

THE GREAT NEWS

as reported by

JOHN

When the Word Became Human

The One called the Word^a existed before anything was made. He was with God, and He was also God.

²Besides being with God in the very beginning,^a God made everything thru Him.^b

³Of all that has been made, not a single thing was made without His being involved.^a

⁴He also had power within Himself to give life to what He created.^a And when He gave life to mankind, all their senses came alive and they had light and understanding.

⁵The Light^a is still shining in the darkness, but for the most part, those in spiritual darkness have not allowed the Light to illumine them and give them Life.

⁶At the right time, God sent a man into the world scene, whose name was John.

⁷He came to tell people the truth about the Light, so that everyone might come to believe by means of what he was able to tell them.

⁸John himself was not the Light, but he came to tell everyone about the Light.

⁹The true Light, who continues to give light to everyone, was at that time coming into the world.

¹⁰He came to the world that God had created thru Him.^a And yet, the people of the world did not recognize Him for who He really was.

¹¹He came to His own world, country, and people. But even though they were His very own, they refused to receive Him.

¹²But to all who did receive Him,^a to them He gave the capability of becoming children of God—that is, to those who are believing^b in His name.^c

¹³They did not become children of God by natural means, nor as a result of the strong craving of the flesh, nor by the planning of some human being. God Himself gave birth to them.^a

¹⁴So the Word took upon Himself a human body and assumed our human nature in its entirety, and then lived for awhile among us. And we saw His glory—a glory so utterly resplendent that only God's incomparable^a Son could have possessed it—a life abounding in goodness and truth.

1:1a Word is one of the names of Jesus Christ. He is God's word or God's message to mankind. God revealed Himself and expressed Himself to mankind thru Christ. Also, Jesus is the channel thru whom God declared His will and issued His commands. And by Jesus' very word of command all things were created. Genesis 1 & 2.

1:2a Some claim that the *beginning* referred to here is the beginning of eternity. But eternity had no beginning, and it will have no end. The *beginning* here is the beginning of creation.

1:2b 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9c; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2.

1:3a Seemingly, it was the Son, the Word of God, who by faith said, *Let there be light!* Genesis 1:1-25. The Father then brought into being whatever the Son declared by faith, and there was light. The Son of God is always dependent upon the Father for all He does, has, and is. Psalm 2:6-9; 110:1; Matthew 22:44; 28:18; John 5:26; 17:24; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. On the other hand, all things were created by the Father thru the Son, so the Son may have even accomplished the actual creating by means of the power already given Him by the Father. See 1:2 refs.

1:4a John 5:26.

1:5a Jesus is here and in other places called *The Light of the World*.

1:10a 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9.

1:12a ... as *Lord of their lives, and as their Savior from the penalty due them for their sins* ...

1:12b Present participle, denoting present progressive action. See Luke 13:23; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 15:2; 2 Corinthians 2:15.

1:12c See Acts 16:31 note for what it means to *believe in His name*.

1:13a And God brings about this new birth by His Spirit using His message to convince, convict, and completely change a life, from self-centeredness and sin to full dedication to God. See 3:3,6,8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 4:29; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

1:14a Most translations use the term *only begotten* Son. But according to vs 12 and 13, God has also fathered (begotten) all who are true followers of the Lord. The Greek word translated *only begotten* can also be translated *unique* or *incomparable*. It has therefore been judged that the term *incomparable* is best suited here. The same Greek word is used in regard to Abraham's son Isaac, in Hebrews 11:17. But Abraham had many other sons.

¹⁵“This is the One I told you would come!” John cried out to the people. “This is the One about whom I said, ‘The One who will come after me ranks far above me, because He existed long before I was born.’”^a

¹⁶It is out of His superabundance that all of us have received undeserved blessings piled upon undeserved blessings.

¹⁷The requirements of God’s Law were given us thru Moses. But the truth about God’s undeserved love, mercy, and compassion toward us, came to us thru Jesus Christ.^a

¹⁸No mortal has ever seen God. But God’s incomparable Son, who is most intimately close to the Father, has given us a living picture of what He is really like.^a

John the Baptizer’s Message

¹⁹The Jewish authorities sent some priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask John who he was.

²⁰He plainly admitted the truth, not trying to fool anyone. He told them, “I am not the Messiah.”

²¹“Who are you then?” they asked. “Are you Elijah^a?”

“No, I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet that Moses said would come?”^b

“No.”

²²Then they pressed the issue and asked him, “Well, just who are you? Tell us, so that we may return with an answer to the ones who sent us. What do you have to say about yourself?”

²³“I am the one whom the prophet Isaiah spoke about,” he replied. “I am

**The voice of one shouting in the desert,
STRAIGHTEN OUT YOUR WAYS FOR THE
LORD!^a”**

²⁴Incidentally, these priests and Levites had been sent by the Pharisees.

²⁵“Why are you baptizing people then, if you’re not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” they continued.

²⁶“I baptize only in water,” John replied. “But a Person is standing right here among you^a whom you don’t know.

²⁷“He is to become my successor. But He existed before I did, and is so far superior to me that I’m not worthy even to loosen the strap of His sandal.”

²⁸This all took place at Bethany, on the east side of the Jordan River where John was baptizing.

Jesus, the Lamb of God

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and exclaimed, “Look! Here is the Lamb of God^a who takes away the sin of the world!”

³⁰“This is the Man I spoke of when I said, ‘After me a Man will come who is far greater than I am, because He existed long before I was born.’

³¹“I didn’t know who He was myself. But the reason I came here baptizing in water was for the purpose of making Him known to Israel.

³²“I saw the Spirit come down from Heaven like a dove,” John continued, “and He came to rest upon Him, and stayed there.

³³“I didn’t know He was the One^a I was to introduce to Israel. But God, who sent me to baptize in water, had said to me, ‘When you see the Holy Spirit come down and come to rest upon a Man, and stay there, He is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’

³⁴“I saw that happen to Him!^a That’s why I’ve told you so positively that this is the Son of God!”

The First Followers of Jesus

³⁵The next day John was standing with two of his followers when he again saw Jesus walking by.

³⁶“Look!” John said. “There’s the Lamb of God!”

³⁷Upon hearing this, these two followers of John started following Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned around and saw them following, He said, “What are you men looking for?”

“Rabbi,” they replied (Rabbi means teacher), “where are You staying?”

³⁹“Come along, and I’ll show you,” He invited.

Isaac was his unique or incomparable son.

1:15a See vss 29-34 and Matthew 3:13-17, and the notes.

1:17a The old testament Law revealed sin and its consequences, while Jesus revealed the *truth* about God’s love for His children, and his offered mercy.

1:18a ... *by all that He said and did while He was here on earth as the Man Christ Jesus.* If the Father had come to earth in human form, instead of the Son, He would have spoken and acted just like Jesus did. See John 14:7-9, and the notes.

1:21a Malachi 4:5.

1:21b Seemingly, these men didn’t realize that Moses was referring to the coming of Messiah. Deuteronomy 18:15,18; Acts 3:22-23.

1:23a Isaiah 40:3.

1:26a John had baptized this Person, Jesus, some 40 days before this. Matthew 3:13-17.

1:29a Centuries earlier, God had ordered that lambs and other animals be sacrificed in order that He might forgive the sins of the people. But these lambs were merely living pictures of the Lamb of

So they went with Him. When they arrived at His lodging place, it was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and they spent the rest of the day with Him.

⁴⁰One of the two men who had heard what John said, and then followed Jesus, was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

⁴¹The next thing Andrew did was find his brother Simon. "We have found the Messiah!" he exclaimed. (Messiah is Hebrew for Christ.)^a

⁴²Then Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Looking intently at him Jesus said, "You are Simon, the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which translated is *Peter*, meaning, *a stone*).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

⁴³The next day, after deciding to go into Galilee,^a Jesus came in contact with Philip. "Come along with Me," Jesus invited him.

⁴⁴Philip was from Bethsaida, the same city that Andrew and Peter were from.

⁴⁵Philip then hurried off and looked up his friend Nathanael, and exclaimed to him, "We have found the very Person Moses wrote about^a in the Law, the One the prophets also wrote about!^b He's from Nazareth, and His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶"Nazareth!" Nathanael exclaimed. "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

"Come and see for yourself," Philip responded.

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching Him, He said, "Look! Here comes a genuine son of Israel. There is no dishonesty in this man."

⁴⁸"How can You know anything about me?" Nathanael questioned.

"I saw you before Philip spoke to you," Jesus informed him, "when you were under the fig tree."

⁴⁹"Teacher!" Nathanael exclaimed. "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰"Do you believe," Jesus replied, "just because I said I saw you under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than that.

⁵¹"I tell you the absolute truth:" Jesus continued, "In time to come, you will see Heaven opened

wide, and the angels of God springing into action^a and coming down to the Son of Man."

The Wedding at Cana

2 Three days later, Jesus' mother was attending a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

²Jesus and His followers had also been invited.

³When they ran out of wine, Jesus' mother told Him, "They don't have any more wine."

⁴"My dear woman," Jesus replied, "that's not your problem, nor Mine. My time hasn't come yet."

⁵"Do whatever He tells you," His mother told the servants.

⁶Six stone water jars, used by the Jews for ritual washings, were nearby. Each held between 20 to 30 gallons.

⁷"Fill these jars with water," Jesus instructed the servants. So they filled them to the brim.

⁸"Now take some out and bring it to the master of ceremonies," He said. And so they did.

⁹When the host of the feast had tasted the water, which had now turned into wine, he quickly called the bridegroom. He didn't know where the wine had come from, but of course the servants who had drawn the water knew.

¹⁰"Everyone serves the choice wine first," he said to the bridegroom, "and when the folks have drunk freely, then they serve the cheaper brand. But you've kept the best until now!"

¹¹Jesus performed this first miracle at Cana in Galilee, and in this way revealed the glory of His power. His followers' faith in Him greatly increased when this happened.

¹²After this, Jesus and His followers, together with His mother and brothers, went down to Capernaum where they stayed for just a few days.

Jesus Cleans Out the Temple

¹³As it was now almost time for the annual Jewish Passover festival, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴There, right in the Temple courts, He found merchants selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons; and

God (Jesus, the Son of God) who would later be sacrificed for the sins of the world.

1:33a See Matthew 3:14 note.

1:34a Matthew 3:13-17.

1:41a Centuries before, God had promised to send a great Deliverer to Israel, the Messiah. Genesis 3:15, 49:10; Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

1:43a Evidently, Jesus had recently returned from the wilderness, where He had been tempted by Satan. Luke 4:1-13.

1:45a See v 41 refs.

1:45b Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Daniel 7:13-14; 9:24-27; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9.

1:51a Literally *rising up*. Matthew 28:2-7; Luke 22:43; 24:1-9; John 20:11-13. All Heaven was busily concerned about Christ's ministry on earth, and especially at His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Acts 1:10-11.

others were sitting at tables exchanging money.^a

¹⁵After making a whip from some rope, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple area, together with the sheep and cattle. At the same time, He overturned the bankers' tables, spilling their money on the ground.

¹⁶"Get these things out of here!" He powerfully commanded the pigeon sellers. "Don't turn my Father's House into a marketplace!"

¹⁷His followers were then caused to remember^a the Scripture, **My zeal for Your house has become My intense concern and burning passion!**^b

¹⁸The Jewish authorities then challenged Him, "What miracle can you perform for us as proof that you have the right to take such actions?"

¹⁹"Destroy this Temple," He told them, "and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰"It has taken 46 years to build this Temple!" they exclaimed. "And you will rebuild it in three days?"

²¹But the Temple He spoke of was His body.

²²After He had risen from the dead, His followers remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture that predicted His resurrec-

tion^a and what He Himself had said about His rising back to life again.^b

²³Now while He was in Jerusalem at the Feast of Passover, many came to believe that He was indeed the Messiah—their Savior—when they saw the miracles He was performing.

²⁴But Jesus didn't immediately put His trust in them, because He knew everything about every-

one, ²⁵and He needed no one's testimony about anyone. He knew what was in the mind of each of them.

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish Supreme Council, named Nicodemus.

²He came to visit Jesus by night and said, "Teacher, we know You are a teacher sent to us by God, because no one can do the miracles You're doing unless God is with Him."

³"I tell you the absolute truth," Jesus replied, "that unless you are born again,^a you will never see or experience the Kingdom of God."

⁴"How can a person be born again?" Nicodemus

2:14a See Matthew 21:12 note.

2:17a Passive voice. God caused them to remember.

2:17b Psalm 69:9.

2:22a Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:27-32; 13:35-37.

2:22b In this place and Matthew 20:18-19; Mark 8:31; 9:30-31; 10:33-34; Luke 18:32-33.

3:3,5a A life-changing spiritual transformation of profound consequence—an unconditional surrender of your will to God is essential to enter Heaven. See v 6; 1:13, and note; 2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:8-10.

3:7a God demands nothing less than a complete renewal of one's life—a complete change, from living to gratify and satisfy self, to yielding to full obedience to Him. 2 Corinthians 5:17.

To be born again means to be so changed in mind and heart that you sincerely ask God to take full charge of your life for all of life and for all eternity. Anything less is not a new birth, but a counterfeit, and it will not get you to Heaven. If you are depending on anything less, you are still lost, and facing God's judgment in an awful Hell.

There are many calling themselves Christians today who are not. Don't follow them or you will end up with them. Make sure that what you are being taught is the truth, and the full truth. See Matthew 7:21-27.

3:8a The Spirit works where and as He wills, mysteriously, powerfully, and effectively—but still never forcing the will of any person.

The new birth is accomplished by *the Spirit of God* (1:13; Galatians 4:29) using *the word of God* (1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18) to convict and convince you of your sin and of the judgment to come. He also reveals the Savior, who will become your Savior as you turn from your sinning and surrender your will to Him and obey Him. Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 5:9.

3:12a Thruout these notes we point out that two things must happen to a person if he is to gain eternal life. The Apostle Paul said about this, *You must both turn from your sinning and obey God, and believe in our Lord Jesus the Messiah as your Savior.* Acts 20:21. See also Appendix 211, page 476.

And this is what Jesus says here. The first 12 verses deal with the change that must occur in your life, from living to please yourself to living to please God. And verses 14-21 deal with your need of forgiveness for your past sins. And that forgiveness comes thru accepting Jesus as Savior. So you must receive Jesus as both your Lord and your Savior if you are to gain eternal life.

3:14a Numbers 21:4-9.

3:15a Regarding what it means to believe, see Luke 14:26-33; John 3:36; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 3:11, and the notes there.

3:15b ... *beginning now and lasting forever.* But it is more than endless, because it is sharing in the life of God in Christ. All true believers are baptized (placed into, immersed) by the Holy Spirit into

questioned. "Can a man be born when he's old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?"

⁵"I tell you the absolute truth," Jesus again replied, "that unless you are born not only by water, but by the Spirit,^a you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

⁶"Whatever is given birth by the flesh is physical, but only the Spirit of God can give you spiritual birth and renewal, and change you into a child of God.

⁷"So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.'^a

⁸"You know the wind is blowing when you hear it and see what it's doing. But you don't know where it's coming from or where it's going. You can also see the results of the work of the Spirit of God in the lives of people who are born again, even though you can't explain how it all happened."^a

⁹"But, how can such a thing happen?" Nicodemus still questioned.

¹⁰"Are you the respected teacher of Israel, and yet you don't know about such things?" Jesus replied.

¹¹"I tell you the absolute truth," He continued,

"when I tell you that I know what I'm talking about. I'm telling you about that which I have actually seen, and still you people won't accept what I tell you.

¹²"If you don't believe Me when I tell you about things that happen right here on earth, how will you believe if I tell you about things in Heaven?"^a

¹³"Still, no one has ever gone up into Heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from Heaven, and whose home is in Heaven.

¹⁴"And in the same way that Moses lifted up the bronze serpent on a pole in the desert,^a in that same way, I, the Son of Man, must be lifted up on a cross,

¹⁵so that everyone who is believing^a in Me should not perish, but have everlasting life.^b

¹⁶"Because God's love for everyone in the world is so overwhelmingly great,^a He gave His incomparable^b Son as His Lamb to be sacrificed, to endure extreme suffering and shame, and then die, in order that He might make amends for the sins of all mankind,^c so that whoever is believing in Him may not perish^d but have everlasting life.^e

¹⁷"When God sent His Son into the world, it was

union with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27) when they are truly converted to Him. But all believers who earnestly *ask* the Father *for* the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13) will also be baptized *by* Christ (Luke 3:16) *in* the Holy Spirit.

All who earnestly and perseveringly ask (Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8) and receive this baptism *in* the Holy Spirit receive a blessing that is out of this world. But even that is only a very, very small taste of what it will be like to share the life of God in Christ in Heaven. See 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5-6; Ephesians 1:14.

As marvelous an experience as the baptism in the Holy Spirit is, Christ's main purpose in baptizing His followers in this blessing is to empower them for His service. Acts 1:4-14; 2:1-21.

3:16a Just how deeply does God love you? Yes, you! See John 17:23; Ephesians 1:11, and the notes.

3:16b See 1:14 note.

3:16c ... by wiping out even the record of our sins, to bring us into harmony with God.

3:16d The word *perish* is in the subjunctive mood, which is *the mood of mild contingency; the mood of probability*. Also, it's in the middle voice, *which is that use of the verb which describes the subject as participating in the results of the action*. And the action we must take is to believe the truth to the extent that we are believing with the heart, moving us to obedient action. Romans 10:9-10. And according to the subjunctive mood, that heart belief must

continue, otherwise the translation would have been "definitely will not perish" instead of "may not" or "should not perish." The same applies to v 15.

3:16e Why did God do it? Why did He send His Son whom He loved so dearly, to a rebellious people? He knew what would happen. He knew they would finally kill Him.

It was His love for us that compelled Him to do it. God loves us, His created children, *just as much and to the same extent that He loves His Son Jesus*. See John 17:23. And since we were the ones who had rebelled against Him and were facing His righteous judgment in Hell, He did what had to be done. Because of His righteousness and wisdom, He could not simply ignore our sins, so He made the greatest sacrifice He could make for us, at great cost to Himself, so that He could offer us forgiveness for our rebellion.

* * *

Now there is no need for any of us to have to face God's judgment on Judgment Day and be lost. We can accept God's forgiveness (on the terms He sets forth thruout the entire New Testament), and rejoice in the fact that we will live forever in such happiness that we will experience complete and total fulfillment in His presence, forever.

Some even testify today with awe, that they were actually given a very brief taste of that total fulfillment with God. They testify of its most vivid reali-

not for the purpose of passing judgment on the world, but that the world might be saved thru Him.

¹⁸“The person who is now believing in Him is not being condemned. But the one who is not believing has already been condemned, because he has not believed^a in the name of God’s incomparable Son.

¹⁹“And this is why most people will face God’s terrifying judgment: The true Light from Heaven has come into the world, but because their behavior is wicked, these people love the darkness. They want nothing to do with the Light.

²⁰“Every person who lives in sin hates the Light, and shrinks away from the Light, so that the evil he’s doing won’t be exposed.

²¹“But the one who lives by what he knows to be the truth, gladly comes into the Light so that it may be clearly seen that he is living in harmony with God.”

Jesus and John the Baptizer

²²After this, Jesus and His followers went into Judea, where He remained with them for some time, baptizing the people.

²³John was also baptizing at Aenon, near Salim, because there was an abundance of water there, and people were continuing to come to be baptized.

²⁴(This was before John was thrown in jail.)

²⁵An argument about baptism occurred at this time between John’s followers and some of the Jews.

²⁶So they went to John and said, “Teacher, you remember the Man who was with you on the east side of the Jordan River, the Man you talked so highly about. Well, He’s baptizing people now, and everyone is going to Him!”

²⁷“A man can’t receive anything unless it’s been

given to him by God,” John replied.

²⁸“You, yourselves, will admit that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only the one sent to prepare the way for Him.’

²⁹“The bride belongs to the bridegroom. But the bridegroom’s friend, who stands close by and listens to him, is extremely glad just to be there and hear what the bridegroom has to say. So my joy is now complete.

³⁰“It’s only right that He become increasingly more highly regarded, while I become less regarded.

³¹“He came from Heaven and is far greater than all others. A person who is from the earth belongs to earth, and the earth is the source of his knowledge and experience. But this One, who came from Heaven, surpasses all others.

³²“And He’s telling about what He has actually seen and heard in Heaven. Still, no one^a is believing Him.

³³“But everyone who is accepting what He’s telling them as truth, has put their seal of approval on the fact that it is God who is declaring the truth.

³⁴“Because the One whom God has sent is speaking God’s own words, and God has given Him the full power of the Holy Spirit, without measure.

³⁵“The Father loves the Son and has put everything into His hands.

³⁶“The person who is believing in the Son has eternal life. But the person who refuses to live in obedience to the Son will never see life.^a Instead, God’s anger in judgment continues to remain on him.”

Jesus Talks to a Samaritan Woman

4 When the Lord was aware that the Pharisees had heard that He was gaining and baptizing more followers than John

ty and the utterly indescribable wonder of it, a wonder way beyond any earthly experience.

3:18a Because he has taken an attitude of refusal. Perfect tense—implying a process, but viewing that process as having reached its consummation and existing in a finished state. But you can still change your state of rebellion, and cancel God’s judgment upon you by surrendering your will to Him and accepting His forgiveness thru Jesus Christ, and live! For full information and the steps to take, read *The Amazing Story of God*, Appendix 247, page 520.

3:32a That is, *very few*. v 33.

3:36a In this verse the main emphasis is belief in Christ as Lord and Ruler of one’s life—heart-belief in what Christ taught and commanded. It refers to being born again, being truly converted from self-

ishness and sin to sincerely living (by God’s help, Philippians 2:12-13) to please Christ in everything. This is clearly indicated in the second sentence of this verse.

That God equates belief with obedience, and unbelief with disobedience, is clearly set forth in Hebrews 3:19; 4:6,11; 5:9. There is no saving faith apart from obedience. Some translate the Greek word *ápeithoun* in the second sentence to mean *disbelieves* or *rejects* instead of *refuses to live in obedience to*. But such use of the word is done only by some Bible translators, not by those who use the Greek language daily or translate other Greek writings. People of the Greek world know that their word *ápeithoun* means *to refuse obedience* or *refuse to be subject to*. See Romans 2:1-10; 6:16; 2

² (though of course it wasn't Jesus Himself who baptized them—His followers did the baptizing),

³ He left Judea and went back to Galilee.

⁴ But it was necessary for Him to pass thru Samaria on the way.

⁵ In doing so, He came to Sychar, a Samaritan town near the tract of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

⁶ Jacob's well was there. And Jesus, being tired from the long walk, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ He was alone, since His followers had gone into town to buy food.

⁸ But before long, a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus asked her for a drink.

⁹ "How is it that you ask me for a drink," the woman asked, "since I'm a Samaritan woman, and you're a Jew?" (Because the Jews refused to have anything to do with the Samaritans.)

¹⁰ "If you only knew about the wonderful gift that God wants to give you,"^a Jesus replied, "and who it is that has asked you for a drink, you would have asked Me for a drink, and I would have given you water that gives life."

¹¹ "But sir," she said, "you don't even have a rope or a bucket to draw any water, and the well is deep. Where then do you get this life-giving water?"

¹² "You aren't greater than our ancestor Jacob, are you,^a who gave us this well and used to drink from it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?"

¹³ "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again," Jesus replied.

¹⁴ "But whoever drinks the water that I offer will never be thirsty again. In fact, the water I give him will become a gushing spring of water continuous-

ly welling up within him to bring him everlasting life."

¹⁵ "Sir!" the woman exclaimed, "please give me a drink of that water! Then I'll never be thirsty again nor need to come all this way to draw water!"

¹⁶ "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her, "and then come back."

¹⁷ "But I don't have a husband," she replied.

"You are right in saying you don't have a husband," Jesus returned.

¹⁸ "Because you've had five husbands, and the man you now live with is not your husband. So you've told the truth."

¹⁹ "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet!" the woman responded.

²⁰ "Our ancestors worshiped God on this mountain,^a but you Jews claim that Jerusalem is the place where one must worship."

²¹ "Dear woman, you must believe Me," Jesus replied. "The time is coming when you will not be able to worship the Father on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem.

²² "You Samaritans don't know what your worship is all about. But we Jews do know what our worship is about, because salvation is coming to the world thru the Jews.

²³ "But the time is coming, and indeed has already come, when genuine worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth.^a In fact, that's the kind of worship the Father is most earnestly looking for.

²⁴ "God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in all sincerity from the very depth of their being."^a

Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 5:9; 2 Peter 2:10; 1 John 2:3-4,17.

4:10a He was speaking about the gift of God's forgiveness and everlasting life.

4:12a From the word she used, she expected a negative reply.

4:20a Mount Gerazim.

4:23a The *place* of worship is not important. But *how* we worship is important in the most complete and highest degree! Is our worship sincere, genuine, real? It's the spirit and sincerity in which we worship that is all-important. Philippians 3:3.

4:24a Literally *must worship in spirit and truth*. God will accept no other kind of worship. God is a conscious, intelligent, spiritual being who is aware of all that takes place at all times and in all places. There are other spirit beings, but God is the Creator of them all—even of those that have rebelled against Him.

Man is also a spirit being, living in a material body which he will soon leave. Man's spirit, because it is created in the likeness of our Father in Heaven (Genesis 1:26-27), possesses the power of honoring, praising, thanking, and loving the living God.

It is this spirit of love that God demands! He is not so much interested in your going to a certain place and sitting down in a pew, and standing or kneeling at the right time, or singing, reading, or even preaching. He wants the very heart (the heart-center of your emotions) joined in spirit with His spirit in deep love and worship of Him, in all sincerity!

Yes, we are to gather together to worship God, but it must be worship from the heart, or it is worse than nothing. Don't try to fool God with mere body language.

Continued ➤

²⁵“I know that Messiah is coming, who is called Christ,” the woman said. “When He comes He will explain everything to us.”

²⁶“I, the One speaking to you right now, I am the Messiah,” Jesus informed her.

²⁷Just then His followers returned, and they were astonished to find Him talking to a woman.^a But they didn’t ask her what she wanted, or ask Him why He was talking to her.

²⁸At this point the woman left her water pitcher and went into the town and called out to everyone.

²⁹“Come!” she cried out, “and see a man who has told me everything I ever did. He can’t be the Messiah, can He?”

³⁰The people immediately streamed out of the town and made their way toward Him.

³¹At the same time, His followers were urging Him, “Teacher, eat something.”

³²“I have food to eat that you know nothing about,” He replied.

³³At this, His followers began to ask one another, “Has someone else brought Him food?”

³⁴“My nourishment,” Jesus responded, “comes from completely obeying the One who sent Me, and from My concern about completely finishing the work He gave Me to do.

³⁵“Wouldn’t you say there are still four months before harvest? But just look, I tell you! Raise your eyes and look at the fields.^a They are already ripe for harvest.

³⁶“The reaper is being paid even now, and is also having the satisfaction of gathering fruit that will live on forever,^a so that both the sower and the reaper may rejoice together.

³⁷“Here you have the true meaning of the saying, ‘One sows, while another reaps.’

³⁸“I am sending you to reap a harvest which has not been brought to maturity thru your efforts. Others worked hard, and you are receiving the benefits of their hard work.”

³⁹Many of the Samaritans of that town believed

in Him because of the woman’s statement, “He told me everything I ever did.”

⁴⁰So when they came to Him they insisted that He remain with them. So He stayed there two days.

⁴¹Then many more believed because of the things He personally told them.

⁴²They then told the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said, but because we have now heard Him ourselves, we are convinced that this is indeed the Christ,^a the Savior of the world.”

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

⁴³After the two days He left there and continued on to Galilee, *but not to Nazareth,*^a

⁴⁴because Jesus Himself had said that a prophet isn’t respected in His own town.

⁴⁵When He reached Galilee, the Galileans gladly received Him, because they had also attended the Passover Feast in Jerusalem and had seen all the things He had done there at the Feast.

⁴⁶As He traveled about in Galilee He again arrived at Cana, where He had turned the water into wine. At the same time, the son of a certain government official in Capernaum was very sick.

⁴⁷When the man heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he came to Him in Cana and begged Him to come down to Capernaum and heal his son, who was at the point of death.

⁴⁸“You people will never believe unless you see signs and wonders,” Jesus responded.

⁴⁹“Sir,” the man pleaded, “please come down before my little child dies!”

⁵⁰“Go your way,” Jesus replied. “Your son will live.” The man believed what Jesus told him and started for home.

⁵¹While on his way, some of his servants met him with the news, “Your son is better and is going to live!”

⁵²So he asked them when it was that he began to improve. “It was one o’clock yesterday afternoon

You expect deep, heartfelt love from those you love, and God demands no less. There is no possibility that you can be saved from the penalty of your sins and be ready for Heaven, while not really worshipping God in all sincerity in true love from the very depths of your being.

Some claim that Christ offered this woman the water of eternal life without any condition of obedience or surrender to God. But when she indicated a desire to receive this water (v 15) Jesus called her attention to the sinful life she was living, and then told her the kind of worship that was necessary to be accepted by God. And there was no way that she

could continue living in disobedience to God, and yet claim that she was worshipping God acceptably and being accepted by Him.

* * *

Christ’s call to worship the Father *in spirit and in all sincerity from the very depth of our being* is a clear call to the deepest and most extensive kind of spiritual submission. Those who refuse to acknowledge and forsake their sin will discover on that Last Great Day that Jesus is their Judge, not their Savior.

But God is still inviting to Himself all who will submit in obedience to Him. The Savior earnestly desires to receive, forgive, and liberate from sin all

when the fever left him,” they replied.

⁵³The father then realized that this was exactly the time when Jesus had told him, “Your son will live.” So he and his entire household became believers.

⁵⁴This was the second miracle that Jesus performed after arriving in Galilee from Judea.

The Sabbath Healing at the Pool

5 Sometime later, Jesus again went up to Jerusalem for one of the Judean festivals.

²Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem, there’s a pool surrounded by five porches, which in Hebrew is called Bethesda.

³A great number of sick people—blind, lame, and paralyzed—were lying on these porches, waiting for the water to stir,

⁴because at certain times an angel came down to the pool and stirred up the water. Then whoever got into the pool first, after the water was stirred, was cured of whatever ailment he suffered.

⁵One of the men lying there had been an invalid for 38 years.

⁶When Jesus saw him, knowing that he had been in that condition a long time, He asked him, “Do you wish to get well?”

⁷“Sir,” the sick man replied, “I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; but while I’m on my way, someone else always steps down ahead of me.”

⁸“Stand up and pick up your mat and walk!” Jesus told him.

⁹Instantly the man was well, and he picked up his mat and began to walk. This occurred on a Sabbath.^a

¹⁰So the Jewish authorities challenged the man who was cured, saying, “This is the Sabbath! It’s not lawful for you to carry your mat on the Sabbath!”

¹¹“But the Man who healed me told me to pick up my mat and walk,” he replied.

who will come to Him in true sincerity. Call out to Him and see how true this is.

4:27a It was considered very improper for a man to talk to a woman in public.

4:35a He was evidently pointing to the crowds approaching from the town.

4:36a The souls of converts, who will live on forever. There will also be rich eternal rewards for all who have labored faithfully to win those souls to Christ.

4:42a Or *Messiah*.

4:43a Implied.

5:9a Saturday, the Jewish day of rest.

¹²“Who told you to do that?” they demanded.

¹³But the man who had been healed didn’t know who it was, because Jesus had moved away, and the place was crowded.

¹⁴Later on Jesus came across him in the Temple area. “Listen!” He said to the man. “You are well now, but don’t sin any more or something even worse may happen to you.”^a

¹⁵The man then went off and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him.

¹⁶So because of this, these Jewish authorities began to keep up a steady harassment of Jesus and began looking for a way to kill Him, because He was doing such things on the Sabbath.

¹⁷“My Father is continually working, even up to the present moment, and so am I,” He answered them.

¹⁸But this made them more determined than ever to kill Him, because not only was He breaking the extra laws they had made about the Sabbath, but He was also speaking of God as being His own Father, thereby making Himself equal with God.

The Son’s Authority

¹⁹“I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus told them, “the Son can do nothing by Himself.^a He can do only what He sees the Father doing. Because whatever the Father does, the Son does also, and in the same way.

²⁰“Because the Father loves the Son, He shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him even greater things to do than these, so that you will be amazed.

²¹“Because in the same way that the Father awakens the dead and gives them life, the Son does also. He gives life to anyone He chooses.

²²“In fact, the Father doesn’t judge anyone, but He has entrusted all judgment into the hands of the Son,

²³so that everyone may honor the Son in the same way that they honor the Father. So those

5:14a See Galatians 6:7-8, and the note there.

5:19a The Son is so in union with the Father that He can and will do nothing independently or separately from the Father. He does only that with which the Father is in total agreement and which He commands. This is the perfect oneness that exists between the Father and the Son—the same oneness that God desires between each believer and Himself (John 17:20-23)—with the same results (John 14:12-14) when the same perfect oneness is attained.

5:24a The word *listening* suggests moral as well

who refuse to honor the Son are refusing to honor the Father who sent Him.

²⁴“I tell you the absolute truth: Whoever makes a practice of listening^a to what I tell him to do, and believes^b the message of the One who sent Me^c — he has eternal life. He will not come into judgment. He has passed^d out of death into life.

²⁵“I assure you most sincerely that the time will come, and is here even now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who take heed to what they hear will become alive.^a

²⁶“Because, just as the Father has power to give life, He has given the same power to the Son.^a

²⁷“He has also given His Son the right to judge mankind, because He is the Son of Man.^a

²⁸“Don’t be surprised at this, because a time is coming when all who are dead in their graves will hear His voice and will rise from those graves!

²⁹“Those who in life practiced doing good will be raised to live forever, and those who continued to indulge in their sinning will be raised for judgment.^a

³⁰“And even when I judge, I can do nothing by Myself, but I judge according to whatever the Father tells Me. And My decisions are just, because I never desire to please Myself, but to please My Father who sent Me.

Testimonies About Jesus

³¹“If I had no other evidence than My own testimony about Myself, that would not be enough proof.

³²“But someone else is also testifying about Me, and I know that His testimony about Me is true.

³³“You yourselves sent representatives to question John, and he told you the truth about Me.

³⁴“But I don’t depend on what people say about Me. I simply mention this about John so that you may be convinced concerning the truth about Me and be saved.

³⁵“John was like a burning lamp that shined brightly. And you were willing for a short while to be extremely happy in the light he gave you.

³⁶“But I have proof that is far greater than what John said about Me. The great miracles that My Father has enabled Me to do until My work is finished, the very works in which I am now engaged, these are My proof that the Father has sent Me.

³⁷“And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified about Me. You have never heard His voice at any time, nor have you ever seen His form,

³⁸nor is His message living in you,^a because you refuse to believe the One whom He has sent.

³⁹“You carefully search the Scriptures,^a because

as physical listening. To listen to God’s word, but refuse to obey Him, is not effective listening. And it is only effective listening that results in regeneration of the heart. Then, and then only, does faith obtain justification thru Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. The one who *believes*, and listens with an honest heart, yielding to the will of God thru His *word*—it is he who *has eternal life*.

5:24b In regard to what it means to believe in order to receive eternal life, see John 3:16 notes.

5:24c John 12:47-50.

5:24d Perfect indicative. The perfect tense in the Greek affirms two things: the fact of an action in the past, and the fact of the continued existence of the results of the action as of the present moment. But it makes no affirmation whatever with respect to the future. The person described here must continue in the faith, faithful to Christ to the end (Matthew 10:22; Colossians 1:23) if he is to be finally saved.

5:25a The *dead* refer to those who are dead spiritually, and face the condemnation and judgment of Almighty God. The human race was then, and is now, in what is known as the *day of grace*. Literally millions of people *dead* in trespasses and sins have since that day called on the Savior to be their Lord, and the Savior of their souls. They have effec-

tively *listened and have become alive*.

5:26a The Father has power to give both physical as well as spiritual life to whom He will. And He has given the same authority and power to *the Son*.

5:27a Besides giving the Son power to give life, the Father has also *given Him authority to execute judgment*—because in addition to His being the Son of God, *He is the Son of Man*.

“The principle involved is based upon perfect justice. The basis for it is the reasoning that He who by experience knows what is in man should be the Judge of men. By personal experience of man’s temptations and frailties; by knowing every attempt to gloss over our sins, every attempt to justify our failures, every exaggeration of our weakness; by gazing thru human eyes with human consciousness upon our mysterious destiny, He is competent to judge. And because He is the Son of God as well as Son of Man, the Father has entrusted into His hands the power to execute the judgment of the Eternal God.”—*by H. R. Reynolds in Pulpit Commentary*.

5:28-29a Yes, the time of resurrection is definitely coming, and there is no way of escaping it. For those of us who have the assurance of forgiveness and life, we look forward to that hour with joy. 2 Timothy 4:8. But to the ungodly and the hypocritical, the thought is terrifying. There is no mere sim-

you believe they spell out the way to everlasting life, and it is those very Scriptures that tell about Me!

⁴⁰“But in spite of that, you are still unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.^a”

⁴¹“I am not saying these things in order to receive human applause.

⁴²“But I know you—I know that you have no real love for God in your hearts!^a”

⁴³“I have come by My Father’s authority, but still you refuse to receive Me.^a But if someone else comes in his own name,^b you will accept him.^c”

⁴⁴“How is it possible for you to believe^a when you accept praise from one another, but have no interest in zealously seeking praise from the only God?

⁴⁵“Don’t think for a moment that I plan to accuse you before the Father. You already have an accuser. And that’s Moses, on whom you build your hopes.

⁴⁶“If you truly believed Moses, you would believe Me, because it was about Me that he wrote!^a”

⁴⁷“But since you don’t believe what he wrote, how can you believe what I tell you?”^a

Jesus Feeds More than 5,000 People

6 After this, Jesus went across to another area on Lake Galilee, which is also called Lake

Tiberias.

²A large crowd was following Him along the lakeshore, because they had seen the miracles He was performing for the sick.

³When Jesus and those with Him went ashore, they walked up a hill and sat down together.

⁴It was near the time of the Jewish Passover Feast.

⁵When Jesus looked up and saw the immense crowd coming toward Him, He asked Philip, “Where can we ever buy enough food to feed all these people?”

⁶Jesus knew what He was about to do, but He said this to test Philip.

⁷“A laboring man would have to work almost a whole year to earn the money to buy enough food to give even a tiny portion to each person in this crowd!” Philip replied.

⁸Then one of His followers, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, told Him:

⁹“There’s a small boy here who has five loaves of barley bread and two small fish, but what does that amount to for so many?”

¹⁰“Have the people sit down,” Jesus told them. So they all sat down on the thick grass which covered the ground. The men alone numbered about five thousand.

ple belief in Christ as Savior taught here as the way to salvation. That *belief* must include *doing what is good*—referring to a genuine new birth. 3:1-8.

The two resurrections spoken of here will actually occur 1,000 years apart. The resurrection of those who have practiced doing what is right will take place when Christ calls His Church (His called ones) to meet Him in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:29-31. But the *resurrection of those who have practiced evil*, to receive their judgment in the lake of fire, will not take place until the end of the first 1,000 years of Christ’s reign. Revelation 20:5,11-15. In the meantime, they will be in Hell. Luke 16:19-31.

5:38a See 8:30-59.

5:39a Referring to the Old Testament.

5:40a ... *that is vibrant, fulfilling, and everlasting.*

5:42a ... *no deep desire to learn all you can about God, to discover just how He would have you live and serve Him (without concern for personal gain or men’s applause, only God’s “Well done!”), and what He would have you do and refrain from doing, to make Him (your Father) glad.*

5:43a He came representing the Father, and by His authority. He also came with plenty of proof

that the Father had sent Him, especially by the miracles He performed, and by His resurrection from the dead.

5:43b ... *not even pretending to have a Divine commission* ...

5:43c He is referring to the Antichrist, who will come on the scene in these last days of the age. Jewish political and religious leaders will gladly accept him, until he double-crosses and enslaves them.

5:44a Jesus is not referring only to mental belief, but to belief with the heart. See Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 3:11 notes.

5:46a Deuteronomy 18:15-19.

5:47a The Jews will accept the Antichrist when he appears on the scene. It is not certain that they will accept him as their Messiah. But it seems quite apparent from Daniel 9:27 that Israel will be one of the *many* nations that will make some kind of a 7-year agreement with him. Ironically, Israel will accept his person and ideas after having crucified the Lord of glory.

It may even be that Israel will accept the Antichrist as their ruler during his rise to power over the nations of the Middle East and Europe. He could even become the ruler of Israel before he conquers other territory. It’s very possible that he will be a Jew. But it’s also likely that he will come to

¹¹Jesus then took the loaves,^a and after giving thanks to God, He distributed them to His followers, who then served those who were seated. He did the same with the fish, and they all ate as much as they wanted.

¹²When everyone was fully satisfied, He told His followers, “Now gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted.”

¹³And when they had gathered them up, they had filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves that were left over by those who had eaten!

¹⁴When the people realized what a miracle Jesus had just performed, they exclaimed, “Surely this is the Prophet whom we were promised^a would come into the world!”

¹⁵Knowing that they were about to take Him by force and make Him their king, Jesus withdrew again farther up the hill, alone.

Jesus Walks on the Lake!

¹⁶When evening came, His followers went down to the lake.

¹⁷When it got dark, Jesus still hadn’t returned to them. So they got into the boat and headed out across the lake for Capernaum.

¹⁸Then a strong wind started blowing, causing the lake to become extremely rough.

¹⁹They had rowed three or four miles—when suddenly they saw Jesus approaching their boat, walking on the water! They were terrified.

²⁰“Don’t be afraid,” Jesus called out to them. “It is I.”

²¹They were then willing to take Him into the boat. And immediately the boat was at the shore for which they were headed.

²²The next morning, the crowd was still waiting on the other shore. They had seen only one boat there, and that Jesus hadn’t boarded the boat with

His followers, but that His followers had left without Him.

²³But now other boats had come from Tiberias and had landed near the place where they had eaten the food after the Lord had given thanks.

²⁴So when the people realized that neither Jesus nor His followers were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to look for Him.

Jesus, the Bread that Gives Life

²⁵When they arrived on the other shore of the lake and found Him, they said, “Teacher, when did You get here?”

²⁶“I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus replied, “you are not looking for Me because you understand the meaning^a of the miracles you saw, but because you had your stomachs filled with the bread you ate.

²⁷“Don’t be mainly concerned about getting food that will perish.^a Your main concern must be to get food that will last and give eternal life—the food that the Son of Man will give you. You can have absolute confidence that what He tells you is truth, because God the Father has put His seal of endorsement upon Him.”

²⁸“What must we do then, so that we may do what will please God?” they asked Him.

²⁹“What God wants you to do,” Jesus told them, “is to believe in the One whom He has sent.”

³⁰“What miracle will You perform then,” they replied, “so that we may see it and believe in You? What great thing will You do?”

³¹“Our ancestors ate manna in the desert. As it is written, **He gave them bread right out of Heaven to eat.**”^a

³²“I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus replied. “It was not Moses who gave you that bread from Heaven, but it’s My Father who is now giving you the true Bread from Heaven.

power in the area over which Assyria ruled in ancient times, because he is called *the Assyrian* in a good number of Scriptures. Micah 5:5-6; Isaiah 10:24-25; 14:24-25; 30:30-31; 31:8-9.

6:11a A loaf of bread was generally a round loaf, seven inches in diameter, and half an inch to one inch thick.

6:14a Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22-23.

6:26a The miracles were proof that He had come from God, and that God was with Him.

6:27a Their only objective was more bread to satisfy their physical bodies, not their eternal souls.

6:31a Exodus 16:4; Nehemiah 9:15; Psalm 78:24-25.

6:35a What does it mean to believe in Jesus? See

Galatians 3:11; Luke 14:26-33; John 3:36; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10, and the notes there.

6:35b Jesus offers peace and fulfillment right now to the soul who hungers and thirsts for life which satisfies in the way that God intended life to be. But in Heaven there will be total fulfillment, as well as no physical hunger or thirst. By surrendering to Him as your Lord and trusting Him as your Savior, you will receive life that is eternal and totally fulfilling.

6:39a ... *the last day of this age, the age of grace.*

6:37-40a These are all wonderful words of assurance to everyone who has received Christ as the Son of God, as the Savior of the world, and as the Lord to whom they owe their full allegiance. All who

³³“Because the Bread of God is He who has come down from Heaven and is now giving Life to the people of the world.”

³⁴“Sir!” they exclaimed, “give us that bread all the time!”

³⁵“I am the Bread that gives Life,” Jesus replied. “No one who comes to Me will ever go hungry. And no one who is believing^a in Me will ever be thirsty.^b”

³⁶“But as I said before, ‘You have already seen plenty of proof as to who I am, and still you don’t believe.’”

³⁷“Everyone whom the Father is giving to Me will indeed come to Me. And I absolutely will never turn away anyone who comes to Me.

³⁸“Because I didn’t come down from Heaven to do what I want. My only desire is to do the will of My Father who sent Me.

³⁹“And what the Father wants is that I make sure that I don’t lose a single one of all whom He has given Me. He wants Me to raise them all back to life again on the Last Day.^a”

⁴⁰“My Father wants everyone who sees the Son and is believing in Him to have everlasting life. And I will indeed raise them up from the grave and back to life on the Last Day.”^a

⁴¹Then the people began murmuring among themselves about Him because He had been so positive in saying, “I am the Bread that came down from Heaven!”

⁴²“Don’t we know this man’s father and mother?” they said. “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph? How can he say then, ‘I have come down from Heaven?’”

⁴³“Stop your murmuring among yourselves,” Jesus responded.

⁴⁴“No one is able to come to Me unless he is drawn to Me by the Father who sent Me. And those who do come, I will raise back to life on the Last

Day.

⁴⁵“One of the prophets wrote, **And they will all be taught by God.^a** So everyone who has sincerely listened to the Father and has learned from Him will come to Me.

⁴⁶“That doesn’t mean that anyone has actually seen the Father, except the One who has come from God. He has seen Him.

⁴⁷“I tell you the absolute truth—anyone who is believing in Me^a has eternal life.

⁴⁸“I am the Bread that gives life!”

⁴⁹“Your ancestors ate manna in the desert, and still they died.

⁵⁰“But here is Bread that has come down out of Heaven, of a kind that anyone who eats of it will never die.

⁵¹“I am the Life-giving Bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats this Bread he will live forever. And this Bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give as a sacrifice so that the world may live.”^a

⁵²At this the people began angrily debating among themselves, asking, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³“I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus continued, “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

⁵⁴“But whoever continues to eat My flesh and drink My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him back to life again on the Last Day.

⁵⁵“Because My flesh is indeed food, and My blood is indeed drink.

⁵⁶“Whoever continues to eat My flesh and drink My blood^a continues to live in union with Me and I in union with him.

⁵⁷“Just as I live because of the life-giving Father who sent Me, likewise, whoever continues to feed on Me will live because of Me.

⁵⁸“This is the Bread that came down from Heav-

have put their trust in Him in this way will be raised up from among the dead by Christ when He returns. And those alive and living for Christ at that time will rise with them, to meet Him in the air. 1 Thesalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:29-31.

6:45a Isaiah 54:13.

6:47a ... by full acceptance of Who I am and what I teach ...

6:51a He later gave His body in extreme suffering and death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. When we gratefully accept that sacrifice for ourselves, and give ourselves to God the best way we know how, to now live (with His help) as He would have us live, He has promised to forgive our sins and give us eternal life.

Just as there are conditions to be met before God will answer our prayers, there are conditions to be met in order to gain eternal life. The Apostle Paul said there are two conditions. He said, *You must both turn from your sinning and obey God, and believe in our Lord Jesus the Messiah as your Savior.* Acts 20:21.

6:56a Christ gave His flesh and blood as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Those who accept that sacrifice for their sins are partaking of His flesh and blood. This has nothing to do with the Lord’s supper, except that the Lord’s supper is a living picture of what the believer has done and is doing in trusting Christ for salvation and eventual resurrection to everlasting life.

en. It is not the same kind of bread your ancestors ate, and still died. Whoever continues to eat this Bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹These are the things Jesus said in the synagogue while teaching at Capernaum.

Many Followers Desert Jesus

⁶⁰Many who had been following Him and had been listening then said, “What a disgusting speech! Who can accept such nonsense?”

⁶¹Aware within Himself that these followers of His were murmuring about what He had said, Jesus asked, “Are you taking offense at this?”

⁶²“What would you do if you should see the Son of Man go back up to Heaven where He was before?”

⁶³“It is God’s Spirit that gives life. The flesh doesn’t give life. And the very words that I speak to you are from God’s Spirit, and they are the means by which you can obtain eternal life.

⁶⁴“But some of you refuse to believe in Me.” Jesus knew from the beginning who the unbelievers were, and even who it was who would betray Him.

⁶⁵Jesus then continued, saying, “That’s why I told you that no one can come to Me unless My Father attracts and draws him to Me.”

⁶⁶It was at this time that many of His followers turned back and no longer followed Him.

⁶⁷Then Jesus asked the Twelve, “Are you also planning to leave Me?”

⁶⁸“Lord, to whom would we go?” Simon Peter replied, “You alone have the truth that gives eternal life.

⁶⁹“We firmly believe and are fully convinced that You truly are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

⁷⁰“Didn’t I choose the Twelve of you?” Jesus replied. “And even one of you is a devil.”

⁷¹He was speaking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, because he was the one, even though one of the Twelve, who would later betray Him.

The Unbelief of Jesus’ Brothers

7 After this, Jesus went from place to place in Galilee, not wanting to travel in Judea because the Judean authorities there were looking for a chance to kill Him.

²But when the time for the Jewish Feast of

Tabernacles approached,

³His brothers said to Him, “You’d better leave here and go to Judea, so your followers there can see the miracles you’re performing.

⁴“No one works in secret if he wants the world to know about him. If you are really doing these things, make yourself known to the world.”

⁵Because even His brothers didn’t yet believe in Him.

⁶“It’s not My time to go just yet,” Jesus replied. “But as for you, any time is right.

⁷“The people of the world can’t hate you. But they hate Me because I keep pointing out the evil lives they are living.

⁸“You go ahead and go up to the Feast. I’m not going up to this Feast right now, because My time hasn’t yet come.”

⁹After saying this He remained in Galilee.

¹⁰But after His brothers had left for the Feast, then He also went up, not openly, but in secret.

¹¹As expected, the Jewish authorities were looking for Him at the Feast, and kept asking, “Where is that fellow?”

¹²There was also a great deal of debating about Him among the people.

“He’s a good man,” some said.

“He is not!” others exclaimed. “He’s misleading the people!”

¹³But no one had the courage to speak up openly for Him, because of their fear of the religious leaders.

Jesus Teaches at the Feast

¹⁴Not until the Feast was about half over, did Jesus go up into the Temple courts and begin to teach the people.

¹⁵The Jewish leaders were amazed. “How can he know so much about the sacred writings,” they questioned, “when he’s never studied in any of our theological schools?”

¹⁶In response Jesus said, “I am not teaching what I have decided is the truth. My message comes from God, who sent Me.

¹⁷“Anyone who truly wants to practice obeying God will know whether this teaching is from God, or whether these are just My words.

¹⁸“A person who says what he himself decides is the truth is looking for honor for himself. But the

7:15a The rabbinical theological schools.

7:22a ... on the eighth day after birth ...

7:28a Referring to God the Father. He is the only One who is truly God, as Jesus states in John 17:3. See Appendix 246, page 512.

7:38a Again—present participle, denoting present progressive action—heart belief. See Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10, and the notes.

7:38b Job 32:18-19; Isaiah 58:11; 44:3-4.

7:39a The Holy Spirit did not live within believers

Man who wants to honor the One who sent Him is sincere and trustworthy, and there is nothing dishonest about Him.

¹⁹“Didn’t Moses give you the Law? Still, not one of you strictly obey it. Why then are you trying to kill Me for not strictly obeying it?”

²⁰“Who’s trying to kill you?” the crowd responded. “You must have a demon.”

²¹“You are all angry and upset about one action of Mine,” Jesus replied.

²²“Now listen, Moses ordered you to circumcise your sons^a (not that it started with Moses, but with your earlier ancestors), and even on the Sabbath you circumcise a male child.

²³“If, in order to keep from breaking the Law of Moses, you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath, have you any right to be angry with Me because I made a man perfectly well on the Sabbath?”

²⁴“Stop judging superficially, but according to what is right!”

Is Jesus the Messiah?

²⁵“Isn’t this the man the authorities are looking for, in order to kill him?” some of the people of Jerusalem began asking one another.

²⁶“But look, he’s speaking out boldly and they’re not saying a thing to him. Could it be that the authorities have decided that this is indeed the Messiah?”

²⁷“But then, of course, we know where this man was born and raised, but no one will know where the Messiah is from when He comes.”

²⁸“Yes,” Jesus then cried out as He taught in the Temple area, “you know Me and you know where I was born and raised. But I have not come of My own accord. The One who sent Me is the True God,^a whom you do not know.

²⁹“But I know Him, because I have come from His very presence, and He sent Me.”

³⁰On hearing this, the religious leaders tried to arrest Him. But no one was able to lay a hand on Him, because His time hadn’t yet come.

³¹Still, many in the crowd believed in Him, saying, “Can the Messiah be expected to do more miracles when He comes than this Man has done?”

Police Officers Sent to Arrest Jesus

³²When the Pharisees heard the crowd saying

such things about Him, they and the chief priests sent Temple police to arrest Him.

³³So Jesus said to them, “I will be with you for only a little while longer, and then I will return to the One who sent Me.

³⁴“You will look for Me and not find Me, because you are not able to come to the place where I am.”

³⁵“Where is it that he intends to go, that we’ll not find him?” the religious leaders then questioned among themselves. “Surely he isn’t planning to go to our people scattered among the Greeks, and also teach the Greeks, is he?”

³⁶“What does he mean by saying, ‘You will look for me and not find me, because you are not able to come to the place where I am?’”

³⁷On the last and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and shouted, “If you are thirsty, come to Me and drink!

³⁸“Whoever believes^a in Me will have, as the Scriptures declare, rivers of life-giving water flowing out from deep within him.”^b

³⁹He said this about the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were soon to receive. The Spirit had not yet been given,^a because Jesus had not yet ascended to Heaven—to the glory and honor that awaited Him there.

⁴⁰Upon hearing all that He was saying, many in the crowd said, “Surely this is the Prophet that Moses said would come.”^a

⁴¹“This is the Messiah,” others agreed. But still others said, “Do you really expect the Messiah to come out of Galilee?”

⁴²“Doesn’t the Scripture state that the Messiah is to come from the family of King David,^a and be born in Bethlehem,^b the town where David lived?”

⁴³So the people were divided in opinion about Him.

⁴⁴Some of them wanted Him arrested, but no one laid hands on Him.

Unbelief of the Jewish Leaders

⁴⁵The Temple police then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who challenged them, “Why didn’t you bring him in!”

⁴⁶“No one has ever spoken like this man!” the guards replied.

⁴⁷“Do you mean that you have also been fooled by him?” the Pharisees shouted.

until Jesus, the Son of God, had suffered and died on the cross as the ransom for them because of their sin. See 14:17; 20:19-22; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-39.

7:40a They were evidently referring to Moses’ prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15,18.

7:42a Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6.

7:42b Micah 5:2.

8:5a Why didn’t these hypocrites also bring the man? See Leviticus 20:10.

⁴⁸“Not one Pharisee or anyone in authority has believed in him, have they?”

⁴⁹“But it’s the masses, who don’t know the Law, who are cursed under his spell!”

⁵⁰Then Nicodemus, their member who had gone to Jesus by night, said,

⁵¹“Does our Law condemn a man without first giving him a hearing to learn the facts of the case?”

⁵²“Are you from Galilee too?” they retorted. “Check and see for yourself that no prophet is to come from Galilee!”

⁵³After that they each went home.

The Woman Caught in Adultery

8 Jesus, however, went to the Mount of Olives.

²Early the next morning, He returned to the Temple court, and all the people gathered around Him.

³He had sat down and was teaching them when the teachers of the Law of Moses and the Pharisees came to Him, bringing a woman who had been caught in bed with a man who was not her husband.

⁴They made her stand in the middle of the court, and then said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery.

⁵“In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such a person to death!^a But now, what do you say?”

⁶They said this to trap Him, in order to have some charge to bring against Him. But Jesus, after stooping down, wrote in the dust with His finger.

⁷But when they continued to question Him, He straightened up and said, “Let the sinless man in your group throw the first stone at her.”

⁸Then again, stooping down, he wrote in the dust.

⁹When these men heard this they were conscience stricken and, beginning with the oldest, they slipped away one by one until the last one had left, leaving Jesus alone in front of the crowd with

the woman.

¹⁰Then Jesus again straightened up, and seeing none of the men, only the woman, He said, “Woman, where are the men who accused you? Didn’t anyone condemn you?”

¹¹“No one, Sir,” she replied.

“I’m not going to condemn you either,” Jesus declared. “Go now, but from now on, don’t sin any more.”

The Validity of Jesus’ Testimony

¹²Then Jesus again spoke to the crowd. “I am the Light for the people of this world!” He declared. “The one who follows Me will by no means walk in darkness. Instead, he will have the Light that will give him light on the pathway that leads to Life.”^a

¹³At this, the Pharisees in the crowd interrupted. “You alone are speaking on behalf of yourself!”^a they charged. “So all you say is worthless.”

¹⁴“Even if I do speak on behalf of Myself,” Jesus responded, “what I say is true, because I know where I came from and where I’m going. But you know nothing about where I’m from, nor where I’m going.

¹⁵“You’re passing judgment by human reasoning. But I’m passing judgment on no one.

¹⁶“But even if I did judge, My decision would be fair, because I would not be doing it alone. The Father who sent Me is always with Me.

¹⁷“Even your own Law says that the testimony of two men who agree is conclusive testimony.

¹⁸“I am one who gives testimony about Myself; the other Witness is the Father, who sent Me.”

¹⁹“Where is your father?” they challenged Him.

“You don’t know Me, and neither do you know My Father,” He replied. “If you knew Me you would also know My Father.”

²⁰These are the things Jesus said as He taught in the area of the Temple where the offering boxes were located.^a Still no one arrested Him, because His time hadn’t yet come.

²¹Another time He said, “I will soon be leaving you. You will keep on looking for Me,^a but you

8:12a Matthew 7:13-14.

8:13a See John 5:31-47.

8:20a This is past tense, because when John wrote (between A.D. 90-100) Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans, and the Temple lay in ruins.

8:21a They would keep looking for their Messiah, but would not find Him, for they had unknowingly rejected Him.

8:24a ... *the Messiah, the Christ, your Lord and*

Savior ...

8:28a ... *the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of Israel* ...

8:31a Notice! Believing in Jesus is not merely believing the truth about who He is and what He has done. Saving faith includes belief in what He taught, to the extent of obedience to His teachings! Without sincere obedience you are still rebelling against God, and are lost, and face His judgment and the awful consequences of that judgment. Just

will die with your sins unforgiven, and not be able to go to the place where I'm going."

²² "He's not planning to kill himself, is he?" the Jewish leaders murmured. "Is that why he says, 'You're not able to reach the place where I'm going'?"

²³ Then Jesus said, "You are from below, but I am from above. You are from this world, but I am not from this world.

²⁴ "That's why I told you that you will die with your sins unforgiven. Because unless you believe in Me for who I am,^a you will indeed die with your sins unforgiven."

²⁵ "And just who are you?" they demanded.

"I am the One I have always claimed to be," He replied.

²⁶ "There are many things I could say in judging you, but I can rely for absolute truth only on the One who sent Me, and for that reason I speak to the world only what He has told Me to say to you."

²⁷ But they still didn't understand that He was speaking to them about the Father.

²⁸ So He added, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man on a cross, then you will know who I am.^a You will also know that I do nothing on My own, but that I say only what the Father has told Me to say.

²⁹ "The One who sent Me is with Me. The Father hasn't left Me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to Him."

³⁰ As He said these things, many came to believe in Him.

The Truth Will Set You Free!

³¹ Then Jesus said to the Jews who now believed in Him, "If you continue to obey and live by what I teach, then you truly are My followers.^a

³² "You will then come to understand what the truth really is, and the truth will set you free."^a

³³ "But we are descendants of Abraham," others challenged Him, "and have never been slaves to anyone! So how can you say, 'You will be set free'?"

³⁴ "I tell you the absolute truth," Jesus replied.

"Everyone who lives in sin is a slave of sin.

³⁵ "Now a slave doesn't have any permanent place in the family, but a son is a part of it forever.

³⁶ "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.^a

³⁷ "Yes, I know you are the descendants of Abraham. But some of you are looking for a way to kill Me, because you won't accept what I'm telling you.

³⁸ "I'm telling you what I've learned from My Father, and your actions reveal what you've learned from your father."

³⁹ "Our father is Abraham!" they shouted.

"If you were really children of Abraham, you would behave like Abraham," Jesus responded.

⁴⁰ "But instead, because I've told you the truth, which I heard from God, you're determined to kill Me. That's not the way Abraham acted.

⁴¹ "You are doing exactly what your father wants done."

"We're not illegitimate children!" they again shouted. "God is our Father, and no one else!"

⁴² "If God were your Father," Jesus replied, "you would love Me, because I left the very presence of God to come to be with you. I didn't come of My own accord, but He sent Me.

⁴³ "Why don't you understand what I'm saying? It's because you can't stand to listen to what I'm telling you.

⁴⁴ "You are from your father—the devil—and you are eager to satisfy your appetites, which are the same as your father's. He has been a murderer from the beginning, and never has stood for the truth, because there's no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he's just acting out what he really is, because he's a liar and the father of lies!

⁴⁵ "So because I speak the truth, you refuse to believe Me.^a

⁴⁶ "Have any of you ever found Me guilty of any sin of any kind? Why don't you believe Me then, if you know I speak only the truth?

⁴⁷ "*The reason you refuse to believe Me is because.*^a Only the person who belongs to God really listens to what God says. You refuse to listen because you don't belong to Him."^b

sitting in church every Sunday and agreeing with what is said doesn't make you a Christian! Acts 14:22; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 1:23; 1 John 2:24.

8:32a ... free from slavery to Satan and sin, from corrupt, premeditated evil, and degraded, sapless, scrubby, miserable views of life and eternity.

8:36a Free from your slavery to sin, and adopted

into God's family as His children. Romans 8:13-18.

8:45a ... because it's your nature to believe that everyone lies, like yourself.

8:47a Implied

8:47b Do you belong to God? Is it your sincere desire and aim to listen to God and accept ALL that He says as truth—and live it and obey it, and teach it to others? Do you really belong to God? Do you?

8:51a And the obvious truth is that those who do

Jesus and Abraham

⁴⁸“We’ve been right all along!” those Jewish leaders again shouted. “You’re a Samaritan possessed by a demon!”

⁴⁹“I am not possessed by a demon,” Jesus replied. “But I am honoring My Father, and you are dishonoring Me for doing so.

⁵⁰“However, I am not seeking honor for Myself. But there is One who has determined that I be honored, and He will see to it that I am.

⁵¹“I am telling you the absolute truth when I tell you that anyone who carefully guards and preserves My words as precious treasures, and obeys what I tell him to do, will never experience death.”^a

⁵²“Now we know you’re possessed by a demon!” those Jewish leaders exploded. “Abraham died, and so did the prophets, and still you say, ‘If anyone obeys what I’m telling you to do, he will never experience death.’

⁵³“You aren’t greater than our father Abraham, who died, are you? The prophets also died. Just who do you think you are?”

⁵⁴“If I should boast about Myself,” Jesus replied, “My honor would be worthless. It is My Father who honors Me, the One you say is your God.

⁵⁵“The truth is, you have never known Him. But I know Him. If I should say I don’t know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I do whatever He tells Me to do.

⁵⁶“Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he was allowed to see the time of My coming Kingdom. And he did see it, and was extremely delighted by what he saw.”

⁵⁷“You aren’t even 50 years old yet!” the Jewish leaders roared. “And sure, you’ve seen Abraham!”

⁵⁸“I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus replied. “I was in existence before Abraham was even born.”

⁵⁹At this they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself from their view^a and walked right thru the middle of them, and on out of the Temple area.

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind!

9As Jesus was walking along, He noticed a man who had been born blind.

²“Teacher,” His followers asked Him, “who

sinned? This man, or was it his parents who caused him to be born blind?”

³“This blindness is not the result of any sin on his part nor of his parents,” Jesus replied. “But thru this man God wants to demonstrate what He can do.

⁴“I must carry on the work of the One who sent Me, as long as the day lasts. Night is coming, when no one is able to work.

⁵“As long as I am in the world, I am the Light for the world.”^a

⁶After saying this, He spit on the ground and made some mud with the saliva. Then He spread the mud over the blind man’s eyes.

⁷“Now go,” Jesus told him, “and wash the mud off in the Pool of Siloam.” (*Siloam* is Hebrew for *One Who Is Sent*.) So the man left and washed his face, and when he returned, he could see!

⁸His neighbors and others who had seen him before, and knew he was blind, exclaimed, “Isn’t this the man who sat and begged?”

⁹“Yes, it surely is!” some agreed.

“No, it isn’t,” others said. “He just looks like him.” But he assured them, “I’m the man.”

¹⁰“How is it that you can see now?” they then exclaimed. “What happened?”

¹¹“The man they call Jesus made some mud and smeared it over my eyes,” he replied. “Then He told me to go and wash it off in the Pool of Siloam. After I had washed there, I could see!”

¹²“Where is He now?” they asked.

“I don’t know,” he replied.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³Then they brought this formerly blind man to the Pharisees.

¹⁴Now it so happened that Jesus had mixed the mud and cured this man of his blindness on a Sabbath.

¹⁵So the Pharisees now in turn also questioned the man as to how he had received his sight.

“He put some mud on my eyes,” he told them, “and after washing it off, I could see.”

¹⁶“This man isn’t from God,” some of the Pharisees then declared, “because He doesn’t keep the Sabbath.”

But others said, “How could a sinful man do such miracles?” So they were divided in opinion.

¹⁷Finally they turned again to the once-blind

not treasure and obey the words of Christ *will experience death*. He’s referring to the death of the soul—a horrendous living death in Hell. See 14:21.

8:59a He evidently hid Himself from their view in

some supernatural way.

9:5a This is to be true of every follower of Christ as well. Matthew 5:14-16. We are to give light to others who are walking thru life, both by how we

man. “It was your eyes he opened, so what do you have to say about him?”

“He’s a prophet!” the man replied.

¹⁸But those Jewish leaders wouldn’t believe he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called his parents and questioned them.

¹⁹“Is this your son?” they asked them. “Was he born blind? How is it then that he’s now able to see?”

²⁰“We know this is our son,” his parents responded, “and that he was born blind.

²¹“But we know nothing about how it is that he’s now able to see, or about who cured him of his blindness. He’s an adult; ask him. He can speak for himself.”

²²His parents answered in this way because they feared the Jewish authorities, who had already agreed that they would expel from the synagogue anyone who claimed that Jesus was the Messiah.

²³That’s why his parents had said, “He’s an adult; ask him.”

²⁴So the Pharisees again called in the formerly blind man, and said, “Give God the praise for what’s happened to you. We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵“Whether or not He’s a sinner, I don’t know,” he replied. “But I do know one thing—I was blind, but now I can see.”

²⁶“What did he actually do to you?” they again questioned him. “How did he cure you of your blindness?”

²⁷“I told you already,” he protested, “and you didn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His followers?”

²⁸At this they scornfully ridiculed him: “You’re evidently his follower!” they sneered. “But we’re followers of Moses!

²⁹“We know that God spoke to Moses. But this fellow—we don’t know where he’s from!”

³⁰“That’s the incredible thing about it,” the man replied. “You don’t even know where He’s from, and yet He’s cured me of my blindness.

³¹“We know God doesn’t listen to sinners. He listens only to those who sincerely worship and obey Him.

³²“Such a thing has never been heard of before, that someone cured a blind person who had been born blind.

³³“If He weren’t from God, He could do nothing.”

³⁴“You!” they retorted, “a person who has been

totally born in sin—would you try to teach us?” And they expelled him from the synagogue.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵Jesus heard they had thrown him out, and when He found him, He asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

³⁶“Sir,” the man replied, “tell me who He is, so that I may believe in Him.”

³⁷“You have even seen Him,” Jesus replied, “and He’s talking to you right now.”

³⁸“Lord!” he exclaimed, “I believe!” And immediately he kneeled in worship at Jesus’ feet.

³⁹“I came into this world to declare the condition of mankind,” Jesus stated, “so that the blind might see, and that those who think they see should become blind.”^a

⁴⁰When some Pharisees who were with Him heard this, they asked, “You surely don’t mean that we’re also blind, do you?”

⁴¹“If you were blind,” Jesus replied, “you would be guilty of no sin. But since you insist that you know what you’re doing, your guilt remains.”^a

Jesus the Good Shepherd

10 “I tell you the absolute truth,” Jesus continued. “The man who doesn’t enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs over some other way, is a plundering thief.

²“But the man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

³“The gatekeeper opens the gate for him. And the sheep obey his voice when he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

⁴“After he’s brought his sheep out he walks ahead of them. And his sheep follow him because they recognize his voice.

⁵“But they won’t follow a stranger. In fact, they’ll run from him, because they don’t recognize the stranger’s voice.”

⁶But those who heard Him give this allegory didn’t understand at all what He meant by it.

⁷So He said, “I tell you the absolute truth, I am the Gate for the sheep!

⁸“All who came as such before Me were thieves and robbers, and the sheep wouldn’t listen to them.

⁹“I am the Gate! All who come in thru Me will be saved. And thru Me they will come and go and find pasture.”^a

live and by what we tell them.

9:39-41a He was referring to spiritual blindness and spiritual understanding.

10:9a He will have liberty, protection, and provision for soul and body, as he follows his Lord. Every happening is made useful to him, as Christ causes

¹⁰“The thief’s only purpose in coming is to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come so that mankind may have Life, and have it in unimagined abundance.^a”

¹¹“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd is even willing to lay down His very life for the sheep.

¹²“But when the hired man sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs, because he is not the shepherd and the sheep don’t belong to him. Then the wolf carries off some of the sheep and scatters the flock.

¹³“The hired man runs because he’s merely an employee, and has no real love or concern for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the Good Shepherd, and I know those who are mine.

¹⁵“And those who are mine know Me, in the same way that the Father knows Me, and as I know the Father. I am now in the process of laying down My very life for My sheep.

¹⁶“But I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I must bring them in too. They will also obey My call, and then there will be one flock, and one Shepherd.

¹⁷“That’s why My Father loves Me, because I am willing to give up My life in order that I may receive it back again later on.^a”

¹⁸“No one is taking My life from Me, but I am voluntarily laying it down. My Father has given Me orders that give Me power to lay it down, and power to take it back again.”

¹⁹These words of His led to a fresh division of opinion among the religious leaders.

²⁰“He’s demon possessed and crazy!” many of them protested and complained. “Why listen to him?”

²¹“Words like these don’t come from one who’s under the power of a demon,” others argued. “Can a demon open blind eyes?”

Jesus Rejected by the Jews

²²That winter Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication.^a

²³One day as He was walking in Solomon’s Porch in the Temple area,

²⁴the Jewish leaders surrounded Him and said, “How long do you plan to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, say so in plain language!”

²⁵“I have already told you,” Jesus replied, “but you don’t believe Me. The miracles I’m doing by the power and authority of My Father are proof enough as to who I am.

²⁶“But as I said, you aren’t believing because you are not My sheep.

²⁷“My sheep always pay close attention to what I tell them. I know who My sheep are. They are those who continually follow Me.

²⁸“I am giving them everlasting life, so they will never perish. And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand.

²⁹“My Father, who gave them to Me, is greater than anyone else, and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.^a”

³⁰“I and the Father are one.”^a

³¹Again the Jewish leaders picked up stones to stone Him.

³²So Jesus asked them, “My Father has enabled Me to do many good deeds in your presence. For which of these deeds are you planning to stone Me?”

³³“We are not going to stone you for any good you have done, but for blasphemy; because you, a mere man, are setting yourself up as being God!” the Jews retorted.

³⁴“Is it not written in your Law, **Yes, As I have told you, you are gods^a?**” Jesus replied.

³⁵“So God gave the title of ‘gods’ to those to whom His message was addressed, and the words of God cannot be nullified.

all things to work together for good for His true followers. See v 10b and Romans 8:28.

10:10a 1 Corinthians 2:9.

10:17a Jesus willingly laid His life down so that we might be saved. He now calls each of us to willingly lay our life down in service to Him, so that others may be saved. Afterward, we are promised an eternal life of total fulfillment in great happiness and glory.

10:22a Known today as Hanukkah.

10:27-29a What a comfort this promise is to the true follower of Christ. But it is obvious that the

promise is only to those who pay close attention to Christ’s instructions and continue to obey them. No man or angel, nor any other outside power, no matter how powerful, can take us from our all-powerful God. But Christ does not promise that we will be protected in spite of our own willfulness and neglect, or if we fail to continue to persevere in saving faith. See Colossians 1:21-23, and the note.

10:30a See note on John 5:19. They are “one” in total unity of will and love, and they are also one in their united will and set purpose to protect each believer who makes a practice of following Jesus.

³⁶“Are you right then in saying to the One whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’

³⁷“If I am not doing the same things My Father does, don’t believe Me.

³⁸“But if I am, then even if you have trouble believing what I say, at least believe that the miracles are of God. Then you will come to realize and understand that the Father is indeed working in and thru Me,^a and that I am working in agreement and in united purpose with the Father.”

³⁹So again they tried to arrest Him,^a but He escaped out of their hands.

⁴⁰Then he returned across the Jordan River to the place where John had been baptizing at first, and there He stayed.

⁴¹Many people came to Him there. “John didn’t perform any miracles,” they said, “but all the things he said about this Man have certainly been proved to be true.”

⁴²Many became believers in Him there.

The Death of Lazarus

11 A man by the name of Lazarus became sick. He was from Bethany, the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived.

²This was the same Mary who later poured perfume over the Lord’s feet and then wiped His feet with her hair.^a It was her brother Lazarus who was now sick.

³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, saying, “Lord, the one You treasure so dearly is very sick!”

⁴But when Jesus got the message He said, “The final result of this sickness will not be death. But thru it, God will reveal His glory, and the Son of God will be glorified by it.”

⁵Jesus was very fond of Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

⁶Still, even when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He remained where He was for two more days.

⁷Then He said to His followers, “Let’s go back

now to Judea.”

⁸“But Teacher!” His followers objected, “only recently the Jewish leaders there tried to kill You, and You’re going back there again?”

⁹“Are there not twelve hours of daylight?” Jesus replied. “If anyone walks in the daytime, he doesn’t stumble, because he sees by means of light from the sun.

¹⁰“But a man does stumble if he walks during the night without a light, because he has no light in himself.”^a

¹¹Then He added, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I’m going there to wake him up.”

¹²“Lord,” His followers replied, “if he’s sleeping, he’ll get well!”

¹³But Jesus meant that Lazarus had died, while they thought He was speaking of resting in sleep.

¹⁴So Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

¹⁵“And for your sakes I’m glad I wasn’t there. It will help you to believe. But now, let’s go to him.”

¹⁶Then Thomas, who is also called Didymus,^a said to the others, “Well, let’s go with Him, so we can die with Him.”

Jesus Comforts the Sisters

¹⁷When Jesus got to Bethany, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

¹⁸Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem.

¹⁹So quite a number of their Jewish friends had come from the city to comfort Mary and Martha in the loss of their brother.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was arriving, she went to meet Him, but Mary remained seated in the house.

²¹“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!

²²“But I know that whatever You ask of God, even now, He will grant it.”

²³“Your brother will rise and live again,” Jesus responded.

²⁴“I know he will rise and live again in the resurrection, on the Last Day,” Martha replied.

See vs 37-38. They are one in full agreement. In Deuteronomy 6:4 the word *one* (*echad*) in relation to God means oneness in a collective unity, like a cluster of grapes is one.

10:34a Psalm 82:6.

10:38a 14:10-11; 17:21-23; 1 Corinthians 8:6.

10:39a ... *because He again called God His Father.*

11:2a See 12:3.

11:10a Where there is no light for the eye to receive to transfer to the brain, there is no light within man to direct him. This is also true spiritually.

11:16a His name, meaning the Twin, is Thomas in Hebrew and Didymus in Greek. He was sometimes called Thomas, other times Didymus.

11:25a Notice the I am’s of Jesus: The Bread that gives life (6:35); the Light of the World (8:12; 9:5);

²⁵“I am^a the One who raises the dead and gives them life!”^b Jesus replied. “Whoever is believing in Me, even though he dies, he will come to life again.

²⁶“And no one who continues to live and believe in Me will ever really die.^a Do you believe that?”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, whose coming into the world we have so long looked forward to.”

²⁸After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered, “The Teacher is here and wants to see you.”

²⁹On hearing this, Mary hastily got up and went to Him.

³⁰Jesus hadn’t yet come into the town, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him.

³¹When the Jews, who were in the house comforting Mary, saw her quickly get up and leave, they followed her, saying, “She’s going to the tomb to weep there.”

³²As soon as Mary arrived at the place where He was, and saw Jesus, she fell at His feet. “Lord!” she said, “if You had been here my brother wouldn’t have died.”

³³Upon seeing her weeping, and the Jews who were with her also weeping, Jesus was greatly stirred and deeply moved.

³⁴“Where have you laid him?” He asked.

“Lord, come and see,” they replied.

³⁵Tears then began flowing down Jesus’ face.

³⁶“Look!” the Jews remarked. “See how dearly He loved him.”

³⁷Still others said, “Couldn’t this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept him from dying?”

Lazarus Raised Back to Life!

³⁸With continued deep emotion, Jesus now approached the tomb. It was a cave, and a large stone had been rolled against the entrance.

³⁹“Roll the stone away,” He said.

“But Lord!” exclaimed Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days!”^a

⁴⁰“Didn’t I tell you,” Jesus responded, “that if you

would believe, you would see the glorious power of God?”

⁴¹So they rolled the stone away. Then Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, thank You for listening to Me.

⁴²“I know, of course, that You always listen to Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”

⁴³After saying this, He loudly shouted, “Lazarus, come out here!”

⁴⁴And out walked the man who had been dead! He was wrapped in burial cloth from his hands to his feet, and a cloth also covered his face. Then Jesus instructed them, “Unwrap him, so that he may move about freely.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵Upon seeing what Jesus had done, many of the Jews who had come with Mary now believed in Him.

⁴⁶But some of them went off to the Pharisees and told them what He had done.

⁴⁷So the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Council, and said, “What are we really doing about this man who’s performing all these miracles!

⁴⁸“If we let Him continue on like this, everyone will believe in Him. Then the Roman army will move in and destroy both our Temple and nation!”

⁴⁹One of them was Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, and he declared, “You men don’t understand the situation at all!

⁵⁰“Don’t you realize that it’s better for us that one man should die for the people, than that the whole nation should be destroyed?”

⁵¹He didn’t say this of his own accord, but, since he was High Priest that year, he was inspired by God to prophesy that Jesus was about to die for the whole nation.

⁵²But Jesus would not die only for that nation, but also in order that He might gather into one body all the children of God who are scattered far and wide.

the Gate (10:7); the Good Shepherd (10:11, 14); the Resurrection and the Life (v25); the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6); the True Vine (15:1-5). Jesus is the answer to mankind’s needs in every dimension, both in this life and in the life hereafter.

11:25b What greater claim could He make to being Divine. All the knowledge, wisdom, and power to impart, restore, and maintain life was in Him. And He could impart or restore life now, as

well as later.

11:26a What Jesus is saying here is *And no one who continues to live in obedience to Me and believes in Me for salvation will ever really die.* See Hebrews 5:9; Colossians 1:23.

11:39a The situation was impossible—but not for God!

11:56a There was new excitement because of the recent raising of Lazarus and the public order for

⁵³ So from that day on they seriously plotted to kill Him.

⁵⁴ For that reason Jesus no longer went about openly among the Jews, but He went from there into the town of Ephraim, which is close to the desert. And there He remained with His followers.

⁵⁵ The Jewish Passover was approaching, and many from all over Israel and all parts of the world went up to Jerusalem several days before the Passover to purify themselves.

⁵⁶ And they kept looking for Jesus, asking one another as they stood about in the Temple area: "What do you think? Do you think He'll even show up at the Feast?"^a

⁵⁷ Both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he should alert them, so they could arrest Him.

Mary Anoints Jesus at Bethany

12 Now six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived. (He was the dead man whom Jesus had brought back to life.)

² They made a dinner for Jesus there; Martha served it and Lazarus was one of those who ate at the table with Him.

³ Mary had obtained about a pint of pure nard perfume,^a which was very expensive, and she now came and poured it over Jesus' feet^b and wiped his feet with her hair, so that the fragrance of the perfume filled the whole house.

⁴ Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, then spoke up. He was one of Jesus' followers, the one who was about to betray Him.

⁵ "That perfume must have cost as much as a laboring man could earn in a whole year!"^a he fumed. "Why wasn't it sold, and the money given to the poor?"

⁶ He didn't say this because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief. He had charge of the money bag, and he used to steal from what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone!" Jesus told him. "She has

kept this for the day of My burial.

⁸ "You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have Me."

⁹ A great number of people found out that Jesus was in Bethany, and they went there, not only on His account, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

¹⁰ So the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too,
¹¹ because he was the reason that many of the Jews were leaving them and believing in Jesus.

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

¹² The next day a large crowd of those who had come to the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem.

¹³ So they took palm branches and went out to meet Him, shouting as they went,

"Hosanna!"^a

"God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! The King of Israel!"^b

¹⁴ Having located a young donkey, Jesus was now riding upon it, just as the Scripture predicted:

¹⁵ Don't be afraid, people of Israel. Look! Your King is coming in meekness,^a sitting on the colt of a donkey.^b

¹⁶ His followers didn't know at the time why Jesus rode a donkey. But after He was glorified, they remembered that this was written about the Messiah,^a and that they had actually brought the donkey to Him and put Him on it.

¹⁷ And those in the crowd who had been with Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, kept telling others about it.

¹⁸ In fact, one of the main reasons the crowd went to meet Him was because they had heard He had performed this miracle.

¹⁹ In desperation the Pharisees said among themselves, "Just look at that! We're getting nowhere. Look! The whole world is running after him!"

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now among those who had come to Jerusalem

the arrest of Jesus.

12:3a A perfume extracted from the spiked nard plant in the Himalayas.

12:3b The custom of the time was to lie on couches as they ate, with the feet stretched out away from the table.

12:5a Literally *300 denarii*. A laboring man earned one denarius (a small silver coin) per day.

12:13a Psalm 118:25-26. See Matthew 21:9a note.

12:13b Zechariah 3:15.

12:15a Zechariah 9:9. A king never rode on a donkey, but always on a horse or in an expensive carriage. Notice the modesty, and absence of pomp and display of worldly wealth and power. His trust was in the power and wisdom of God.

12:15b Zechariah 9:9.

12:16a Luke 19:29-35.

12:25a See Matthew 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-38; 10:29-30; Luke 9:24, and notes.

12:26a ... *wants to be a Christian* ...

to worship at the Feast were some Greeks.

²¹They went up to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said, "Sir, we would like to talk with Jesus."

²²Philip told Andrew. Then together they went and told Jesus.

²³But Jesus' answer was, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴"I tell you the absolute truth, that unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it never becomes more than one single kernel. But if it dies, it produces many others.

²⁵"If you love your life and insist on living it as you please, you will lose the life you could have lived forever. But if you will despise and reject all you could have gained to satisfy yourself in this brief life, you will save your life for all eternity.^a

²⁶"Whoever wants to serve Me^a must follow Me.^b And wherever I am, My servant will also be.^c Anyone who faithfully serves Me will indeed be honored by My Father.

²⁷"Now My soul is in deep agony, and what shall I say? Shall I plead with My Father, 'Father, save me from what's just ahead!?' But the reason I came to earth was to endure this time of suffering.

²⁸"Father, glorify Your name!" When He said that a voice out of Heaven said, "I have already glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹When the crowd standing there heard the voice, some said it had thundered. Others said, "An angel spoke to Him."

³⁰"This voice came for your benefit," Jesus

explained, "not Mine.

³¹"Now comes the time when justice will be administered,^a and Satan, the ruling prince of this world,^b will be stripped of all his power.

³²"And if I am lifted up from the earth on a cross, I will draw people from all mankind to Myself."

³³He said this to point out the way He would be put to death.

³⁴At this, the people spoke up, saying, "We've heard from the reading of the Law that the Messiah will live on forever,^a so how is it that you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up on a cross'? Who is this Son of Man You're talking about?"

³⁵"The Light is still with you," Jesus replied, "but only for a short time. Keep on living in it while you still have the Light, so that darkness doesn't overtake you. The one who walks in darkness doesn't know where he's going.

³⁶"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become children of Light."^a After saying this Jesus left, and hid Himself from them.

The People Still Refuse to Believe

³⁷In spite of the many miracles He had performed in their presence, most of the people still refused to believe in Him.

³⁸This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, who had said:

"Lord, who has believed what we told them? And who has recognized You and Your power in the miracles You performed?"^a

³⁹But they couldn't believe because, as the Lord

12:26b ... *must imitate Me; do what I do, suffer and endure what I suffer and endure, take a stand where I would take a stand, love what I love, hate what I hate, obey what I teach and command.*

12:26c Jesus simply emphasizes here the statement in the previous sentence. See 1 John 2:6. The promise comes in the next sentence.

12:31a The Greek text here is *Krists*, meaning *judgment* or *administration of justice*. Jesus here refers to the administration of God's justice upon man's sin, which He Himself would soon receive on the cross as the Savior of mankind. We can now either accept Him as our Lord and Savior, and receive the promise of God's honor in Heaven (v26), or continue in our selfishness and sin and soon receive God's administration of justice upon ourselves in Hell and the Lake of Fire.

12:31b He is also called *the god of this world*. 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12. The death of Christ on the cross was the beginning of the end for Satan, and for all who persist in following Satan.

12:34a Psalm 110:4; Daniel 2:44; Isaiah 9:6-7.

12:36a ... *walking in the Light and holding up the Light for others.*

12:38a Isaiah 53:1.

12:40a Isaiah 6:10. This does not mean it was God's plan that they should not be converted. But when they refused to listen and see, God locked them up in that unbelief for His own good reasons and purposes. And God foresaw that this would happen.

12:45a Christ was not speaking about His physical appearance, but about the wisdom and power by which He spoke and acted by means of the Holy Spirit. Both what He said and did were of the Father. Time and time again, He stated that He said only what the Father told Him to say. And all of His miracles were done by power given Him by the Father.

Thru Christ, the people were both hearing the Father speak and seeing the Father's power in the miracles. The Father was working in and thru Christ in both wisdom and power.

said to Isaiah:

⁴⁰ “I have blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they would be unable to see with their eyes or understand with their hearts, to turn back and be healed by Me.”^a

⁴¹ Isaiah said this because he had been given a vision and had seen Messiah’s glory. That’s why he was able to report these things about Him.

⁴² Still, even among the leaders, many believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees, they didn’t confess Him openly, so they wouldn’t be put out of the synagogue.

⁴³ They were more concerned about the approval of men than the approval of God.

⁴⁴ But Jesus had loudly declared, “The one who believes in Me does not believe only in Me, but in the One who sent Me.

⁴⁵ “When you look at Me, you are actually seeing the One who sent Me.”^a

⁴⁶ “I have come as Light into the world, so that all who are believing in Me would no longer continue to live in darkness.

⁴⁷ “But if anyone hears what I’m saying, and still refuses to accept the message and act upon it, I am not judging him, because I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.

⁴⁸ “But whoever keeps on rejecting Me and persists in refusing to accept the message I have for him has a judge, however—the very words which I have spoken will judge him on the Last Day.”^a

⁴⁹ “This is true, because I have not spoken of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me did Him-

self give Me orders as to what to say. He even gave Me the very words to say.

⁵⁰ “And I know that your faithful acceptance of the message He has commanded Me to speak will result in everlasting life for you. So I have given you the exact message My Father told Me to give.”

Jesus Washes His Followers Feet

13 Jesus knew before the Passover Feast began that the time had come for Him to leave this world and return to the Father. He had always had genuine love and concern for His followers in this world, and He loved them to the very end.

² Here’s what happened after preparations for the Passover meal had ended. The devil had already put it into the heart of Simon’s son, Judas Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³ And even though Jesus was fully aware that the Father had given Him complete power over everything, and that He had come from God and was returning to God,

⁴ He got up from the table, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist.

⁵ Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of His followers, wiping them with the towel He had tucked into His waist.

⁶ When He came to Simon Peter, Peter objected, saying, “Lord, are you really intending to wash my feet?”

⁷ “You don’t understand now what I’m doing,” Jesus replied, “but you will later on.”

12:47-48a At His first coming, Christ did not come to *judge* the world. He came to give words of life and words of warning, and to give His life as a sacrifice to ransom sinners. When He comes the second time, however, He will be Judge of all. All true Christians will be judged in regard to their labor and service for Him. 1 Corinthians 3:1-15. Not even a cup of cold water given to a fellow-servant of the Lord will be overlooked. Matthew 10:42. This judgment will be to determine the rewards to be received by each true Christian.

Christ will likewise judge the nations at His return, to determine who among the non-believers will be allowed to continue to live upon the earth throught the Millennium and beyond. Matthew 25:31-46. Then at the end of the first thousand years, the ungodly dead will be judged and punished according to their works. Revelation 20:7-15.

Every human being, both sinners and followers of the Lord, will be *judged* by *the words* the Lord has *spoken*, and by the words given by inspiration thru

His apostles. How important it is then to read God’s message to us humans and to accept it for what He actually said, and not for what we want to believe He meant by what He said.

The sinner has his reasons for not believing what Christ said—but he will be *judged* by these very *words* nonetheless. How much greater will be the judgment of those many who say “yes” to the Lord and to His *words*, but who then twist and distort His message to make it say what they want to believe.

Our churches today—even many evangelical churches—are filled with many who claim to be believers and followers of the Lord, but who are still not converted to the Lord! These unchanged people, no matter how pious they may look or speak, are as lost as the most outspoken unbeliever. Isaiah 55:6-11; Jeremiah 29:13. *Prepare to meet your God!* Amos 4:12. See Appendix 247, page 520.

13:8, 10a 1 John 1:8-9.

13:10b Meaning *anyone who is trusting in Jesus as his Savior from the penalty and power of sin,*

⁸“You will never wash my feet!” Peter declared.

“If I don’t wash you,” Jesus replied, “you can have no part with Me.”^a

⁹“In that case, Lord,” Peter strongly proposed, “don’t wash only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”

¹⁰“Anyone who has taken a bath^a is clean all over,” Jesus replied, “and doesn’t need to wash more than his feet.^b And you men are clean—but not all of you.”

¹¹Jesus knew who His betrayer was, so that’s why He said, “You are not all clean.”

¹²When He had finished washing their feet and had replaced His clothing, He returned to the table. Then He said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you?”

¹³“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’, and rightly so, because that’s what I am.

¹⁴“If I, then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

¹⁵“I have set an example for you; as I have done to you, you should also do to one another.

¹⁶“I state a very obvious truth when I say that a servant is not superior to his master, nor is a messenger superior to the one who sent him.

¹⁷“If you understand what I’m saying here, you’ll be happy and blessed if you put this code of conduct into practice.

¹⁸“I am not speaking about all of you—I know the ones I have chosen—but the Scripture is to be fulfilled that states:

One who ate My food with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.^a

¹⁹“I am telling you this now, before it happens, so that when it takes place you will have further proof, enabling you to believe with certainty that I am the One you’ve been waiting for.^a

²⁰“I tell you the absolute truth: Anyone who welcomes any messenger I send, welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the Father who sent Me.”

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

²¹After saying this, Jesus was deeply disturbed. Then He solemnly declared, “I tell you the absolute truth—one of you will betray Me.”

²²His followers looked at one another, utterly puzzled as to whom He could be talking about.

²³One of His followers, the one Jesus especially loved, was reclining^a close to Him.

²⁴So Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus whom He was talking about.

²⁵That follower then leaned back on the couch against Jesus and whispered, “Lord, who is it?”^a

²⁶“It’s the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the sauce,” Jesus told him. And when He had dipped it, He gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.

²⁷Immediately after Judas had received the bread, Satan entered into him. “What you’re planning to do,” Jesus then told him, “do it quickly.”

²⁸But none of the others at the table knew why He said this to him.

²⁹Since Judas was the one who carried their money, some thought that Jesus had sent him to buy the additional food needed for the Feast,^a or that he was to give something to the poor.

³⁰So after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out into the night.

The New Command

³¹After Judas left, Jesus said, “The Son of Man has now been glorified, and God has been glorified thru Him.

and has surrendered to Him as the Lord of his life.

13:18a Psalm 41:9.

13:19a ... *the Son of God, the Messiah, the King of Israel, the Savior of the world!*

13:23a ... *on a couch at the table* ...

13:25a Evidently a whispered conversation, as no one else seems to have been in on it, according to v 28.

13:29a The Passover Festival continued for seven additional days as the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:4-8), so some of the followers thought that Jesus had directed him to buy the food needed for the next several days.

14:1a A person cannot remain in a state free from a troubled mind unless he is continually trusting in the Lord. Isaiah 26:3. The moment we get our minds off the Lord and on circumstances, we

become troubled. The Lord can overcome any circumstance! See Romans 8:28; John 14:27.

14:2a *The Father’s house* is no doubt the heavenly Jerusalem, the city that’s laid out in the form of a square, and more than likely in the form of a cube, as it is 1,500 miles long, wide, and high (a large house indeed), which will come down to earth after the first 1,000 years of Christ’s reign on earth. Revelation 21:9-27; 22:1-5.

The Christians’ home will be in the new Jerusalem even before this beautiful city comes to earth. We will commute from that city to earth, to carry out our responsibilities of reigning with Christ. Daniel 7:18,27. And Christ promises here that He is *preparing* a home in that great and beautiful city for each individual who honestly allows Him to be both Lord and Savior in his life consider-

³²“And if God has been glorified thru the Son, God will thru Himself also glorify the Son, and He will glorify Him without delay.

³³“My dear children, I will be with you for only a short while longer. You will look for Me, but I now say the same to you as I said to the Jewish authorities, ‘You are not able to reach the place where I’m going.’

³⁴“I have a new commandment to give you: Love one another! Continue to love one another in the same way that I have loved you.

³⁵“This is how everyone will know that you truly are My followers, if you actively reveal your love for one another with genuine and generous concern.”

Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial

³⁶“Lord, where are You going?” Simon Peter questioned.

“You’re not able to follow Me now to where I’m going,” Jesus replied, “but you will follow Me later.”

³⁷“But Lord,” Peter persisted, “why am I not able to follow You now? I’ll even lay down my life for You!”

³⁸“Are you really willing to die for Me?” Jesus responded. “I tell you the absolute truth, Peter, before a rooster crows you will have disowned Me three times.

Jesus Is the Way to the Father

14 “Never allow yourselves to be anxious and worried about anything. Always trust in God. Likewise, always trust in Me!^a

²“In My Father’s house^a there are many dwelling places. Would I have told you I was going away to prepare a place for each of you if it were

not so?

³“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will also return and take you to be with Me, so that you may be where I am.^a

⁴“So you know where I’m going, and you also know the way there.”

⁵“Lord,” Thomas spoke up, “we don’t know where You’re going, so how can we know how to get there?”

⁶“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” Jesus replied. “No one can come to the Father unless he comes thru Me.

⁷“If you had known Me, you also would have known My Father. From now on you do know Him, and have even seen Him.”^a

⁸“Lord,” Philip now broke in, “allow us to see the Father and we’ll be satisfied.”

⁹“After I’ve been with you for all this time,” Jesus replied, “do you still not recognize Me, Philip? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.^a How can you then say, ‘Allow us to see the Father?’

¹⁰“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? I don’t even speak these words I’m speaking to you of My own accord^a; but it’s the Father, who lives within Me, who is continually speaking to you thru Me.^b

¹¹“You must believe Me when I tell you that by My Spirit I live in the Father, and by His Spirit the Father lives in Me. But if you cannot trust what I say, then at least allow the miracles themselves to convince you to believe Me.

¹²“I tell you the absolute truth: The one who believes in Me will do the same works that I have done. In fact he will do even greater things than these, because I am going to My Father.^a

¹³“And there with My Father, I will do whatever

ation. Matthew 7:21-27.

14:3a As wonderful as a home in Heaven will be, the greatest part of all will be that we will be with the Lord. *From that moment on, we will be with the Lord forever.* 1 Thessalonians 4:17. And He hasn’t even begun to reveal what His great plans are for those who will live with Him in the great eternity that stretches out before us in such incomprehensible magnitude. 1 Corinthians 2:9. But every test, trial, hardship, temptation, and persecution here will be worth it all.

We have only this very brief life in which to take a stand for Christ in the midst of hostility, but we will have all of eternity in which to enjoy the rewards of a faithful life and service here.

14:7a A good paraphrase here could be: “If you had known My real purpose in coming to earth as a

man, you also would have known the great plan and design of My Father in regard to My death and resurrection. From now on, you will know the plans and goal that God has in mind. And by seeing Me you have even seen Him.”

14:9a If the Father had come instead of the Son, He would very likely have taken on the same appearance as Jesus did. He would certainly have done and said the very same things that Jesus did, because Jesus did and said only what the Father told Him to. 12:45-50; Hebrews 1:3a.

14:10a Deuteronomy 18:18; John 17:8.

14:10b 1 Corinthians 8:6.

14:12a ... and you will carry on ...

14:13a To ask in Jesus’ name means to ask for the same reason and purpose that Jesus would ask if He were in your place and situation.

you may ask in My name,^a so that the Father may be glorified thru the Son.

¹⁴“If you ask for anything in My name,^a I will do it.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵“If you really love Me, you will do what I tell you to do, and not do.^a

¹⁶“And when you do, I will appeal to the Father, and He will give you another Helper^a who will stay with you forever.

¹⁷“He is the Spirit of Truth.^a People of the world cannot receive Him because they’re not looking for Him, nor do they have any acquaintance with Him. But you know Him, because He is constantly with you, and very soon now He will live within you.^b

¹⁸“I won’t abandon you as helpless orphans. I will come back to you.

¹⁹“In just a short while, the world will no longer see Me, but you will.^a Because I will live again, and you will too.

²⁰“When that time comes, you will know that I am in My Father, that you are in Me, and that I am in you.

²¹“Whoever not only knows what I command but also continues to do what I tell him to do is the one who truly loves Me. And whoever truly loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him, and will reveal Myself to him.”

²²“Lord,” Judas questioned (not Judas Iscariot), “how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us but not to the world?”

²³“The person who truly loves Me will do what I tell him to do,” Jesus replied. “My Father will love him for that, and We will both come to him and make Our home with him.

²⁴“But the person who does not truly love Me is one who is not doing what I’ve told Him to do.^a And remember, the words you are hearing are not Mine, but are from the Father who sent Me.

²⁵“I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.

²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send to represent Me, will teach you everything you need to know, and will remind you of everything I have told you.

²⁷“What I am leaving with you is peace of mind and heart. And this gift which I bequeath to you is

14:14a Before you pray, ask yourself, “How would Jesus pray if He were in my situation right now?” Also consider the other needful conditions for prayer to be answered. See Luke 11:9-10 note.

14:15a Finis Dake in *Dake’s Annotated Bible* lists 1,050 commands in the New Testament.

14:16a The Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-39; Luke 11:5-13.

14:17a He is the Holy Spirit, the One who teaches us and enables us to understand spiritual truth.

14:17b Ever since Jesus died on the cross for the sins of mankind and then rose back to life again, the Holy Spirit comes to live *within* a person when he becomes a true follower of Jesus. See vs 21-23 and 20:19-22. And *the proof* that one is a true follower is that his desire, purpose, and sincere aim now is to do all that Christ has commanded His followers to do, as Christ states in v 15. See also Romans 2:1-10; 6:16; Hebrews 5:9.

Jesus also promises the anointing, or baptism, of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:4-5) *to those who persevere in asking Him*. Luke 11:13.

14:19a ... see Me *by faith, knowing that I am with you because I promise to always be with you, especially when you are obedient in sharing the Great News with others*. Matthew 28:18-20.

14:24a And remember, God will not accept selective obedience. It’s all or nothing. Is God living within you by His Spirit? Does the Spirit of God witness within your spirit that you are a child of His?

Romans 8:12-16.

14:27a God knows everything about any problem or situation you may ever experience. So talk that problem over sincerely with the Lord, and trust Him to help you work it out. He has the solution!

14:28a Many believe that in saying that the Father was greater than He, that Jesus was speaking about His human nature in relation to the nature of God. The Pulpit Commentary goes into various beliefs concerning this statement of Christ, but we will not take the space here to go into all of them. But they quote from a Bishop Bull from his book entitled, *The Defense of the Nicene Creed*, published by Oxford Press, quoting from his three chapters on *The Subordination of the Son*. Bishop Bull says there, “The Father alone has the Divine nature from Himself, but the Son has received the Divine nature from the Father. It is the Father that is the Fountain, Origin, and Principal of the Divinity which is in the Son.”

The Scriptures are very plain that all that Jesus, the Son of God, is and has, has been given Him by the Father. Jesus Himself makes this very clear in the 17th chapter of John, especially in the first nine verses, and v 24. See also Matthew 28:18.

Notice that Jesus is telling His followers that the reason they should be very happy for Him was that when He arrived home in Heaven, He would be with One who was greater than He. If He didn’t mean that, why did He say what He did? His followers

not like the temporary, unsatisfactory, empty peace that the world gives. I give you the tranquil, uninterrupted, everlasting peace that I possess. So do not allow yourselves to be worried or fearful about any situation whatever.^a

²⁸“You heard Me tell you, ‘I am going away, and then I am coming back to you.’ If you loved Me the way you should, you would be very happy for Me when I tell you that I am going to the Father, because My Father is greater than I am.^a

²⁹“I have told you this now before it all happens, so that after it happens you will be able to believe.^a

³⁰“I will no longer be talking with you at length, because the ruler of this world is coming.

³¹“Satan has no claim on Me, but what happens will take place so that the world may know that I love the Father, and that I am doing what the Father has told Me to do. Let’s get up now and be on our way.

The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Owner and Gardener of the vineyard.

²“If any branch in Me doesn’t bear fruit, He cuts it off. And He keeps pruning every branch that

continues to bear fruit so it will be clean and bear even more fruit.

³“You are already pruned by the words I have spoken to you.

⁴“But you must remain united to Me.^a Then I will remain united to you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit by itself, without remaining united to the vine, neither can you, unless you remain united to Me.

⁵“I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you remain united to Me, and I united to you, you will continue to bear much fruit. But apart from Me you can’t do a thing.

⁶“Anyone who does not continue to be united to Me is thrown out as a branch, and then withers. Such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire and burned.

⁷“But if you remain united to Me, and allow My teachings to inspire and guide you in all your thoughts and actions,^a you can pray and ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.

⁸“My Father is glorified when you bear much fruit. And it is by bearing much fruit that you give proof that you are indeed true followers of Mine.^a

⁹“I have loved you in the same way that the

already knew that the Father was greater than the Son in His human state.

For an extensive account as to who Jesus Christ really is, see Appendix 246, page 512.

14:29a ... *that I have indeed gone back to the Father to do all I said I would do for you, and be all I said I would be for you.*

15:4a See Colossians 1:23.

15:7a Or *and allow My teachings to continually control and guide your life* ...

15:8a Well, just what does the Lord mean by bearing fruit? Six considerations come to mind. They are:

1) You must *daily* read God’s message to you (the Bible) in order to know how God would have you live. Someone has so rightly said, “The reading of this Book will keep you from sin, but sin will keep you from reading this Book.” Which will you choose—your sin, and its end result, or the reading of God’s word in order to overcome sin? So by reading God’s message to us *daily* we will be able to present to Him *the fruit of our obedience*. Hebrews 5:9.

2) The second means of bearing fruit is our prayers. God’s love for us is great beyond our understanding or imagination. And God intensely desires our love in return. We should tell God in prayer many times a day how much we love Him. Any marriage that is lacking in love will soon fall apart. The same is true with our relationship with

our Lord. By our prayers, we present to God *the fruit of loving fellowship*.

3) Another means of fruit-bearing is our witnessing about Christ and His salvation to others. Read the notes on Romans 10:9-10. This can be called *the fruit of our lips*.

4) Then there’s the need for Christian fellowship. We need to get together often with others who love our Lord. We need their encouragement, and they need ours. This can be called *the fruit of the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ*.

5) Always be willing to take a stand for the truth and righteousness. This takes courage, but you can always count on the Lord being with you when you speak out for Him and for what’s right. Others will be strengthened and encouraged when they see and hear the stand you take. Don’t be afraid to speak out! This can be called *the fruit of our courage when confronting the enemy*.

6) Another fruit that the Lord expects to find in your life is the determination to resist all temptation to sin. You may fail at times, but then immediately ask the Lord’s forgiveness, and ask the forgiveness of others if others are involved. This can be called *the fruit of our total surrender to our Lord*.

Whatever you do, never allow yourself to become lukewarm in your love for the Lord. As the Lord has

Father has loved Me. But you must remain in My love.

¹⁰ “You will continue to be loved by Me if you continue to do what I tell you to do, just as I continue to be loved by My Father because I always do what He tells Me to do.

¹¹ “I have told you these things so you may continue having My joy deep within yourselves, and so you may later have fullness of joy!^a

¹² “What I’m telling you to do is to love one another in the same way that I have loved you.

¹³ “No one has greater love than the one who willingly lays down his life for his friends.

¹⁴ “And you are My friends if you continue doing whatever I command you to do.^a

¹⁵ “I no longer call you servants, because a servant doesn’t know what his master is actually doing. But I’ve called you My friends because I have revealed everything to you that I heard from My Father.

¹⁶ “You did not choose Me. I chose you. And I have appointed you to go out and bear fruit, and to continue bearing fruit, so that My Father may grant whatever you ask in My name.^a

¹⁷ “Again, what I am actually commanding you to do is—Love one another!

The World’s Hatred for True Followers

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, just remember that it hated Me before it hated you.

¹⁹ “If you belonged to the world, the people of the world would treat you with affection as one of their own. But they hate and despise you now because you are no longer one of them, because I have chosen you and taken you out from among them.^a

²⁰ “Remember what I told you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they have closely scrutinized^a whatever I’ve said,^b they will do the same to you.

so definitely shown here, it is possible to apostatize and fall away from Him. Be sure to read Colossians 1:23, and the notes there. The Lord wants you to be a great overcomer, and an inspiration and challenge to others in the same determination. God bless you in your great adventure in bearing fruit for the Lord and in bringing great joy to Him by continuing to do so.

But in all reality, you cannot bear fruit for the Lord by your own strength and determination alone. You need God’s help. So do look to Him as your constant guide and strength. Proverbs 3:6.

15:11a ... *in far greater measure than you can*

²¹ “They will do all these things to you because you are My authorized agents, and because they are not acquainted with the One who sent Me.

²² “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin.

²³ “Whoever hates Me also hates My Father.

²⁴ “If I had not done things among them that no one else ever did, they wouldn’t be judged guilty of sin. But now, even after seeing all these miracles, they still hate both My Father and Me.

²⁵ “But this has happened so that the words written in their Law might be fulfilled:

They hated Me for no good reason.^a

²⁶ “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who comes forth from the Father, He will tell you all about Me.

²⁷ “And you also will continually tell others about Me, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

16 “I have told you all these things to keep you from falling away.

² “They will expel you from the synagogues. In fact, the time is coming when they will think they are serving God by killing you.

³ “They will do these things to you because they don’t know either the Father or Me.

⁴ “But I have told you these things now, so that when the time comes that they cruelly persecute you, you will remember that I warned you that this was how they would mistreat you. I didn’t warn you earlier because I was with you.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

⁵ “But now I am going back to the Father, who sent Me, and not one of you has asked Me with any real concern as to where and why I am going.

⁶ “Instead, you are filled with sorrow for yourselves because of the things I’ve told you.^a

⁷ “But I tell you the truth when I say that it will

now even imagine. 1 Corinthians 2:9.

15:1-14a The solemn words of our Lord in these verses clearly state the necessity of perseverance. The lesson of six of our Lord’s parables teach the need of perseverance in the faith. And the necessity is plainly implied in numerous other parables. The six parables are: The Sower (Luke 8:4-15), The Watchful Servants (Luke 12:35-40), The Unfaithful Servant (Luke 12:42-48), The Tower Builder (Luke 14:28-30), The Savorless Salt (Luke 14:34-35), and the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).

15:16a See John 14:13-14 notes.

15:19a ... *to pursue far more noble and eternal*

be for your good that I leave. Because if I don't leave, the Helper won't come. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸“When He comes, He will convict the people of the world about the evil lives they are living, about their failure to live the upright lives that God demands that they live, and about Judgment Day.

⁹“He will convict them of their sin of refusing to believe^a in Me.

¹⁰“He will also convict them of My honest and upright life, proved by My Father receiving Me into His presence,^a where you will no longer see Me.

¹¹“Finally, He will convict them about the inescapable judgment that awaits them; because sentence has already been passed on the ruler of this world.^a

¹²“I still have many things to tell you, but you're not able to take them in at the present time.

¹³“But when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into the full truth. He will not speak His own message, but will give you the message that has been given to Him for you. And He will tell you what will happen in the future.

¹⁴“He will glorify Me, because He will take the things that belong to Me and tell you about them.

¹⁵“All that the Father has belongs to Me. That's what I meant when I said that He will take the things that belong to Me and tell you about them.

¹⁶“In a short while, you will no longer see Me. Then a short while later, you will again see Me, because I will be leaving you to go to be with the Father.”^a

Their Grief Would Turn to Joy

¹⁷This caused some of His followers to ask each other, “What does He mean, saying, ‘In a short while, you will no longer see Me. Then, a short while later, you will again see Me,’ and, ‘because I will soon go away to the Father’?”

¹⁸“What does He mean by a short while?” they

murmured. “What's He talking about?”

¹⁹Jesus knew they wanted to ask Him about this, so He said, “Are you questioning My saying, ‘In a short while, you will no longer see Me, and a short while later, you will see Me again’?”

²⁰“I tell you the absolute truth: You will weep and wail, but the people of the world will be extremely glad. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will later turn to joy.

²¹“A woman giving birth to a child is in pain because her time has come. But as soon as the baby is born she forgets all her pain and anguish, because of her joy that a child has been born into the world.

²²“That's how it is with you. For the present moment, your minds are racked with pain. But I will see you again, and then your hearts will exult with joy. And no one will be able to take your joy from you.

²³“When that time comes, you will no longer bring your requests to Me. I tell you the absolute truth, My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My name.^a

²⁴“Until now you haven't asked My Father for a single thing in My name. But now you must make a practice of asking, and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

²⁵“I have spoken these things to you in symbolic language. But the time is coming when I will no longer use figurative speech in speaking to you, but will inform you about the Father in plain words.

²⁶“At that time, you will make requests of the Father in My name. And I'm not saying that I will plead with the Father to answer your prayers.

²⁷“No! Because the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from Him.

²⁸“I came into the world from the Father, and now I am leaving the world to return to the

rewards.

15:20a The primary meaning of the Greek word here, *tayréo*, means to *keep watch over*. This certainly applies in this context, as the Pharisees were closely watching Jesus, doing their best to trap Him into saying something that would ruin Him.

15:20b ... *for the purpose of having something to use as evidence against Me* ...

15:25a Psalm 35:19; 69:4.

16:6a They were thinking only of themselves, of what they would lose.

16:9a See John 6:35 and Acts 16:31 notes regarding what it means to believe in Jesus.

16:10a Christ's ascension to the Father (Luke

24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11) was evidence of His uprightness. God would not have given power to an imposter to ascend into the heavens as Christ did.

16:11a If Satan has already been sentenced, then be sure that all other rebels against God and right living will likewise be sentenced to Hell, and later to the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15.

16:16a He was referring here to His death, resurrection, and ascension to Heaven.

16:23a See John 14:13-14 notes.

16:30a He knows even the questions in our minds, as well as the answers. He had just answered their questions of vs 17-18 without their asking.

Father.”

²⁹“Ah,” said His followers, “now You are speaking plainly and not in veiled language.

³⁰“Now we know that You know everything, and that You don’t need anyone even to ask You their questions.^a Because of this we believe that You truly came from God.”

³¹“Do you really believe Me now?” Jesus responded.

³²“But take notice—an hour is coming, and in fact it’s here now, when you will all scatter, each to his own place, leaving Me alone. But I am never alone, because the Father is always with Me.

³³“I have said all these things to you so that you may realize that you can look to Me alone for peace and happiness. In this world you will experience all kinds of trouble, but be fearless and courageous! I have overcome the world!”^a

The Prayer of Jesus

17 After Jesus had finished talking to His followers about these things, He looked toward Heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You.

²“Even as You have given Him authority over all humankind, now glorify Him so that He may give everlasting life to all whom You have given Him.

³“And this is what eternal life will mean to them: They will come to really know^a You, the only One who is truly God.^b And they will also come to really know^a Jesus Christ, whom You sent to them.

⁴“I have glorified You on the earth, and I have completed the work You gave Me to do.

⁵“And now, My Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory I had with You before there ever was a world.^a

⁶“I have revealed what You are really like^a to the men whom You took out of the world and gave to Me. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me. They have listened carefully and conscientiously to the message You gave Me for them.

⁷“They now understand that everything You have given Me, of whatever nature, is indeed from

You. Because I have given them the very message You gave Me to give them.

⁸“They have accepted what I told them, and have come to believe with absolute certainty that I came from Your presence, and that You sent Me.

⁹“I am praying for them—not for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, because they are the ones who belong to You.

¹⁰“All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And I have been glorified thru them.^a

¹¹“Now I will no longer be in the world. But while I return to You, they will remain here on earth. Holy Father, preserve them faithful and true to You and Your cause—these whom You have given Me—in order that they may be of one heart and mind in feeling, plan, and purpose, in the same way that We are.

¹²“While I was with them in the world, I kept them dedicated to worshiping and obeying You. I carefully guarded those You gave Me, and not one of them perished except the son of destruction.^a And even this was in fulfillment of what the Scriptures said would happen.^b

¹³“Now I am returning to You. But I’m saying these things while still in the world so that they may^a experience the full measure of My joy in themselves.

¹⁴“I have given them Your message. Now the world crowd hates them, because they are no longer a part of it, just as I am not.

¹⁵“I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You protect them from falling to Satan’s cunning and deceitful temptations.

¹⁶“They are not a part of the world crowd and its low aims and ambitions anymore than I am.

¹⁷“Cleanse them by Your truth, because all that You have revealed in Your Great and Marvelous News is the truth.

¹⁸“Just as You sent Me into the world, I am now also sending them into the world.

¹⁹“I am dedicating Myself to You to be of the greatest possible benefit to them, so that as they read and study Your truth, and meditate on it, they will become wholly dedicated to all that You are

16:33a And thru Christ’s help, we can conquer it too. In a Bible Concordance look up references to *overcame, overcome, overcomes, and overcometh*. See Philipppians 2:13 and Appendixes 217 and 218.

17:3a See 1 Corinthians 13:12.

17:3b Previously stated in Isaiah 30:27.

17:5a See v 24.

17:6a Literally *revealed Your name*. The word *name* is often used to designate the unique quali-

ties of the person. Jesus revealed the kind of person God is by delivering God’s unique message and by validating that message by miracles thru God’s power.

17:10a Masculine, plural. Therefore, referring to His eleven faithful followers, not material things. Jesus also desires to be glorified in and thru you.

17:12a One who is in a constant state of being destroyed, referring here to Judas, the traitor.

and desire.

²⁰“I am not praying only for these, but also for all who will believe in Me thru their testimony, preaching, and teaching.

²¹“My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as You and I are, Father. Just as I am in agreement and united in purpose with You, and You are in agreement and united in purpose with Me, may they also be of one heart and mind in agreement and united in purpose with Us,^a so that the world may be convinced that You sent Me.

²²“And I have given them the same glory that You gave Me, so that they may truly be one in heart and mind in glorious unity in the same way that We are—

²³I in them and You in Me—so that they may be perfected with one heart and mind in order that the world will definitely know that You sent Me, and that You love them just as much and to the same extent that You love Me.^a

²⁴“My Father, I want all whom You have given Me to also be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory—the glory which You gave Me—because You loved Me even before the world was created.

²⁵“O Righteous Father, the people who mainly love what they can experience and gain in this present life don’t know You. But I know You, and these followers of Mine know that You sent Me.

²⁶“I have told them Your plan and purpose, and what You are like, and I will continue to do so, so that the same love that You have for Me may be in them, and that I Myself may live in them.”

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

18 When Jesus finished praying, He went out with His followers and crossed the Kidron Brook. There was a garden there, and He and His followers entered it.

²Judas, the betrayer, also knew the place, because Jesus had gone there often with His followers.

³And look! Here comes Judas now, leading a detachment of Roman soldiers and some Temple police from the chief priests and Pharisees, carry-

ing lanterns, torches, and weapons.

⁴Then Jesus, knowing everything that would happen to Him, stepped forward and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

⁵“For Jesus, the Nazarene,” they said.

“I am He,” Jesus replied.

⁶Judas, who was in the very act of betraying Him, was also standing there with them. And when Jesus said, “I am He,” they all stumbled backward and fell to the ground.

⁷Once again He asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

“For Jesus, the Nazarene,” they again replied.

⁸“I already told you that I am He,” Jesus responded. “If I am the one you are looking for, then let these other men go their way.”

⁹He said this so that what He had said earlier would come true, when He had prayed, “I haven’t lost even one of those You gave Me.”

¹⁰Simon Peter had a sword, and he now drew it and slashed out at a servant of the High Priest and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

¹¹“Put your sword back in the sheath,” Jesus commanded Peter. “Shall I not drink the cup of suffering that the Father has given Me?”

Jesus Taken to Annas

¹²Then the Roman soldiers, together with their commanding officer and the Temple police, arrested Jesus and tied Him up.

¹³First they led him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year.

¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders, “It’s better that one man should die, than all the people.”^a

Peter Denies Jesus

¹⁵Only Peter and one other follower followed Jesus. Since the other follower knew the High Priest, he was allowed to enter the courtyard of the High Priest along with Jesus.

¹⁶But Peter was left standing outside near the door. So the other follower went out and persuaded the doorkeeper to let Peter in.

17:12b Psalm 41:9.

17:13a ... *fully understand what the situation is, and as a result* ...

17:21a See John 5:19 note.

17:23a The Greek *kathous* means *just as, as ... so, likewise, to the same degree that*. As a true, born-again follower of the Lord, have you really considered how deep and wide and genuine God’s

love really is for you? Yes, you! God loves you—He really does—as much as He loves His Son Jesus! See Ephesians 1:11, and the notes, and Psalm 103:11.

18:14a See John 11:47-52.

18:19a This is Annas. At this period the office of High Priest was filled and vacated at the whim of whoever was Roman governor at the time. Annas

¹⁷“You’re also a follower of this man, aren’t you?” the girl in charge of the door challenged Peter.

“Not me!” Peter replied.

¹⁸It was cold, so the servants and the Temple police had made a charcoal fire, and they stood there now, warming themselves. Peter went over and stood there too, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹Meanwhile, the High Priest^a questioned Jesus about His followers and about His teaching.

²⁰“I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the Temple, where the Jews always assemble. I have said nothing in secret.

²¹“So why do you question Me? Question those who heard Me as to what I told them. They know what I said.”

²²When Jesus said that, one of the Temple police officers standing nearby struck Him a blow with the palm of his hand, demanding as he did so, “Is that the way you answer the High Priest?”

²³“If I was wrong in saying what I did,” Jesus replied, “give evidence of the wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike Me?”

²⁴Then Annas sent Him, still tied up, to Caiaphas the High Priest.

Peter’s Second and Third Denials

²⁵As Simon Peter was standing there warming himself, he was again asked, “Aren’t you also one of His followers?”

But Peter again denied it, saying, “No, I am not!”

²⁶Then one of the servants of the High Priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?”

²⁷But again Peter denied it—and immediately a rooster crowed.

Jesus Before Pilate

²⁸From the residence of Caiaphas, they led Jesus to the Roman governor’s palace. It was now early morning, and in order to keep from being defiled, the Jews didn’t enter the palace themselves, so that they might eat during the Passover festival.^a

²⁹So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What charges are you making against this man?”

³⁰“If he weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have turned him over to you!” they retorted.

³¹Pilate then said, “Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own law.”

“But we’re not allowed to put anyone to death,” the Jews responded.

³²By demanding death by the hands of the Romans, they would fulfill Jesus’ prediction of the kind of death He was about to die.^a

³³Then Pilate went back into the palace and sent for Jesus. “Are you the King of the Jews?” he questioned.

³⁴“Is this your own question?” Jesus replied. “Or did others say this about Me?”

³⁵“Do you think I’m a Jew?” Pilate retorted. “It’s your own people and the chief priests who’ve turned you over to me. What have you done?”

³⁶“My Kingdom is not of this world,”^a Jesus replied. “If My Kingdom were of this world, then My servants would have fought to keep Me from being turned over to the Jewish authorities.^b But the truth is, My Kingdom is not of this world.”

³⁷“So you are a king,” Pilate responded.

“You speak the truth in saying that I am a king,” Jesus replied. “It was for this purpose that I was born. And the reason I came into the world was to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who sincerely wants to know the truth listens to what I have to say.”

³⁸“And what is truth?” Pilate questioned. But without waiting for an answer, he again went out

had been dismissed by this time, but he still held tremendous power and influence, to the extent that five of his sons and his son-in-law, Caiaphas, held the priesthood in almost unbroken succession. Caiaphas held the title of High Priest at this time, but Annas was still considered the virtual High Priest by many Jews, because of his age, ability, and dominant personality.

18:28a They were not concerned about eating the pascal lamb. They had all eaten that the evening before. They were concerned about the Passover feast (the Feast of Unleavened Bread) which continued for seven days after the Passover meal.

18:32a In John 3:14 and 12:32-33, Jesus had predicted He would die by crucifixion. This was the Roman form of capital punishment, not the Jewish form. So both the Romans and the Jews killed Jesus. All the world had sinned and was lost, and all the world was involved in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, which now enables God to forgive all who come to Him thru Jesus.

18:36a That is, *the origin and nature of My Kingdom is not of this world.*

18:36b There was no danger then that His subjects would fight to establish His Kingdom. His dominion is over the heart, subduing evil passions

to the Jewish authorities and said:

“I don’t find this man guilty of any crime.

³⁹“But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover season. So, do you want me to release to you the ‘King of the Jews?’”

⁴⁰At this they all shouted, “No! Not him! Release Barabbas!” Yet Barabbas was a robber.

Jesus Sentenced to Death

19 Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be taken away and whipped with a scourge.^a

²Following this, the soldiers twisted some branches with long sharp thorns into a crown, which they put on His head, after which they put a purple^a robe on Him.

³Then one after another they came up to Him, shouting, “Hail! King of the Jews!”—and then repeatedly striking Him with blows to the face.

⁴Again Pilate went out to the crowd and said, “Now look, I’m bringing this man out to you again to let you clearly understand that I find him not guilty.”

⁵When Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said, “Look! Here’s the man!”

⁶But the moment the chief priests and Temple police saw Him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

“You take him, then, and crucify him,” Pilate responded, “because I find absolutely nothing to charge him with!”

⁷“We have a law that concerns His case,” the Jewish authorities shouted back, “and according to that law he must die! He has set himself up as being the Son of God!”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever.

⁹He took Jesus back into the palace and questioned Him again. “Where are you from?” he asked. But Jesus didn’t answer.

¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate demanded. “Don’t you realize that I have power to have you nailed to a cross or power to set you

free?”

¹¹“You would have no power whatever over Me,” Jesus replied, “if it hadn’t been given you from God above. But the man^a who turned Me over to you has committed the greater sin.”

¹²From that moment on, Pilate tried to set Him free. But the Jews kept shouting:

“If you release this man you are no friend of Caesar! Anyone who sets himself up as a king is declaring himself to be in rebellion against Caesar!”

¹³When Pilate heard that charge, he brought Jesus out and seated himself on the judge’s seat in a place called The Stone Pavement. In Hebrew it’s called Gabbatha.

¹⁴It was then almost noon, when preparations were being made for the special Sabbath^a that would follow the Passover, and for Passover week. Pilate then addressed the Jews standing there, saying, “Look! Here is your King!”

¹⁵“Away with him! Get rid of him!” they stormed furiously. “Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your King?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests shouted back.

¹⁶So he surrendered to what they demanded and handed Him over to them to be crucified. And they took Jesus and led Him away.

Jesus Is Crucified

¹⁷They made Him carry His own cross to the place called The Place That Looks Like a Skull. In Hebrew it’s called Golgotha.

¹⁸There they nailed Him to a cross. Two others were crucified at the same time, one on each side, and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate also had a sign made, and had it nailed to the cross. It read:

**JESUS THE NAZARENE
THE KING OF THE JEWS**

²⁰Many of the Jews read the sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city,

and corrupt desires, and by revelation of the truth, bringing His subjects to indeed love God and man.

19:1a The Roman scourge consisted of a handle, to which several cords or leather thongs were fastened, weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, and sometimes with spikes, to make the blows more painful and effective. Up to 39 lashes with the scourge were then painfully inflicted.

The punishment was so severe that the victim usually fainted, and often died from it. And this was

only part of the suffering our Lord endured to free us from the guilt of our sins.

19:2a *Purple*, color of royalty, used here in mockery of Christ’s claims.

19:11a Caiaphas, the High Priest.

19:14a See v 31, and Matthew 28:1 note.

19:24a Psalm 22:18.

19:26a The apostle John.

19:29a A cheap, sour wine consisting of vinegar mixed with water.

and the sign was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

²¹The chief priests of the Jews then complained to Pilate. “Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews,’” they said, “but that he claimed to be King of the Jews.”

²²“What I have written, I have written!” Pilate defiantly replied.

²³After the soldiers had crucified Jesus they divided His clothing into four parts, a part for each soldier. His tunic, however, was woven from top to bottom without a seam.

²⁴“Let’s not rip it apart,” they said among themselves. “Let’s throw dice to decide who gets it.” In doing this they fulfilled the Scripture, which says,

“They divided My clothing among them, and threw dice for My tunic.”^a

And that was exactly what the soldiers did.

²⁵Standing near the cross now was Jesus’ mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

²⁶Seeing His mother, and His follower whom He especially loved^a standing nearby, Jesus said to His mother, “Dear woman, look! Here is your son.”

²⁷Then to His follower He said, “Look, there is your mother.” From that time on this follower received her into his own home.

The Death of Jesus

²⁸Following this, so that the Scriptures might be completely fulfilled, and knowing that everything else had already been accomplished, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

²⁹There was a jar full of vinegar wine^a there. So they filled a sponge with the vinegar and lifted it to His mouth^b on a stalk of the hyssop plant.

³⁰Immediately after Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, “It is finished.” Then, bowing His head, He gave up His spirit and died.

³¹Meanwhile, the Jewish authorities had asked Pilate to have the legs of the dying men broken,^a and their bodies removed, because it was the day of Sabbath preparation, and they didn’t want the bodies to remain on the crosses on the Sabbath, because this was a special Sabbath.^b

³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the

two men crucified with Jesus.

³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they didn’t break His legs.

³⁴But one of the soldiers thrust a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.

³⁵The one telling you about these things actually saw them happen. I’m telling the truth. I’m telling you these things which I know to be the truth, so that you also may believe.

³⁶These things happened in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled, which predicted,

“Not one of His bones will be broken.”^a

³⁷And another Scripture says,

“They will look at the One into whose side they had plunged a spear.”^a

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸After this, Joseph from Arimathea, a follower of Jesus, but a secret follower because of his fear of the Jewish authorities, asked Pilate for permission to remove Jesus’ body. And Pilate granted permission. So he came and took the body away.

³⁹Nicodemus, who had earlier visited Jesus at night, also came, bringing a mixture of about a hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes.^a

⁴⁰Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, which is the burial custom of the Jews.

⁴¹There was a garden in the area where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

⁴²So because it was the Jewish day of Preparation for the Sabbath and Passover week, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The Tomb Found Empty!

20 Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. There she discovered that the large stone had been rolled away from the entrance!

²So she hurriedly ran and found Simon Peter and the other follower, the follower whom Jesus especially loved, and exclaimed, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have taken Him!”

19:29b Psalm 69:21.

19:31a ... to hasten death ...

19:31b See Matthew 28:1 note.

19:36a Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20.

19:37a Zechariah 12:10.

19:38-39a Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, two highly placed Jews, and both members of the

Sanhedrin, are identified as Messianic Jews. So even at the highest level of Jewish religious authority, not all of Israel rejected Christ, as some imply.

20:8a ... that someone had taken the body from the tomb.

20:9a Psalm 16:8-11.

20:23a The Greek word used here , *aphíami*, is a

³So Peter and the other follower immediately started for the tomb, both of them running.

⁴But the other follower outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

⁵As he leaned inside and looked, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in.

⁶Behind him came Simon Peter, who ran right into the tomb when he arrived. He also saw the linen cloths.

⁷But the face cloth that had been around Jesus' head wasn't lying with the other cloths. It had been folded up and laid in a place by itself.

⁸Then the other follower also went in, the one who had reached the tomb first. And he saw and was convinced.^a

⁹At that time, they still didn't know about the Scripture that said He must rise from the dead.^a

¹⁰Then they returned to the place where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene!

¹¹By that time, Mary had returned and was standing outside the tomb, crying. And as she wept, she leaned inside and looked into the tomb.

¹²There she saw two angels dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other where His feet had been!

¹³"Woman," they asked her, "why are you crying?"

"Because they took my Lord away," she sobbed, "and I don't know where they have put Him."

¹⁴After saying this, she looked behind her, and there she saw Jesus standing, but she didn't recognize Him.

¹⁵"Woman, why are you crying?" He asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought He was the gardener, so she said, "Sir, if you carried His body away, tell me where you put Him, and I will go and get Him."

¹⁶"Mary!" Jesus addressed her. Whereupon she whirled around full toward Him, and exclaimed in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher!").

¹⁷"Don't keep hanging on to Me," Jesus protested, "because I haven't yet gone up to My Father. But go now to My brothers and tell them that I am

indeed soon going up to My Father and your Father, to My God, and your God."

¹⁸So Mary Magdalene hurried to Jesus' followers and exclaimed, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them His message.

Jesus Appears to His Followers!

¹⁹That same Sunday evening, the followers were gathered together behind locked doors, because of their fear of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, there was Jesus standing in the room with them! "Peace be with you," He said to them.

²⁰After saying this, He showed them His hands and His side. His followers were overwhelmingly overjoyed at seeing Him.

²¹Then again He said to them, "Peace be with you. Just as the Father sent Me, I now also send you."

²²After saying this, He breathed on them, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³"Those whom you now lead to a cancellation of their sins^a will indeed receive forgiveness. But as for those whom you neglect, or fail to lead to this pardon, they will remain unforgiven."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴Thomas, however, one of the Twelve (the one called the Twin), wasn't with them when Jesus appeared to them.

²⁵When the others later told him, "We have seen the Lord!" his response was:

"Unless I see the scars from the nails in His hands, and put my finger on those scars, and put my hand where the spear went into His side, I won't believe it."

²⁶Eight days later, His followers were again indoors, and this time Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus again came and stood among them, and said:

"Peace be with you."

²⁷Then He said to Thomas, "Examine My hands with your finger. And reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting, and believe!"

²⁸"My Lord and My God!" Thomas exclaimed.

²⁹"Thomas, now you believe because you have

legal term which implies that legally God no longer has any record of our sins, when we accept and obey the Great News according to His terms. Hebrews 5:9; Psalm 103:12.

This is a solemn responsibility the Lord has given to all of us who are His followers. Luke 24:33 reveals that not only the ten were present to receive this commissioning. This witnessing of the Great News

to others is the responsibility of every person who has received for himself God's forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:9-10; Ezekiel 33:1-9.

20:31a Acts 16:30-31.

seen Me,” Jesus said. “Happy and blessed are those who believe without seeing.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus performed many other miracles in the presence of His followers, which are not recorded in this book.

³¹ But these have been written down so that you may believe that Jesus is indeed the Messiah, the Son of God, and that you may have eternal life by believing in His name.^a

Jesus Appears to Seven Followers

21 Sometime later, Jesus appeared to His followers along the shore of Lake Tiberias. It happened this way:

² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers of Jesus were together.

³ “I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter informed them.

“We’ll go with you,” they volunteered. So they immediately went out and got into the boat. But they didn’t catch a thing that night.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore, but His followers didn’t recognize Him.

⁵ “Young men!” He called to them, “you don’t have any fish there, do you?”

“No,” they replied.

⁶ “Throw your net out on the right side of the boat and you’ll find some,” He said. So they threw the net out, and then they weren’t able to haul it in because of the mass of fish in it.

⁷ “It’s the Lord!” the follower whom Jesus especially loved said to Peter. When Simon Peter heard it was the Lord, he threw his outer cloak around himself, because he was stripped to the waist, and jumped into the water.

⁸ The others, however, came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They weren’t far from shore, only about a hundred yards.

⁹ When they got on land, they saw a charcoal fire burning with some fish on it, and bread close by.

¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus requested.

¹¹ So Simon Peter went over and pulled the net ashore. It was filled with 153 large fish! Still, even with so many fish, the net wasn’t broken.

¹² “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus invited. Not one of His followers dared to ask Him who He was, because they knew it was the Lord.

¹³ Then Jesus took up the bread and served them, and did the same with the fish.

¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus had appeared to His followers after He had risen from the dead.

Jesus Talks to Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered, “You know that I love You.”

“Then feed My lambs,” He replied.

¹⁶ Again, a second time He asked him, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

“Yes, Lord,” he replied, “You know that I love You.”

“Then be a shepherd to My sheep,” He charged him.

¹⁷ Then a third time He asked, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?”

It really hurt Peter that Jesus asked him three times, “Do you love Me?”

So he replied, “Why, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You.”

“Then feed My sheep,” Jesus commanded.

¹⁸ “I am telling you the absolute truth when I tell you that when you were younger, you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you get old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you, and you will be taken where you won’t wish to go.”

¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He added, “Faithfully follow Me!”

²⁰ Turning around, Peter saw the follower Jesus especially loved following them, the one who had leaned over against Jesus at the supper and had asked, “Lord, who’s going to betray You?”

²¹ On noticing him, Peter asked Jesus, “But Lord, what about him?”

²² “If I should choose that he survive until I return,” Jesus replied, “why should that concern you? Your need is to concern yourself about faithfully following Me.”

²³ So the report got out among the brothers that this follower would never die. But Jesus didn’t say, “He will never die.” He only said, “If I should choose that he survive until I return, why should that concern you?”

²⁴ The follower mentioned here is the one who has given this testimony concerning these happen-

ings and wrote this record. And we know that what he has told us is the truth.

²⁵Jesus did many other things—so many, in fact,

that if they were all described in detail, I suppose that the world itself would not have room for all the books that would be written. So be it!

Because God's love for everyone in the world is so overwhelmingly great, He gave His incomparable Son as His Lamb to be sacrificed, to endure extreme suffering and shame, and then die, in order that He might make amends for the sins of all mankind, so that whoever is believing in Him may not perish but have everlasting life."

—John 3:16

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame,
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me,
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To gain pardon and glory for me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
It's shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory for ever I'll share.

Chorus:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
Till I exchange my own cross for a crown.*

*Words and music by George Bernard.
Copyright expired. Now in the Public domain.*

* It is not Christ's cross that we will lay down (as implied in the original wording of the hymn) but our own cross, which Christ said we must take up. See Matthew 10:38; 16:24, and the notes.