the Lord thy God” (Ex.20:8-10), and said that His weekly “Seventh day **Sabbath** shall be for a **Perpetual** (forever) Covenant” (Ex.31:16), and all through God’s Scripture it was kept by God’s followers. Notice, the **Sabbath** was a part of Creation and the **Sabbath** belong to God, not just the Jews but to God, who Created it for man. Christ said, “The **Sabbath** was made for man, not man for the **Sabbath**” (Mark 2:27). “The Seventh Day is the **Sabbath** of the Lord thy God” (Ex.20:10). “The Lord’s Day” (Rev.1:10). “The Son of man is Lord also of the **Sabbath**” (Mark 2:28). It was Christ’s custom to keep God’s **Ten Commandment** law and God’s Seventh Day **Sabbath**. He taught that all people should keep God’s **Commandments** forever, including the Christian Seventh Day **Sabbath** Commandment. The Apostle Peter said that Christ left “us an example that ye should follow in His steps” (1:Peter 2:21).

Christ and Christ’s followers and all the early Christians long after Christ’s Ascension, and the Apostles had passed on (died), and many Christians the world over have kept God’s Seventh day **Sabbath** every since, even today. And says that in the Eternal and perfect life, we will continue to keep God’s Seventh day **Sabbath** throughout the 1000 years reign with Christ. Paradise lost; Paradise gained. “From one new moon to another, and from one **Sabbath** to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord” (Isa.66:23). “All thy **Commandments** are Righteous, Faithful, true, Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settle in Heaven” (Psa.119:72, 86, 89, 151).

A Bible study about the Origin and Purpose of the **Sabbath** Day, shows that it was made for man, when man was Pure and Holy, and was enjoying the Perfect Kingdom

created for him on earth, and review of texts in Chapter 3 and 4 of the book of Hebrews. “There remained therefore a rest (*Sabbath*) to the people of God” (Heb.4:8-9).

Since the word “*Sabbath*” means “Day of Rest,” It would seem obvious that its original and primary purpose must have been to provide a specific and uniform day of rest from all ordinary labor. This by no means implies, however, that the *Sabbath* was to be spent in idleness, nor that the chief purpose of the *Sabbath* was for recuperation from the fatigue due to the six days of work. For it is obvious that the *Sabbath* was also intended to make possible the assembly of God’s People for Worship and Praise; to provide uniform time for joint meditation and consideration of the blessing received at the hands of the Creator, and to become a *Memorial* forever of the marvels of God’s creation and of the Divine rest thereafter.

The *Sabbath* was given to mankind at the close of Creation by God as a *Memorial* of His creative power (Gen.2:1-3). That is, His sovereignty chose it to be the day whereby man would be linked to God by a weekly Day of Rest. Not just any day, but the Seventh Day (Saturday), whereby man’s loyalty to His Creator would be tested, and as a mark of man’s *Sanctification* (Ex.31:13; Eze.20:12). *Sabbath* begins at sunset on Friday and ends Saturday evening at sunset (Lev.23:32).

For *Sabbath* to be of greatest value, we must reevaluate our attitude toward it. Never intended to be a punishment or penalty, it has always been a *Gift*, a blessing, a symbol of God’s creation, Redemptive love.

Humanity’s inherent sinfulness, our greed for time, prompts us to rebel against the *Gift*---to see it as something thrust upon us. Satan’s deception labels the *Sabbath* a “burden.” The *Sabbath* has a purpose for us.

Changing the way we express our commitment to the **Sabbath** may benefit us. For this reason I prefer to say that we Celebrate the **Sabbath**, rather than we keep or observe it. The latter terms emphasize the legal obligation of **Sabbath**, rather than its purpose as a **Spirit**-directed **Gift** set apart for our rest and restoration. More than an act of compulsion, **Sabbath** is celebrated because we cannot comprehend missing its joy. We do not suffer for the cause of the **Sabbath**: rather, we suffer when we miss participating in it.

In the words of Isaiah, proper Sabbath observance ranked high in the eyes of the Lord (Isa.58:13-14). New Covenant **Sabbath** observance encompasses not polluting the **Sabbath**, explained in the writing of the prophets, including Jesus who brought Salvation.

Who can say that Isaiah 56 is not part of “whatever things were written before were written for our learning” (Rom.15:4).

Few doctrines are as well documented in the Bible, by both precept and practice, as the observance of the **Sabbath**. The Bible gives the examples and teaching of Jesus, clarifying **Sabbath** observance that would not have been important had He intended to revoke the **Sabbath** Commandment.

Jesus clarified proper **Sabbath** observance in the same way he clarified other misunderstood Old Testament instructions, such as those regarding marriage and divorce and taking revenge by “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” These were clarifications for the church age, not just for the times of His short ministry on earth.

We also have the example of the Apostles and the Christian church many years after His resurrection. Taken together, these facts from the New testament give strong support for **Sabbath** observance. These accounts illustrate that Paul and the first century church made the **Sabbath** the principal day to congregate for worship and preaching the Word of

God. While evangelism and Bible teaching occurred other days of the week.

The seventh and final step we must take is to be Baptized with the *Holy Spirit*. First, let us get the record straight about the Baptism of the *Holy Spirit*. Being Baptized by the *Holy Spirit* is the same as being filled with the *Holy Spirit* (Acts 1:5; Acts 2:4). The *Holy Spirit* appears in the Gospel of John as the *Power* by which Christians are brought to *Faith* and Helps them to understand their walk with God. The *Holy Spirit* brings a person to a *New Birth*, “that which is born of the flesh, and that is born of the *Spirit*” (John 3:6). “It is the *Spirit* who gives life” (John 6:63). The *Holy Spirit* is our helper, whom Jesus promised to His disciples after His Ascension into heaven. The *Holy Spirit* reveals to Christians the deep things of God (1 Cor.2:10-12), and the mystery of Christ (Eph.3:3-5). The *Holy Spirit* seals the *Believer* for the day of *Salvation* (Eph.4:29-30), by which they walk and live (Rom.8:3-6).

It is the *Holy Spirit* that produces the Fruit of the Spirit in a Christian Life. But the “flesh,” is the sinful disposition of the human heart. The Spirit is the change or *Purified* state of the soul by *Grace* and Spirit of God that are represented by the Apostle Paul as trees, one that yields good fruit, the other bad fruit; the productions of each being according to the nature of the tree, as the tree is according to the nature of the seed from which it sprang. The bad seed produced a bad tree, yielding all manner of bad fruit; the good seed produced a good tree, bringing forth fruit of the most excellent kind. The tree of the flesh, with all the bad fruit, we have already seen; the tree of the *Holy Spirit* with its good fruit, we shall now see in the characteristic and the attribution of Christ in a Christian life (Matt.7:16-19). “Wherefore by their fruit ye shall know them” (Matt.7:20). If we live in the Spirit, and if we profess to Believe a Spiritual religion, let us also walk in

the Spirit--let us show in our lives and conversation that the Spirit of God dwells in us. (Gal.5:25).

For we, Christians, through the Spirit, through the operation of the *Holy Spirit*, under this spiritual dispensation of the gospel, wait for the hope of righteousness---expect that which is the object of our Hope, on our being *Justified* by *Faith* in Christ. Righteousness may here, as in many other places of Paul's Epistles, means "*Justification.*" And the home of *Justification*, or the Hope excite and inspired by it, is the possession of eternal glory; says the Apostle (Rom.5:1-2). "Being *Justified* by *Faith*, we have peace with God" (Gal.5:5).

The primary work of the *Holy Spirit* in the individual, and the Church, is with the gospel (Rom.1:16-17) to Cleanse and *Sanctify* each person from all sins; making them then a new creature in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph.5:25-27; 2 Thes.2:13). Then, after *Purifying* and Cleansing us from all iniquity (Acts 15:9; 2 Con.6:14-18); thus making us a clean temple for God to dwell in, through the Spirit (1 Con.6:19-20). The Comforter is invited into our hearts to abide there. For what purpose? To guide us into all truth, and the Power to maintain a holy, *Sanctified* life before God.

The work of the *Holy Spirit* is Conviction. Jesus explained in John 16:8 that the *Holy Spirit* Convicts the world concerning sin, Righteousness and Judgment. The *Holy Spirit* *Regenerates* the **Believer**. Jesus spoke of it as a *New Birth*, being *Born Again* of the Spirit (John 3:1-8). The *Holy Spirit* Indwells the child of God. Jesus said, "He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). The *Holy Spirit* Seals the Saints with a promise (Eph.1:13). A Seal preserves and protects; it identifies. The *Holy Spirit* is God's stamp of approval, of acceptance, of adoption into the family of God. The *Holy*

Spirit Comforts and Guides. When the Comforter (Spirit) comes, “He will guide you into the truth” (John 16:13). The ***Holy Spirit*** has Pledged or Promised our inheritance, a sample, a foretaste of the marvelous things God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor.2:9-10). Remember that the Spirit is the ***Power*** of God.

Jesus did ascend to the Father’s right hand in heaven as the scripture teaches, but He did not leave His children alone, or orphans. Another ***Comforter*** was promised and given; God’s ***Holy Spirit*** of truth. What and who is that other ***Comforter***? “Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:16-17).

But Jesus promised, “I will come to you.” The ***Holy Spirit*** comes from the Father, and through His Spirit He dwells in His children; but what about the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ? In verse 26 of chapter 14 in the book of John, we have the answer. “But the ***Comforter***, which is the ***Holy Spirit***, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance.”

The primary work of the ***Holy Spirit*** is in the individual, and the Church, is with the gospel (Rom.1:16-17), to ***Cleanse*** and ***Sanctify*** each person from all sin; making them new creatures in Christ Jesus our Lord (Eph.5:25-27). Having the Spirit of God within us carries some responsibility. The ***Holy Spirit*** is the Power sent into every heart that knows Jesus Christ by a true and living ***Faith***. Once we understand the ***Holy Spirit***, what must we as Christians do?

Make it priority! “Don’t be drunk with wine, rather, be filled with the Spirit” (Eph.5:18). This verse tells us to make the issue of the Spirit a priority in our lives. It uses the word filled, meaning “crammed” or leveled off. Our duty is to ***Pray*** in the Spirit,

advising us that we Pray with awareness of the Spirit's ministry: the Spirit's presence right there while we offer the Prayers (Rom.8:26). Praying in the Spirit is praying in a Spiritual attitude, not a carnal attitude. We must sing in the Spirit. Paul says for us to sing with feeling and with meaning (1 Con. 14:15). The Bible demands that "Those who worship Him must worship Him in the Spirit." This simply says to rise above the earthly plane in our relationship with the Lord and in our worship (John 4:23).

All Christians must Walk in the Spirit. This describes the condition where God's Spirit is going before, hovering over, following on either side and behind, "Walk in the Spirit and you will not carry out the lust of the flesh" (Gal.5:25). We must be willing to be led by the Spirit. The word Led can also mean "Driven." Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness (Matt 4:1). The same word in Galatians 5:18 would read "If you were driven by the Spirit, you're not under the Law." There is a great difference between Led and being Driven. The Spirit cannot drive us unless we are willing.

Keep in mind that a Temple is a home. It's a place to live; the Spirit's home, since the body is the Temple of the *Holy Spirit*, Christians are to take care of their bodies. To have the Spirit is to have life, and to have it more abundantly. Jesus appeared to the Believers after His resurrection and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

"So there is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Jesus Christ, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom.8:1-4). Those who are walking after the spirit are God's Children (Gal.3:26-27). They are new creatures in Christ, living *Obedient* lives to God's *Ten Commandments*. No condemnation.

How do God's people perform effective service for others? The answer is in the *Gifts* of the Spirit; different from the *Fruit* of the Spirit. The *Fruit* of the Spirit are related to

identity--who we are. The **Gifts** of the Spirit are related to activity--what we do.

The Fruit of the Spirit means our Christian character. The Gifts of the Spirit means Christ like service to others. All the Fruits are intended for and available to every Christian. They are distributed to all the body of Christ (The Church). All the **Gifts** are not intended for and available to every Christian. They are distributed to each member of the body individually, as God chooses (Gal. 5:22-23).

Combining the list does not exhaust the potential working of the Spirit. Any Spiritual talent or tendency that God imparts to His children for service to the kingdom of God may be considered a **Gift** of the Spirit.

The Ten Commandments about the **Holy Spirit** of God:

Ask for the Spirit (Luke 11:13).

Walk in the Spirit (Gal.5:16,25).

Don't grieve the Spirit (Eph.4:30).

Be filled with the Spirit (Eph.5:18).

Don't quench the Spirit (1 Thes.5:19).

Don't be ignorant of the Spirit (1 Con.12:1).

Worship in the Spirit (Phil.3:3; John 4:23-24).

Desire **Gifts** of the Spirit (1 Con.1:7; 12:31;14:1).

Listen to the Spirit (Rev.2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6. 13, 22).

Pray, sing in the Spirit (Jude 20; Rom.8:26; 1 Cor.14:15).

Growing spiritually also involves shunning worldliness. We must not compromise here. Paul wrote, "Abstain from every and all evil" (1 Thes.5:22). If we act and talk and live like sinners, how can we expect people to have confidence in our profession of

Christianity? “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him” (1 John 2:15).

So by now you should know that *Salvation* is not a free **Gift** from God. These Seven Steps is necessary to obtain eternal life. He gave us a manual for guidance, this manual is the Holy Bible. It simply lays down some guidelines for your own safety and the safety of those about you.

Explicit instruction for utilizing the *Holy Spirit's* power in your life are in the Manual's book of I Corinthians, chapter 12 through 14. Read them carefully. Let this study prompt you to open the *Scriptures* and study the Seven Steps to eternal life. Take your Bible, take your concordance. Study the Scriptures on this topic of the Seven Steps to Eternal Salvation.

If you ever had questions about some of these words: **Sanctification**, **Justification**, **Reconciliation** and **Regeneration**, but were afraid to ask, as you will see, this book has most probably addressed those questions. If you ever thought that something about Christianity or the “Holy Bible” are difficult to understand or believe, this book will address these difficulties.

This book points out the Holy Bible passages that address the most important concepts, beliefs, and doctrine of the **Plan of Salvation**. You have the ability to read the Bible and find passages that will lead you to the answers to your most fundamental questions. Intelligent, reasoning minds are meant to be put to use. You can apply your intelligent and reasoning ability to the evidence to find the answers to your most fundamental questions.

I believe the greatest humanitarian good I can do for my fellow man, is to expose the

deception, false promises, unfounded teaching of Christianity. This book uses the Holy Bible in its overwhelming primary source of evidence. This book is one of the compilation of evidence and arguments that confronts us that **Salvation** is free. We can see that it is **Conditional**. The Bible tells us that if we are to receive Eternal Life, we must do certain things. In the Old Testament Scriptures, it is keeping His **Commandments, Statutes and Laws**. In the New Testament it is **Conditional**, like, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples” (John 8:31). “If you love me, keep my Commandments” (John 14:15). “If we believe that Jesus died and rose again” (Gal.3:29). “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Rom.8:9). There is more: “If thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Rom.10:9). “Ye are my friends, If ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14). “If you keep my Commandments, ye shall abide in my love” (John 15:10). There is many more verses that shows that Salvation is **Conditional** and cannot be a free Gift.

Let us come to a conclusion as we draw near to the end of this study. As we consolidate this book into a few pages, let us summarize what has been written.

Can a saved person backslide and be lost, or does **Salvation** by **Grace** give us Eternal Security with open--ended indulgence? The Eternal Security doctrine...a false security is...fatal to millions. Eternal Security Doctrine teaches **Salvation (Justification)** by **Faith** alone, with no works of **Obedience** required after **Justification**. Such an idea teaches open--ended indulgence regardless of sins after that one time **Justification**. “You cannot be lost..” In other words, once one becomes saved, he cannot be “unsaved.” He is locked into **Salvation** forever, regardless of one’s lifestyle. This Eternal Security

Doctrine is believed and taught by many Protestants today in many Churches and leading Theological Seminars. For that reason it is one of the dangerous errors believed by millions of People. We should seek Bible answers and be open to God's will as we deal with the question, can a Saved Person ever be lost--going deeper and deeper in sin?

Eternal Security, so misunderstood today, is not according to Scriptures, further, it is very dangerous to Eternal Destiny in that scores of souls have believed it and gone to hell because they continued in a sinning lifestyle while believing they were going to heaven. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that **Grace** may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Rom.6:1-2).

Responsibility accompanies **Grace**. Some Believe that a person once saved is totally free from **Obedience**. Being free from the penalty for past sins is not the same as permissiveness regarding future sins. This extreme view turns God's **Grace** into License to Sin. Paul made no allowance for continued decadent conduct.

God's **Grace** is freedom from sin, not in sin. **Grace** has an obligation for us to live as Christ lived. In our struggle to live as Christ lived, we will fall from time to time. We will never reach the stature of the perfection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates that our Heavenly Father is always willing to accept truly **Repentant** children (Luke 15:11-24). We approach the Throne of **Grace** in full **Faith** and assurance of **Reconciliation**. We all find help there in time of need.

Yet, could we move ourselves from God's loving presence? Could we, as some cynically think, that God's "Business" is forgiving us and then allowing ourselves to return to the decadent conduct of our former ways of life? Once saved; is **Salvation** established for all times?

Eternal Security, so---called, is usually supported with scriptures such as “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved” (Acts 16:31). So, all we have to do is believe. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:23). “All believers sin in words and deeds every day,” Or, “The person who believes he never sins has never been saved in his heart or has not truly repented.” “Once born into the family of God, you cannot be removed,” “For I am persuaded, that nothing can separate us from the love of God” (Rom.8:38-39). “They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one” (Rom.3:12).

The favorite verse to show that we are secure is, “and I give unto them Eternal Life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:28). If this is true, a saved person can never lose his *Salvation*. About no one taking the *Believer* out of the Father’s hand; that is true as long as the *Believer* activates free will to remain in the Father’s hand. However, one’s own free will can remove one out of the book of life (Rev.22:19). “No man” can take me from the Father’s hand, but only I can do that. Countless Scriptures point to the possibility of losing one’s *Salvation* if one so choose to become disobedient to God’s laws.

Will the Unrepentant Backslider be saved though he dies deep in sin? “Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul (man) that sinneth, it shall die” (Eze.18:4). “But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die” (Eze.18:21). “All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live” (Eze.18:22).

Countless Scriptures point to the possibility of losing one's *Salvation* if one so chooses to go back into sin. The Parable of the seeds (Luke 8:5-18). "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt.24:13). "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remained no more sacrifice for sins" (Heb.10:26). "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey Unrighteousness, Indignation and Wrath, Tribulation and Anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil" (Rom.2:8-9).

We now ask the question: "What about the righteous man who turns back into a life of sin and dies therein?" "But when the righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die" (Eze.18:24). Does this man have Eternal Security (saved)? "All his Righteousness" shall not be mentioned: Sin carries the penalty today for the unrepentant backslider.

Salvation is not automatic; locked in. *Salvation* is received by *Faith* as God's *Gift* and then is maintained by activating one's free will in *Obedience* to the *Commandments* of God. Not like the man who escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and then went back into sin. "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb. The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" (2 Peter 2:19-22).

Another error that is taught by the Churches that teaches "once saved always saved" is that even after the *New Birth*--(which they emphasize)--God's children are not all sinners. Those embracing "Eternal Security" believe that one time *Justification* covers

all sins of the **Believer**, past, present and future. Persons continue to sin while professing to be **believers**; thereby, endangering their own Eternal Destinies because a sinning lifestyle is of the devil and not of God.

The New Testament contain examples of those who abandoned or made shipwreck of their Faith. There are also warning about falling from **Grace**. The writer of Hebrews notes the possibility of letting truth slip from us or allowing bitterness to defile us. We understand, then, that our **Salvation** is complete Only In The Future.

If we fail to live the Holy life required by the Gospel, then what? Paul answers in Hebrews 12:14-17. “Follow peace with all men, and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” It means the loss of Eternal Life.

Jesus repeatedly taught this same thing in His Gospel. In Matthew 7:12-14, we read of that broad way that leadeth to destruction, and **Many** go that way. In contrast, He says “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **Few** there be that find it.” Verses 15-20 give warning about False Prophets, or Teachers that pose as God’s Ministers, and leads **Many** away from that **Narrow** way that leads to life eternal (Matt.24:11-14).

Christianity generally agrees with the clear teaching of Paul: “Shall we go on sinning so that **Grace** may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” (Rom.6:1-2). God’s **Grace** is freedom from sin, not freedom to sin. **Grace** has an obligation for us to live as Christ lived. In our struggle to live as Christ lived, we will fail from time to time. We will never reach the stature of the perfection of Jesus Christ. When we fail, there is when God’s **Grace** (forgiveness) enters in; when we confess our sins, He is willing to forgive us of our **Transgression**.

Salvation is by *Grace* alone through *Faith*. However, our *Salvation* is not yet complete. Though we received *Reconciliation* with God, and *Justification* occurred, it is not a finished process. God never leaves us nor forsakes us, but we have the capacity to stop the process. Our *Redemption* involves a past, a present and a future: It is still continuing. God requires our active *Participation* as followers of His teaching to the end of our lives.

Jesus came to save us from sin...not in our sins. “Whosoever committed sin Transgresseth also the Law: for sin is the Transgression of the Law” (I John 3:4). “And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither knows Him” (1 John 3:5-6).

A change of heart takes place by the *Grace* of God, with forgiveness of our past life of sin. This is the *Salvation* by *Grace* of Ephesians 2:1-9. God does for us what we could not do for ourselves. A complete separation from the former life of sin is required.

Truly a change of lifestyle is wrought by the power of the Gospel with God’s Spirit giving the power to live in *Obedience* to His Holy Laws. By that continued *Obedience* we seek glory and Eternal life. “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matt.24:13).

We need to understand the Biblical definition of sin; it is not imperfection in character, such as lapses of memory, rough edges of one’s personality, and the need for growth in character and refinement; these are not sin. They are evidence of fragile, Spiritually fallen morality--clay, dust, smoke, vapors---to use Biblical imagery. To sin, therefore, is a conscious disobedience of God’s way of life: “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal

body, that ye should obey it in the lusts therefore” (Rom.6:12). Sin is knowable when committed; breaking God’s laws.

Nicodemus came to Jesus and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles except God be with Him.” Jesus said unto him, “Except a man be **Born Again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:2-3).

Jesus tells us to **Repent** and the kingdom will be at hand. To **Repent** means to turn around. God asks us to make a complete turn, to turn our lives over to Him. He wants us to give up our own control and learn to love, trust, and obey Him (Keeping the Ten Commandments).

Letting go to give God control is a crisis experience, like a **New Birth**. Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God can be within us. We must be **Born Again** to see it (Luke 17:21). When we’ve come through this crisis of Faith and Will, we’re a new creature, old things have passed away and all things become new.

All people sin and come short of God’s glory. So all of us are dependent on God’s Grace to remove the penalty of our sins. **Grace** liberates **Repentant** sinners from the penalty of death, and sets them free to live life anew through the Power of God’s Holy Spirit. God’s **Grace** releases **Repentant Believers** from the dominion of sin. Christians are not under the penalty of the Law but under **Grace** (Rom.6:23-24; 6:14). “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that **Grace** may abound? God forbid! How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Rom.6:1-2). We are saved from sin so that we may perform good works. We are not saved by works, we are saved for works. Through the weakness of our nature we will, at times, fail. When we sin, we can only hope in one thing. That is, the **Grace** of God by which He imparts to us both a **Repentant**

attitude and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

The **Grace** of God is amazing to those who truly recognize their human fragility in contrast to God's love, Character and Power. It is a blessing when we understand God's plan of **Salvation that** leads to eternal life.

The awareness of God's wonderful plan of **Salvation** should inspire us to praise Him in our daily lives. God's Words and our actions provide an example that we are His "workmanship," through Jesus Christ who lives in us. We show this by "Keeping the **Commandments** of God and the **Testimony** of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17).

Man was given the choice between **Obedience** and Life Eternal, or disobedience and death (Deut.30:15-20). This rule is spelled out to Israel: "See, I have set before thee this day Life and Good, and Death and Evil" (Verse 15). "I have set before you life and death, Blessing and Cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed (children) may live" (Verse 19).

The Gospel gives the free pardon of all pass sins. With that pardon God gives us a clean and pure heart, making us upright as Adam was in Eden. He starts us out with a new life of **Obedience** after we choose life. The condition remains the same as with Adam. We retain the right to Life Eternal by our **Obedience**. To leave that life brings death. God gives everything we need to maintain this Holy Life (2 Peter 1:2-11). "For the wages of sin is death; but the **Gift** of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom.6:23).

God gave us the intelligence to recognize the answers. So we should express our gratitude for the word of God and for His spiritual **Gifts**. God gave us the ability to search for and find evidence that supports or contradicts claims. God gave us the ability

to reason, and the evidence to determine the possibility and the impossibility. So those of us who have received God's *Salvation* and experienced His wonderful deeds must make us eager to tell others that God can deliver and save us. We have the ability to read the Bible and find passages that will direct us to the answers to our most serious fundamental questions. We must never seek glory for ourselves, but rather always desire to manifest God's glory and honor His name before the world. We can apply our intelligence to find the answers to our questions. But if God is to bless us, we must sincerely seek the Lord and not just study the Bible. It is not facts in the head, but truth in the heart, that makes us grow to maturity. Then we can determine whether Churches have misrepresented the Bible and the doctrine. It is our right to search for greater Understanding and the Truth with our intelligence and reasoning minds. If you want real values, get them from the Word of God. It is our right to develop our own Biblical knowledge. So let us go to the Word of God, it is priceless when we seek the truth. It is our right to study and to discover new definitions of theology on our own, and when you live by the word of God, your life becomes amazingly full because the Word of God is powerful and brings joy.

We have the right to our questions being answered and God's Word will guide us on the pilgrim path of life. However, in the meantime, we place our trust in God. Why? Because we are strangers on the earth and need a road map to help us know the way. That road map is the Bible. God gave us our intelligent, reasoning minds to figure out the answers to our questions ourselves. So, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life" (John 5:39).

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