

Judgment According to Works

EVERY ONE OF US WILL GIVE
AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF

TO GOD

ROMANS 14:12

Past > Present > Future



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The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Temperance: Passive Smoking

Effects of passive smoking

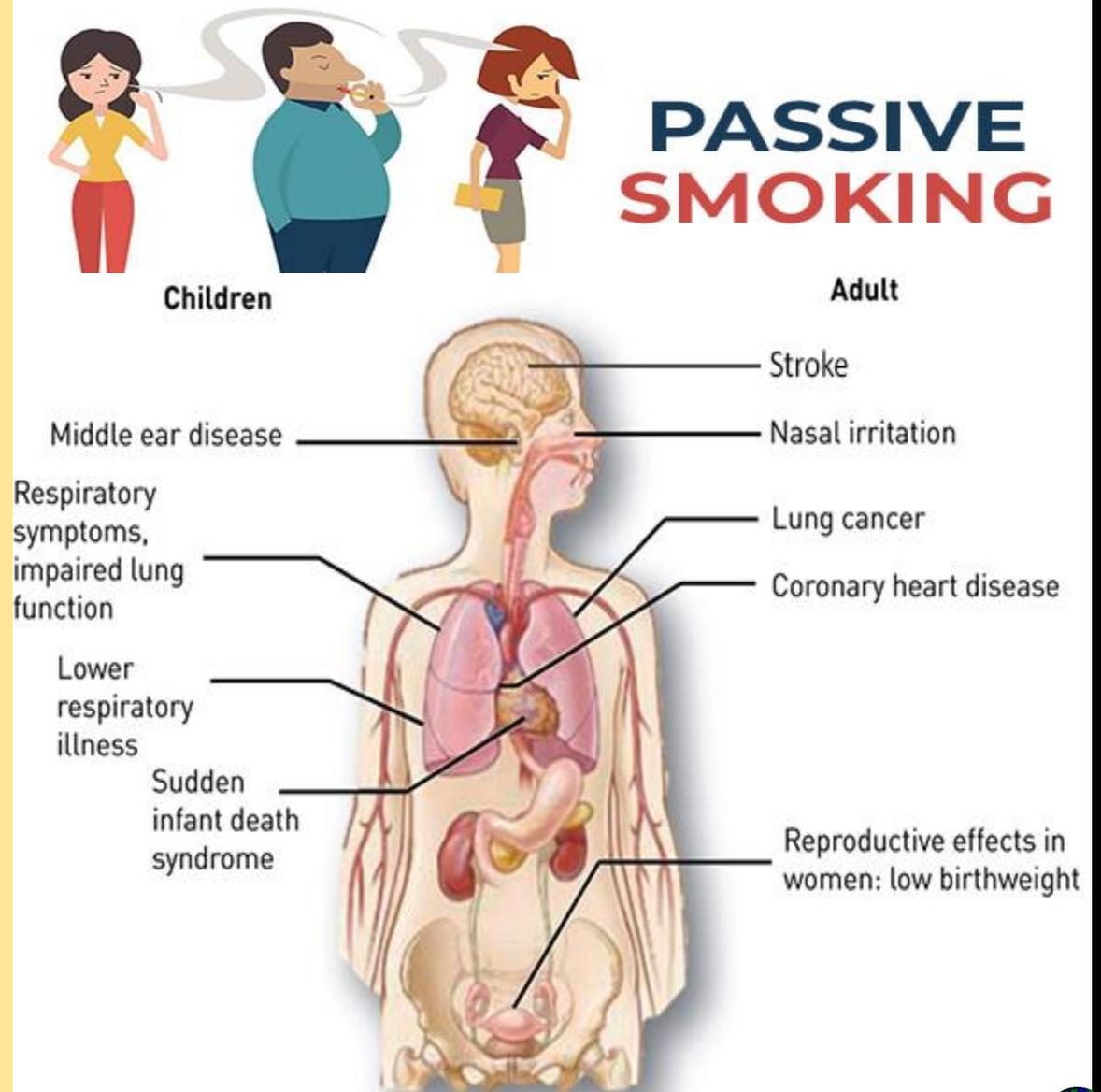
Passive smoking: breath in other people's tobacco smoke. Tobacco smoke inside a room tends to hang in mid-air rather than disperse. Hot smoke rises, but tobacco smoke cools rapidly, which stops its upward climb. Since the smoke is heavier than air, the smoke starts to descend. Heavy smoking indoors creates a low-lying smoke cloud that other householders have no choice but to breathe.

Passive smoking risks:

- Respiratory illnesses in children: including asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia.
- If you live with someone who smokes, higher risk of diseases such as lung cancer, heart disease and stroke. Stopping smoking will not only make one healthier, but will also improve the health of spouse, children or others.
- If you are not ready to stop, making your home and car totally smoke-free is the next best way to protect your family from second-hand smoke.

In pregnancy, risk: early birth, still birth, low birth weight.

- A smoking father: lower fertility, birth defects - cleft lip or palate, childhood cancer including liver cancer.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



Genesis 7:15 KJV

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.



Judgment According to Works

EVERY ONE OF US WILL GIVE
AN ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF

TO GOD

ROMANS 14:12

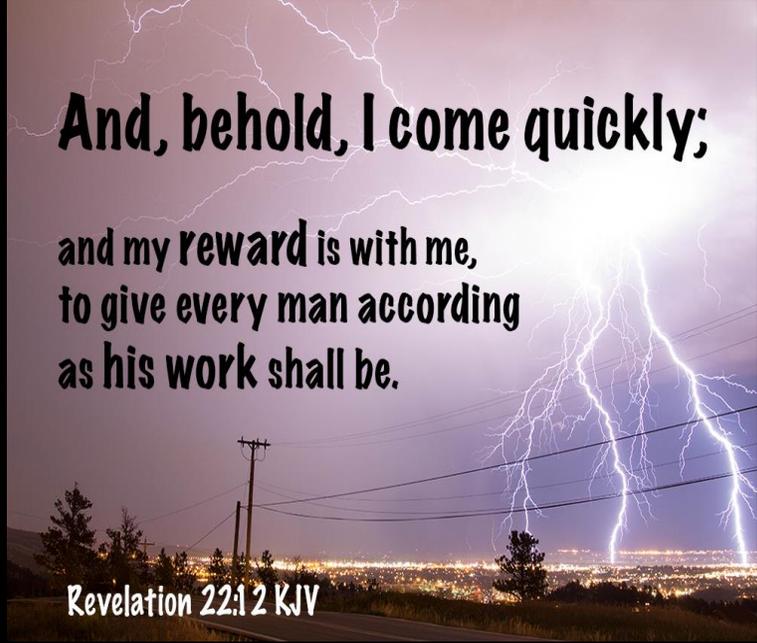
Past > Present > Future



Introduction

It belongs to Christian reason to assess the place and function that justification and judgment have in the revealed flow of God's redemptive plan. According to that plan, God came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son, and offered justification, a right relation with Himself, to all who would place their faith in the crucified, risen Christ. Those whom God justified through Jesus Christ He called to witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed until the consummation of all things. When the end comes, the judgment assesses and testifies to the reality of justification evidenced by the faithful witness of God's people. In this flow, justification and the judgment do not stand in the relation of tension or contradiction, but in that of inauguration and consummation.

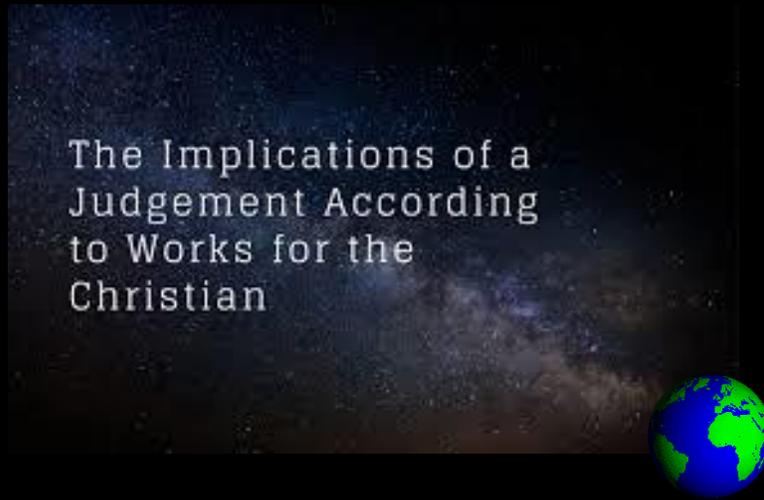
God's plan has run its full course when His people, the justified, stand before Him at the end of time with the fruit of their personal (ethical) and evangelistic labour in the power of the Spirit. To be without fruit is to be not a part of, but apart from, God's redemptive process in this world.



And, behold, I come quickly;

and my reward is with me,
to give every man according
as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:12 KJV



The Implications of a
Judgement According
to Works for the
Christian

Introduction (cont'd)

The point about the relation between justification's and the judgment's being that of the relation between inauguration and consummation finds elements of support in [Philippians 1:5-11](#). Paul says that he is "thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you. . . , for you are all partakers with me of grace. . . . And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which came through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

The rubrics and content of theology must be large enough to accommodate all the data of divine revelation. In this regard justification and judgment should be conceived as integral elements of the ongoing movement of salvation-history. Neither must be weakened or rejected. Both must be accepted and integrated. These pillars must stand together, supporting the edifice of God's redemptive purpose and activity.



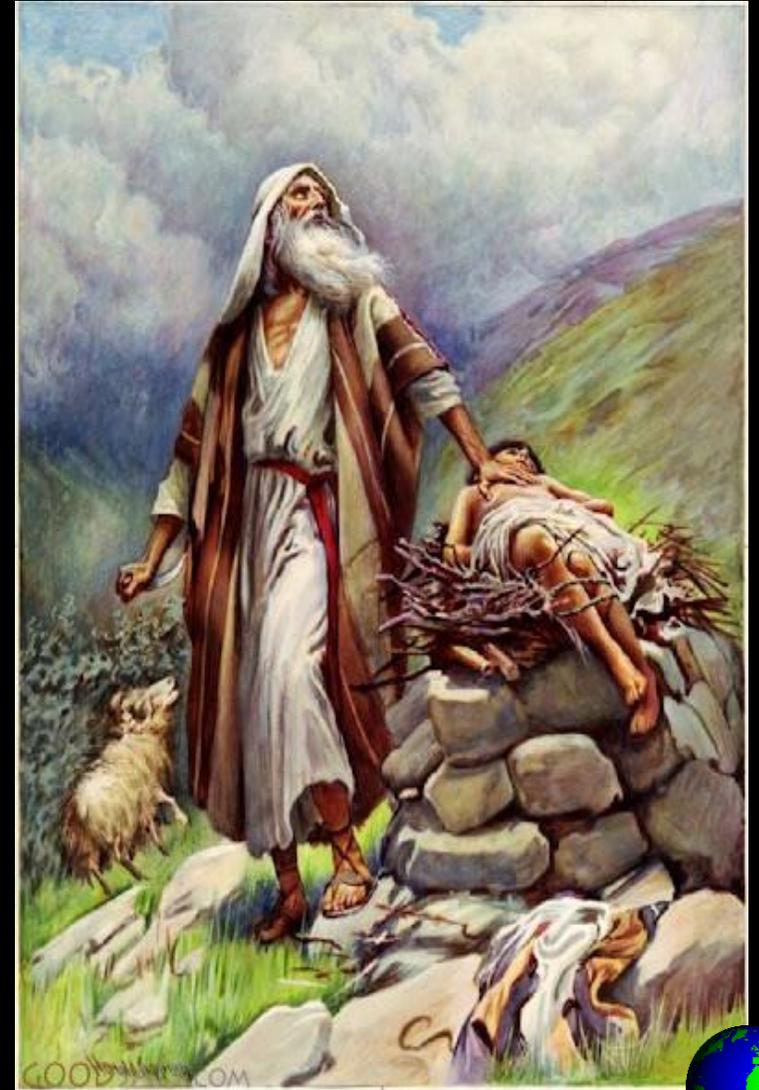
Lets examine the case of Abraham

Speaking of Abraham, Genesis 15:6 says: *And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.*

Abraham's belief or faith was counted as righteousness. God said it is enough that Abraham believes in my saving grace.

But when Abraham's name comes up in the judgment what evidence will there be that he believed? Especially since he lied about his relationship with Sarah in order to save him from Egypt's ruler. He trusted a lie to save him instead of trusting God to save him. No evidence of faith there.

However if we go to Genesis 22:1-24, we will see the evidence of Abraham's faith, when he obeyed God and offered up his son on the altar. Now we have evidence that Abraham believed in God's grace! Abraham will not be saved by his works, but his obedience of God's soul-shattering command later in life – his "works" – demonstrates his faith in God. **And God could count his faith as righteousness.**



Works are evidence of God's grace

Just like smoke is evidence of fire, works are evidence of God's grace at work in the life. Where there is smoke there is fire, and where there is grace there are good works.

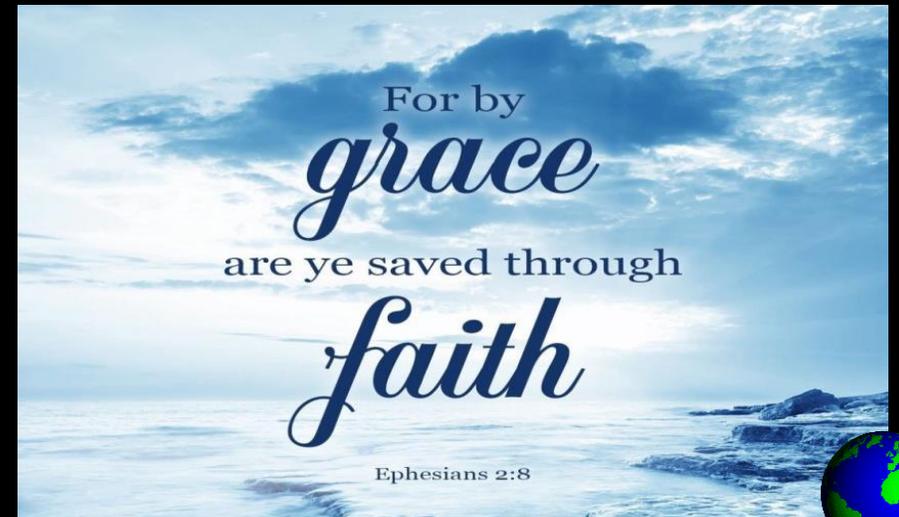
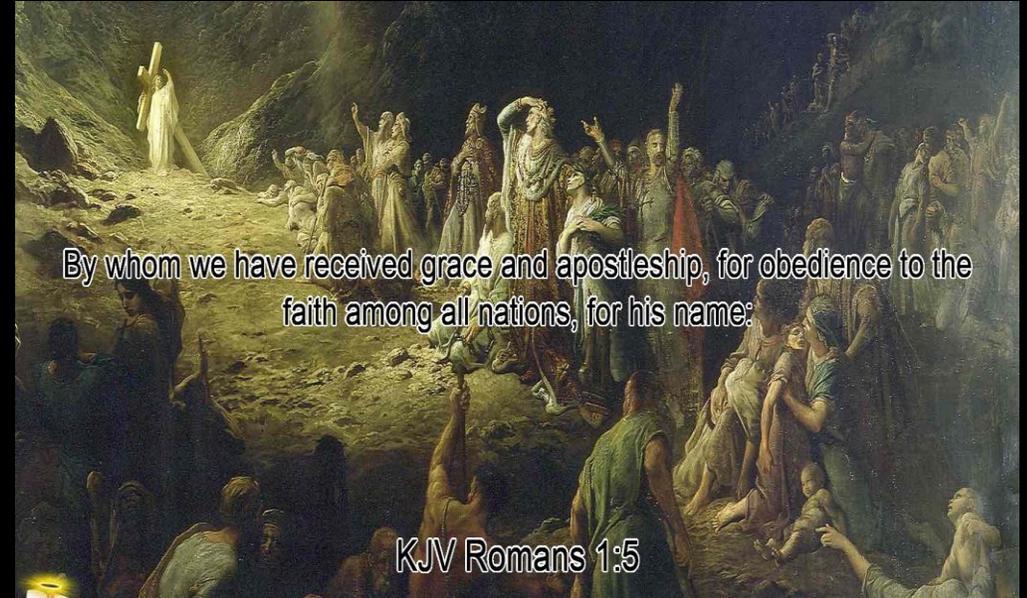
Let's do a little detective work ourselves here, and investigate three passages.

Let's begin with Romans 1:5 - *By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:*

Paul is telling the Romans that the grace they received was to lead to their obedience.

Hence their works of obedience are evidence of grace at work.

Our next clue is found in Ephesians 2:8-10 - *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*



Good works seen where there is grace

Sure enough the passage tells us that we are saved by grace and not by works, but still we find God creating good works in us at the scene of grace. **Let's move on..**

Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

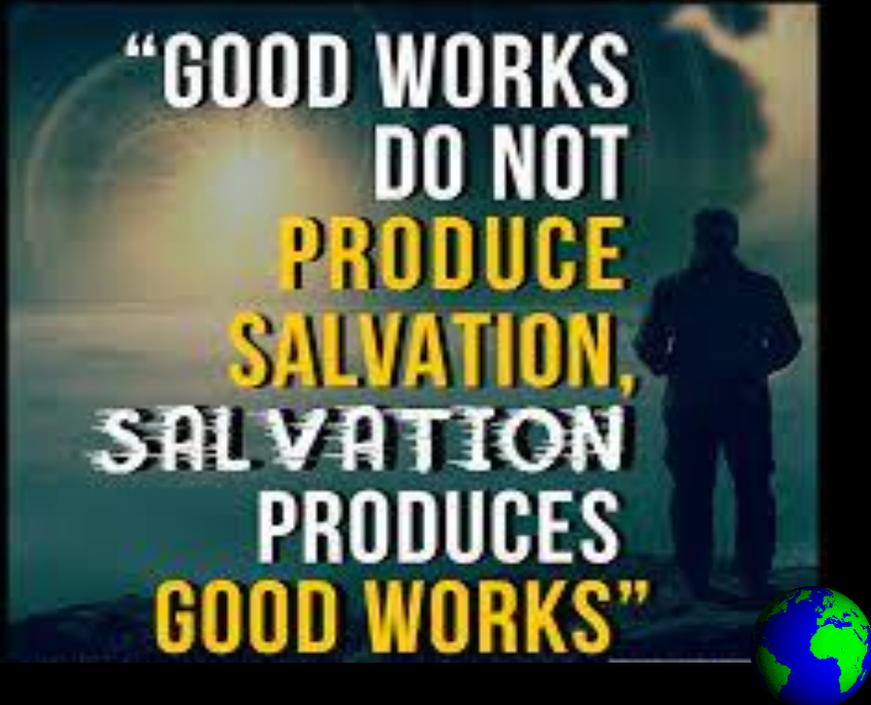
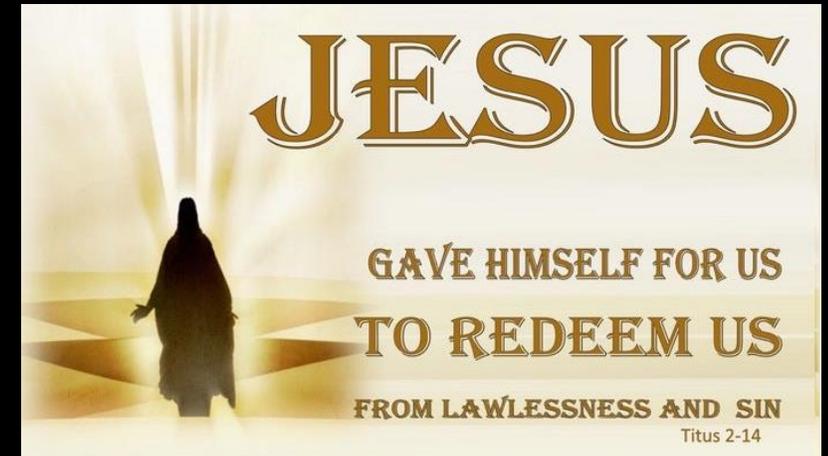
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Just as you see smoke where there has been a fire, so we again see good works where there is grace.

Just like smoke is evidence there has been a fire, likewise living soberly, righteously, godly lives zealous of good works, is evidence that grace has been here.



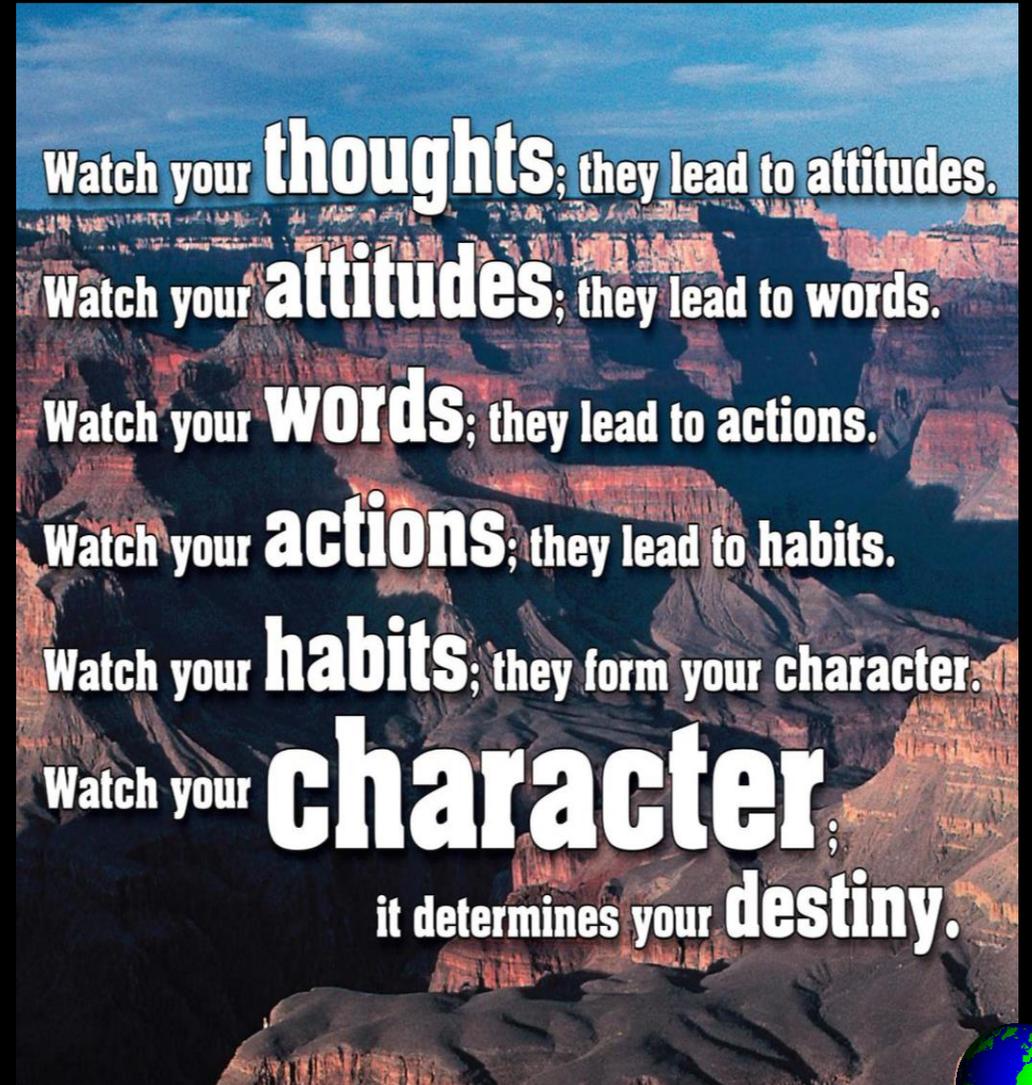
Character revealed by habitual acts

If we trust God we will obey Him:
Our works of obedience are presented as evidence in the judgment that we trust God's amazing grace.

The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts. —[Ellen White, Steps to Christ, p. 57.](#)

When your name comes up in the judgment, will there be evidence that God's grace was allowed to penetrate your heart?

Now there is also such a thing as false evidence. Legalistic works done for the glory of self would be false evidence that the Judge can see right through.



Need faith that works by love

Yet a faith that works by love (See [Galatians 5:6](#)) is the exact evidence that will convince the Judge that we have received His amazing grace. One needs to understand that doing works in order to be saved is just conjuring up false evidence. The faith that saves us is the faith that is motivated by love and grace and not a hope of reward and self-glory.

It's just like the little girl standing by the side of the pool. She can't swim, but her father promised to catch her if she jumps in. If she jumps we know she believes in her daddy. If she refuses to jump it is clearly evident she does not believe in her daddy.



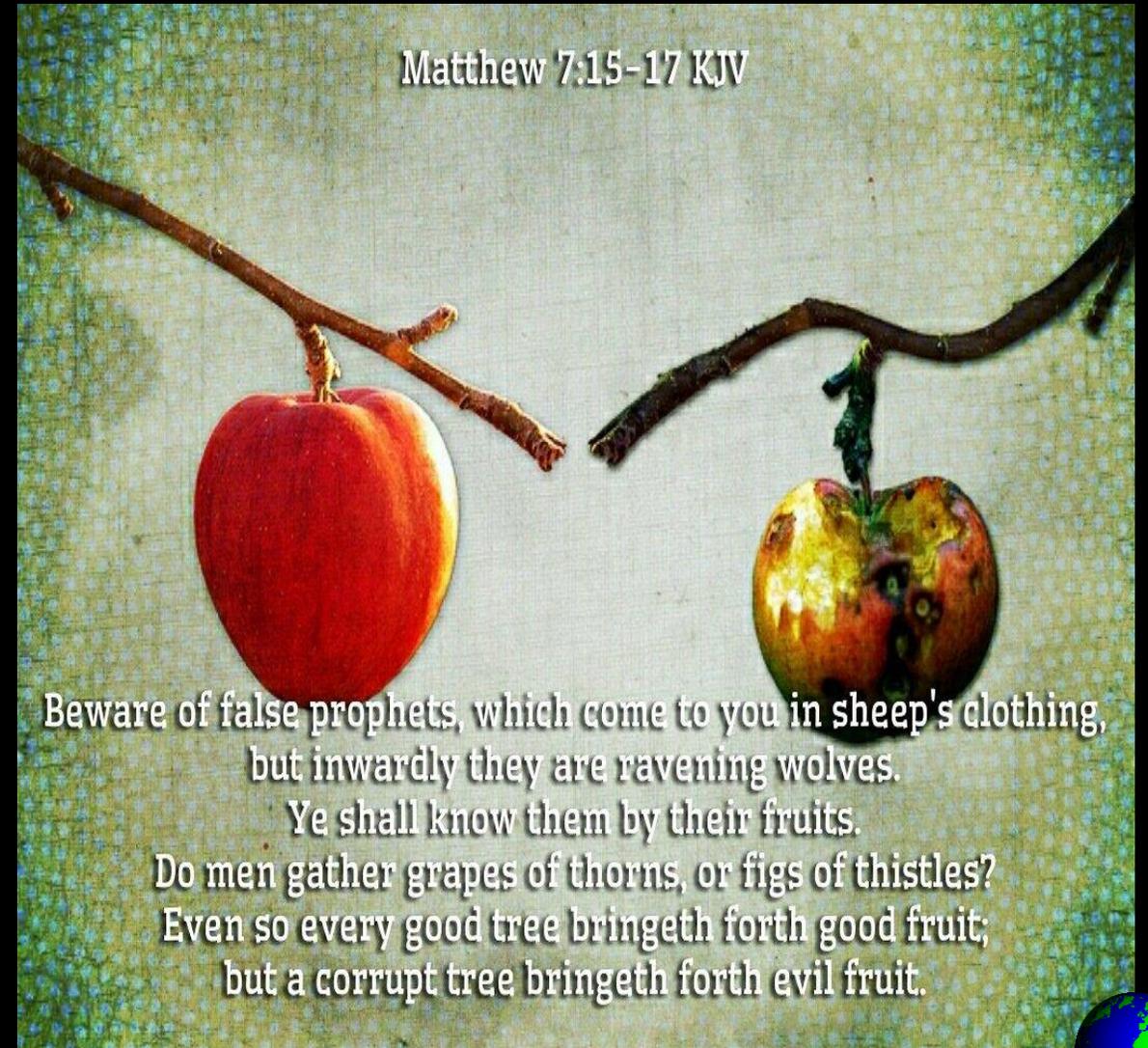
We are saved by Grace, not by works!

Abraham showed a lack of faith in God's love when he trusted a lie instead of God to protect him in Egypt. Yet when Abraham placed his son on the altar the whole universe saw the evidence that God's grace was now in Abraham's heart.

The Bible is clear. We are saved by grace and not by works. The Bible is also clear that where there is grace, there are good works. (Matthew 7:16)

A smoking gun is evidence that it has been put into action. Good works are evidence of grace put into action. Where you find smoke you find fire. Where you find grace you find good works.

Good works, done out of love, are evidence that we have been saved by amazing grace.

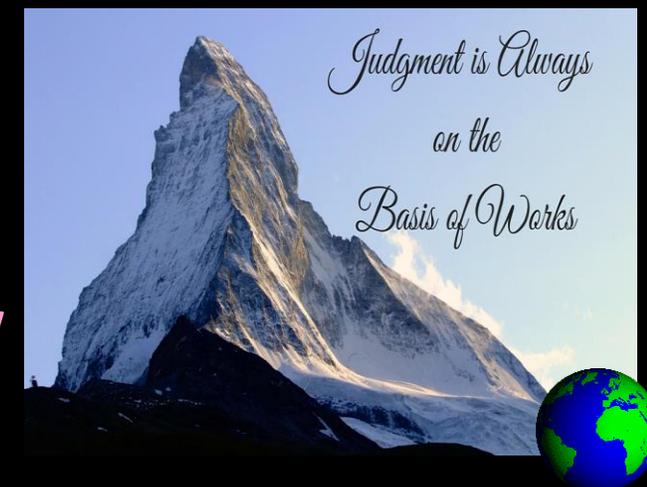
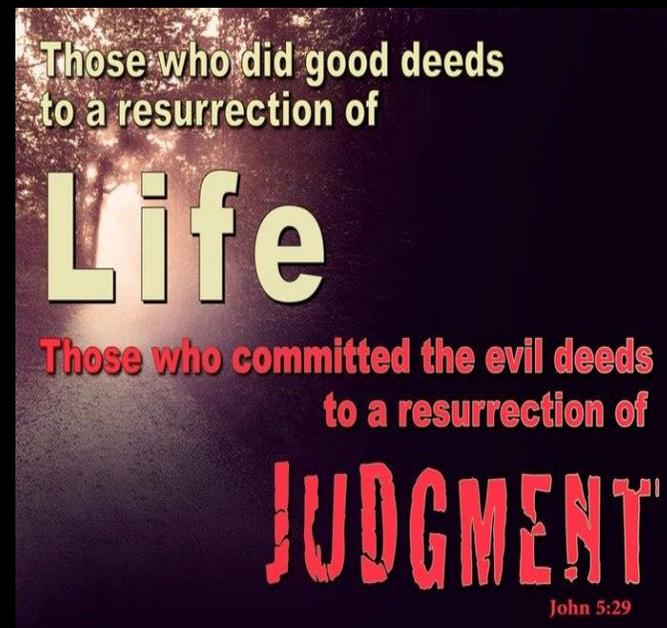


The Bible states that judgment is invariably according to works

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: - [Romans 2:2-6](#).

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: - [1 Peter 1:14-17](#).

Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the Judge of all the earth, and to every man should be rendered "according to his works."—[The Great Controversy](#), p. 479.

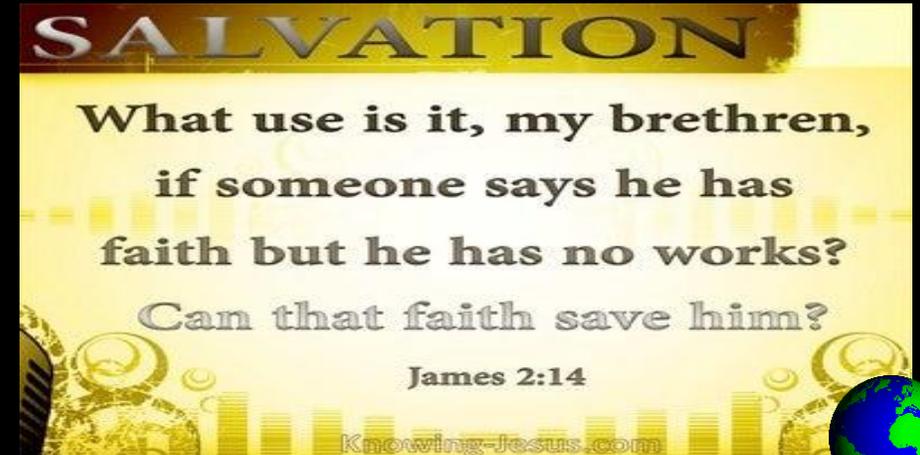
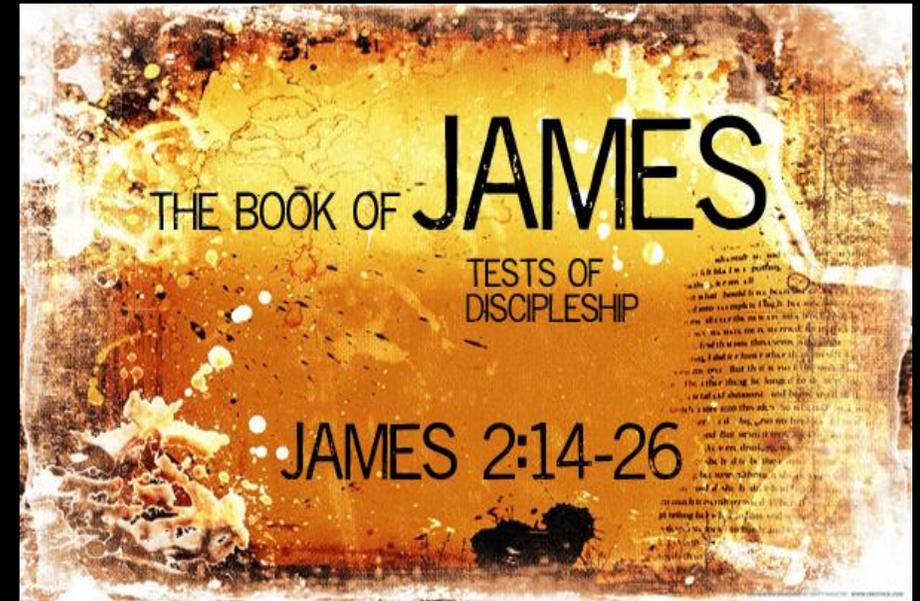


If saved by grace without works: why judgement?

At this point one may well ask: If man is to be saved by grace and by the righteousness of Christ, why then is the judgment according to a man's works? What possible place can works have in the judgment? Why not settle for a man's relationship to God and let it go at that? Furthermore, if judgment is according to works, does this not require the life to be devoted to good works rather than to one's relationship to God? Does this not negate salvation by grace alone and make of none effect the forgiveness of God?

The Bible says two things about works:

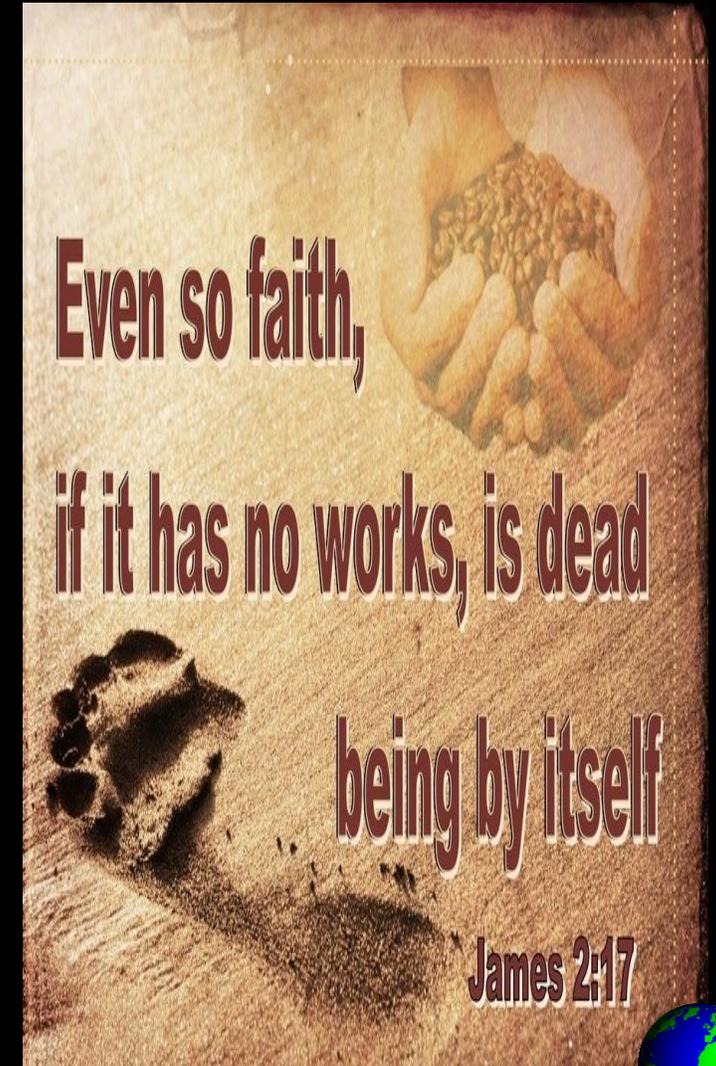
First, salvation is not possible by works. "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ" - Galatians 2:16. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" - Ephesians 2:8, 9. (see also Romans 4:2, 4, 5; 9:31, 32; 11:6).



Good works are essential in a Christian's life

Second, good works are an essential part of the Christian life and basic to the righteous judgment of God. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" - Ephesians 2:10. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16; see also 1 Peter 2:11, 12; Titus 1:11; Romans 13:12-14; Ephesians 5:1-11). "Faith without works is dead" - James 2:20.

Good works are in no way opposed to the gospel; they are part of it. Only when works are regarded as the means to gain merit before God and achieve salvation are they at variance with salvation by grace. Good works are an essential part of genuine Christian living and form the basis for the righteous judgment of God. It is unfortunate that many professed believers deny works their proper place in salvation by faith. These people say in effect: "Works don't matter. All that God requires is faith and love. It only matters what you believe."



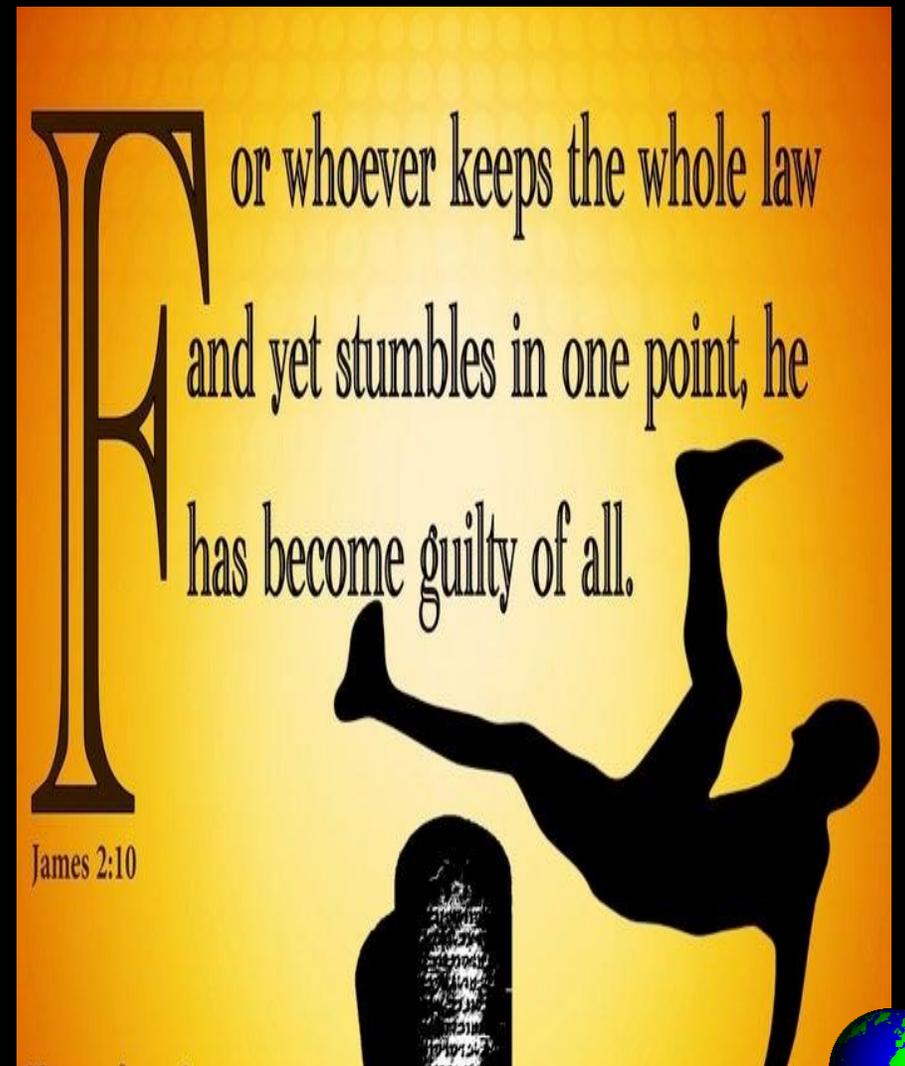
Judgment according to works will mean judgment according to both the law and the gospel

Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty - [James 2:10-12](#).

As many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. . . .) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel - [Romans 2:12-16](#).

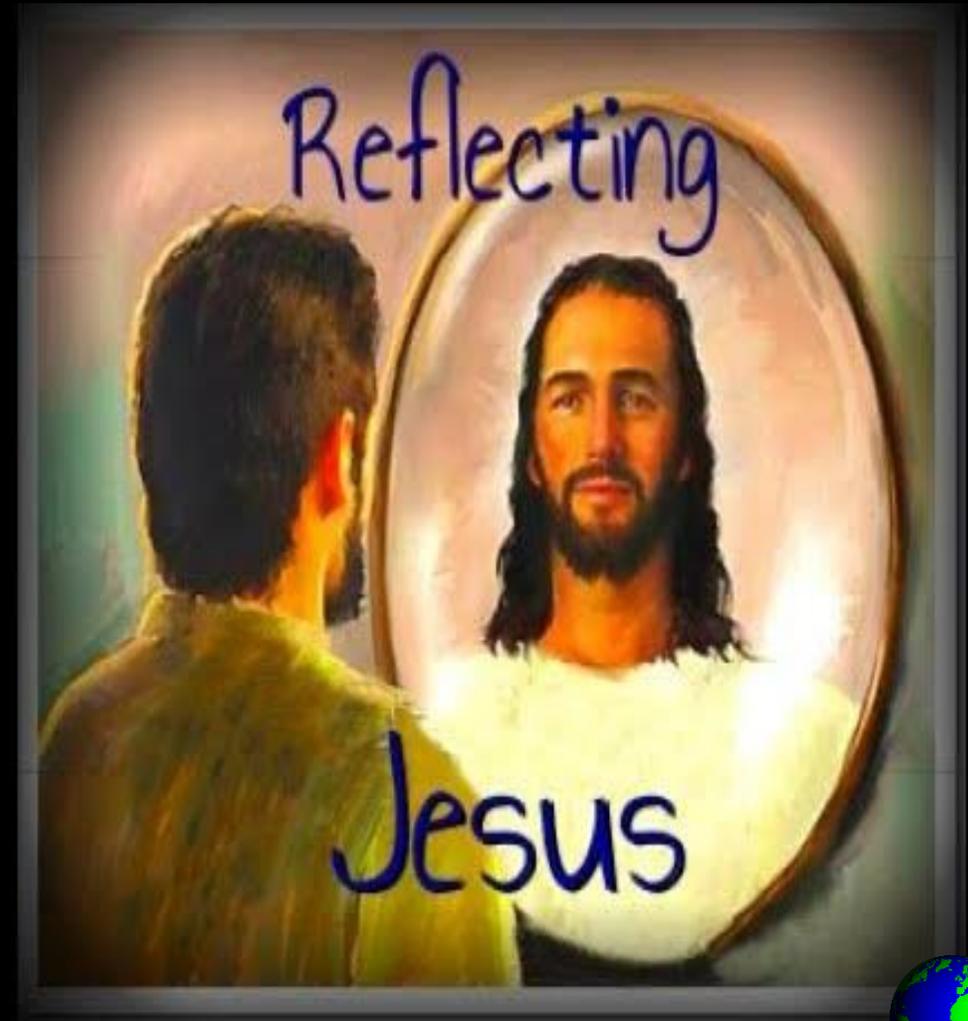
If ye love me, keep my commandments - [John 14:15](#).

This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous - [1 John 5:3](#).



We have to bear in mind that, we need to be like Jesus when He comes!

There is nothing vague, obscure, or capricious about these passages. **The demand is for obedience to the commandments. Love is the fulfilling of the law, not its neglect or denial. Love fulfils the law of truth, of honesty, of purity. Love or faith that disregards the law of God leads men to follow their own impulses. Against such emotionalism in religion, these texts are a protest. In the judgment God will demand that we give an account of our stewardship in order that the true Christian may lay the treasure of a Christlike character at His feet—not to gain merit, nor for ostentation before men, but in order to be like Him when He appears.**



Disobedience destroys man's relationship with God

There is nothing that so completely destroys man's relationship to God as disobedience. **The judgment is a time for separation between the saved and the lost. Sin separates man from God with all the serious consequences of being lost. Before God no sin can be made inconsequential or dismissed as unreal.** God's promise to cast our sins into the depths of the sea once we repent does not relegate sin to complete forgetfulness. Paul, writing of the judgment, said that God "will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God" - **1 Corinthians 4:5**. "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it" - **1 Corinthians 3:13**.

In the final analysis the Bible affirms that judgment is according to works, whether it be for approval or disapproval. The Christian who in faith and love has kept God's Word and commandments will receive the verdict of approval. A professed Christian who by his life and works on earth has served evil will receive the verdict of disapproval. His name will be blotted from the book of life.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven - **Matthew 7:21**.

He who does not obey the Son will not see life but the wrath of God abides on him.

John 3:36

The Wrath of God

WILL COME UPON THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE

COLOSSIANS 3:6



God judges according to works: not engaged in operating a point system of merits & demerits

The Christian who shares in Christ's life will bring forth the fruits of that life.

Furthermore, what is so crucial and decisive about works is that they involve the whole man. They form a clear basis of evidence in the judgment. The set of the mind and the life is more evident by the works and deeds of a man than simply by the thoughts of man's mind. This does not negate the seriousness of a perverted mind or a seared conscience. But works reveal a permanency, the extent of a man's commitment to evil. They show how far a man has gone. Works take a man further than do his thoughts, just as a carpenter constructs his plans and then builds the house. He extends his thoughts and ideas into works that build the house, which requires the man's involvement more than the drawing of the plans. Works take more of a man's time, his energies, and reveal the nature of his commitment either for good or ill.



"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"

Romans 1:18



Loving works produce loving relationship

The deed is better than or worse than the idea. The deed of adultery inevitably brings consequences that nothing can eradicate. The lustful thought, while still condemned by God, can be stayed before the deed produces its doleful fruits. Actual adultery injures lives more than does lust. Stealing is more disastrous in its effects than covetousness. The effect of good works exceeds altogether the simple desire to do good. To give one's life to good works shows much more Christian reality than wishing to do them. Thoughts followed by works involve the whole of a man's existence. Loving thoughts are good for the one thinking them; but loving works produce loving relationships. On the other hand, lustful or hateful thoughts may disturb the soul for hours or days; but lustful deeds and works of hate disfigure also the lives of those nearest to them, often for years. Lives are ruined permanently. The testimony of good or evil works, clearly an indication of the choices a man has made and will make, inevitably determines his destiny at the bar of God.



Works are the measure of one's life

In the judgment, works are therefore the measure of the whole life. A man who is continually disobedient to the will of God provides clearer and more conclusive evidence as to his total involvement than do his thoughts without deeds and works. **This is why works are so important in the judgment.**

The exercise and practice of devotion is better than ideas of devotion. The acts of worship are a better indication of what a man is religiously than the mere desire for worship. For the practice of it serves to change a man into the image of God and the life is purified by the presence of God. A knowledge of and a desire for prayer that does not actually lead to the practice of prayer will soon die. To desire the Word of God and yet fail to study it falls short of the spiritual needs of the law. **It is the work, the deed, that truly commits the person.**

When it is understood that judgment is according to works and therefore involves the whole man, there will be no room for antinomian teaching that seeks to abrogate the law of God. In the presence of Christ and under the influence of the Holy Spirit disobedience to the will of God is unthinkable.

For in Christ there was no dishonesty, no impurity.

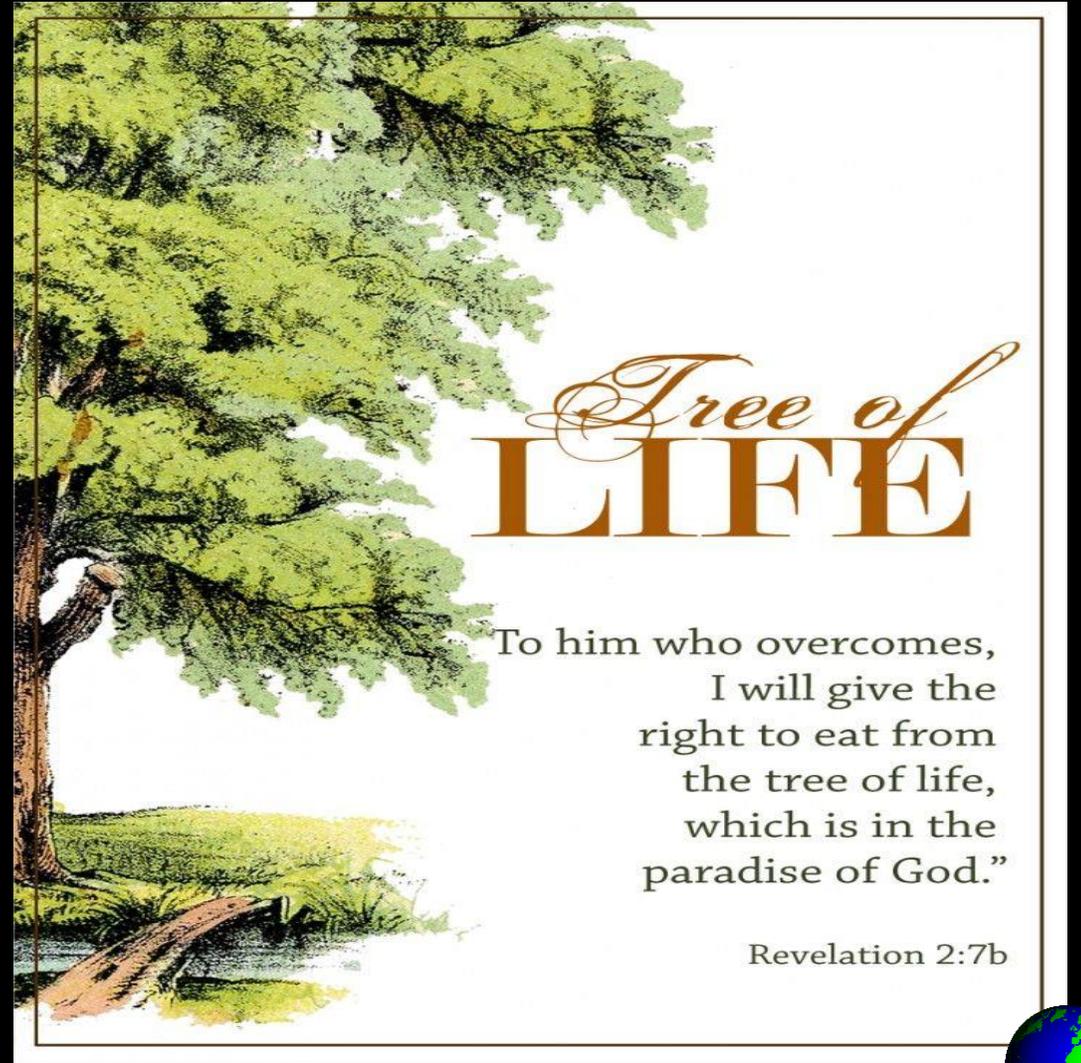


Who has right to the Tree of Life?

Revelation 22:14-15 - *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

This text speaks of a fitness for the kingdom of God. The judgment will determine that fitness. A certain quality of life is required, in contrast to those who are ultimately condemned.

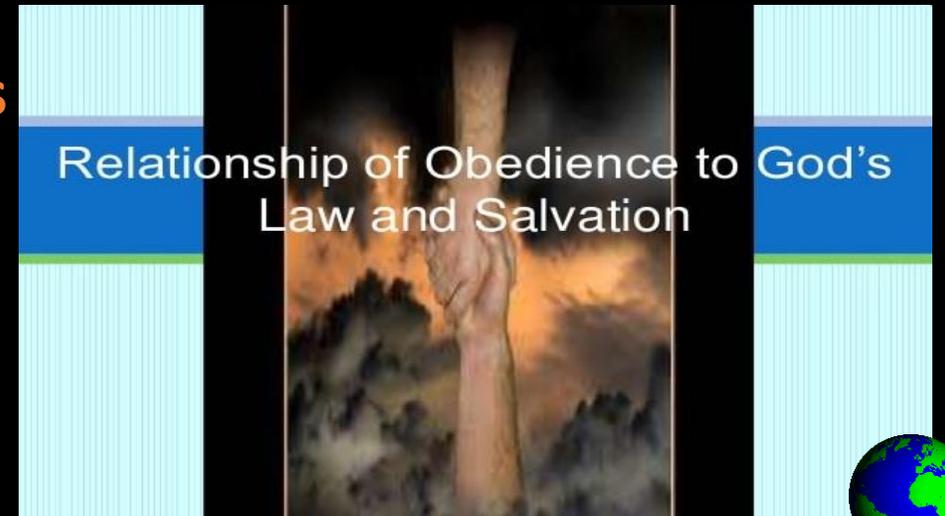
2 Peter 3:13, 14 - *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*



The Gospel is Salvation from Sin

Christ saves the sinner. That very salvation here and now also makes the Christian fit for the kingdom of God. Those who are to possess the kingdom are those who obey God. The preparation time is now. When one's name comes up before the court of heaven, the case will be decided. Christians are continually being renewed in holy obedience and conformed to the image of God's Son. By their lives they establish the right and the fitness to dwell in the city of God.

The right to the kingdom is, in a sense, dependent upon man's obedience to the commandments. This is the worth of man's obedience. The life we live now is of vast importance and significance in the judgment now going on. The right of God's people to the kingdom is not founded on their works of faith and love. That right was won by Christ. But obedience through the Spirit, manifested in works of faith, prove they are in possession of that right.



The works of faith reveal that Christ is truly Lord in our lives

In preparing for the judgment and the kingdom, the Christian is governed by the single purpose to honour and obey Christ. God requires such fitness in the life of the believer. An adequate preparation is necessary to practice medicine.

The business of that profession is to practice efficiently. The business of the Christian life is to live a life of good works and of obedience to the will of God. These works earn no merit. God does not bestow eternal life on the basis of our obedience. But it is the beginning of a life here and now that is to continue in the hereafter. The Christian life is in harmony with the life to be lived in the hereafter. There is a kinship and likeness throughout. The judgment will determine a man's fitness for the kingdom.

The ROOT of
justification
is by FAITH



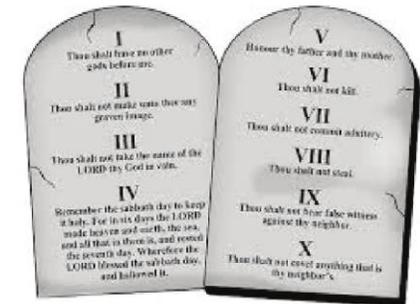
James 2:14

The FRUIT of
Justification,
is by WORKS



Man's fitness must be determined

Obviously, a man's fitness must be determined before Christ returns. **If a man's life is not changed here and now, it will be too late then. If a man does not delight in the law of God now, he will not delight in it then. If a man will not submit to the Lordship of Christ here, he will reject Christ's sovereign rule then. The pre-Advent judgment will reveal whether a man has become habituated here to the will of God; whether he loves light more than darkness. The books of record will manifest whether a man has built his house upon the sand or upon the rock. Any life that is not built on Christ will be condemned.** In the judgment Christ cannot proclaim a verdict contrary to the facts. **God brings man's works of love and obedience to light before the court of heaven.** Before a multitude of witnesses the faithful, obedient child of God will be vindicated. For this Christ's love has laboured; for this His grace has been manifested and applied—all this that He might transform sinners into His likeness and fit them for the new earth where there is only righteousness.



God's Law

vs.

Man's Law



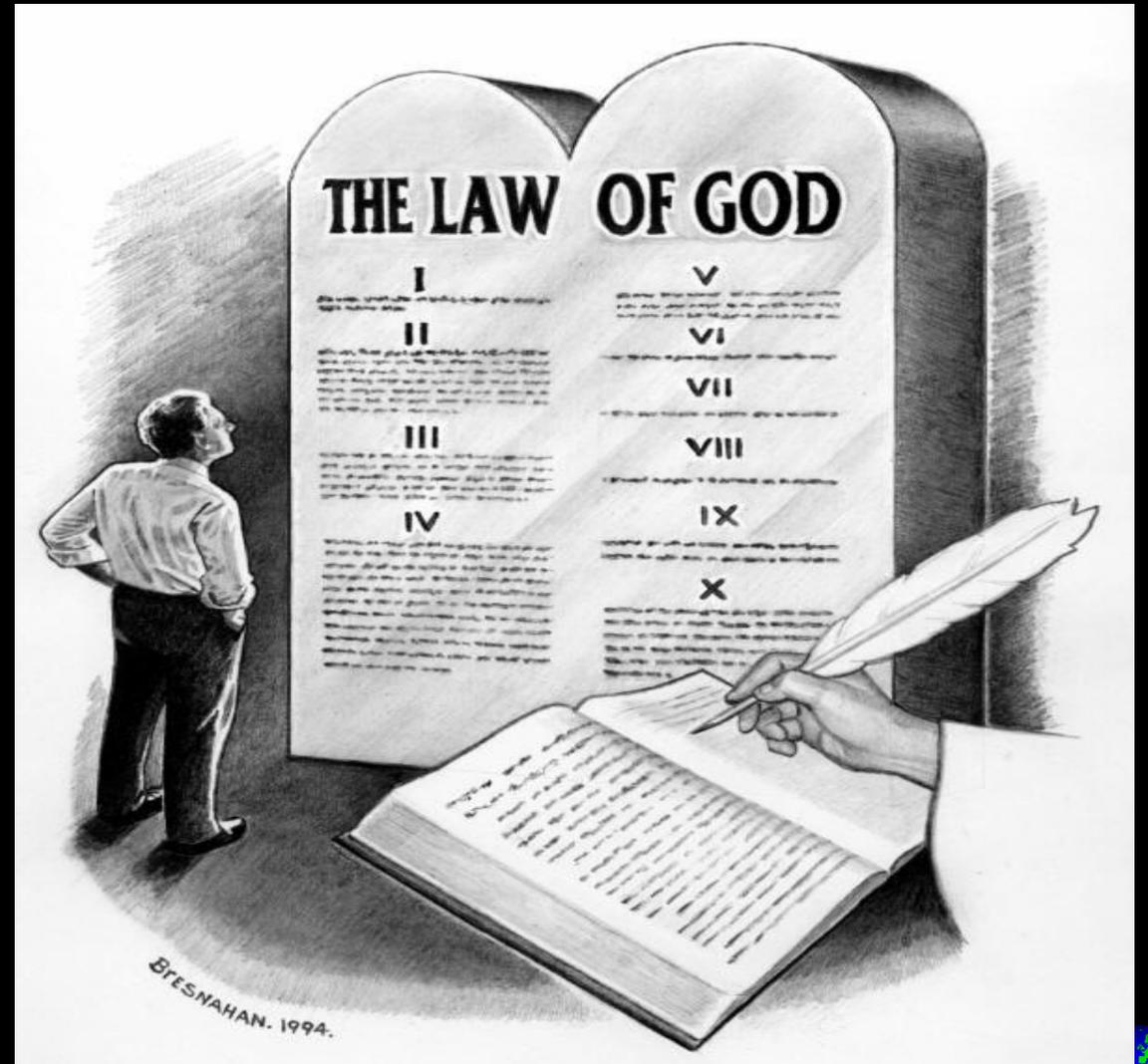
Faith does not make void the law

Because of Christ's perfect righteousness the believer is released from the law's curse and condemnation, but not from obedience to it.

Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. . . . Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:1-12).

The Christian, to the utmost of his ability, is to be as his Master. He glorifies God by devoted, loving obedience.

It is unthinkable that whereas Christ magnified and honoured the law by His perfect obedience (Isaiah 42:21), the Christian will dishonour it by disobedience.



Loyalty to God is essential

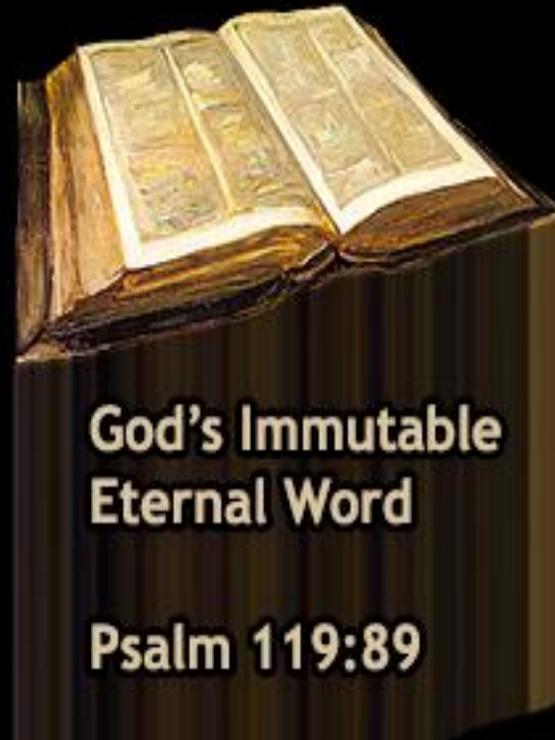
Loving obedience honours God.

Disobedience dishonours Him.

The judgment will declare it.

All God's created beings must be sure on this point. God cannot risk another catastrophe such as the world has endured for almost six thousand years. Faith that works by love is a clear choice between God and every other man made god, a choice between honesty and dishonesty, between purity and impurity, obeying the commandments and disobeying them. **God's will and commandments are not ambiguous.** God enters into no extended arguments to prove His point. God's demands are not impossible under the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit.

As the world becomes increasingly liberal, and man's laws contradict God's Laws more and more, we will each be forced to take a stand. What will you do when your time of testing comes?



Each has a case pending at the bar of God

Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 488.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof - Romans 13: 12-14.



Legalism is not the answer and never has been!

How difficult it is to value morality and spirituality as the Bible teaches it! **Granted that legalism is not the answer and never has been. The Bible is quite clear about that. The church justifiably should protest against a legalistic religion. Nevertheless, what a difference it makes whether you keep the law of God or break it! What a great gulf there is between the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit!** (See **Galatians 5:19-25**).

Scientists never weary of proclaiming the grandeur and the dependability of natural law—the law that rules the stars, the earth, the physical man. **How much more true and dependable are the moral and spiritual laws of God.** "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good" - **Romans 7:12**.

HOW TO BE A LEGALIST

1. **OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS WITHOUT YOUR HEART or UNDERSTANDING. MATT 23:23**
2. **ADD NEW RULES OUTSIDE OF THE BIBLE. MARK 7:6-7**
3. **ARGUE OVER MATTERS OF OPINION. ROM 14**
4. **BIND YOUR OPINION (outside of the commands of God) ON OTHERS. ACTS 15**
5. **BOAST ABOUT HOW GOOD YOU ARE & HOW BAD OTHERS ARE. LUKE 18:9-14**
6. **APPOINT YOURSELF AS JUDGE OVER OTHERS. 3JOHN 1:9-11**

LEGALISM IS NOT

OBEYING GOD'S COMMANDS FROM THE HEART IS NOT LEGALISM, IT'S FAITHFULNESS.

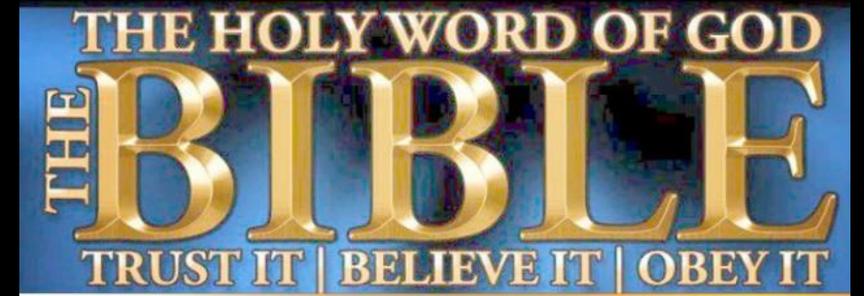
Luke 6:46; John 14:15; Mat 7:21-23; Rom 6:17

In matters of opinion don't be legalistic. In matters of the doctrine of Christ, keep His commandments.



Disobedience always means bondage

Throughout the world the church is met with the toning down of the moral code. **Love is all we need, we are told.** The law of God produces uneasy feelings, makes people uncomfortable. So to the majority the less said about the law of God the better. **Christians agree that love should be the motivating power of all obedience.** Nevertheless, at a time when open attacks are made on the moral law of God as having little if any validity for today, men need to see that transgression of the law of God is still sin. **Disobedience always means bondage, disgrace, suffering, and death.** Under the pretense of enlarging our liberties, we are deprived of them. **We are sold into slavery.** How foolish it is for the creature to enter into disagreement with his Creator over His law and His gospel. Both are an expression of God's eternal character of righteous love toward all created beings. **The possibility of a divine verdict for or against us is a distinct reality in the judgment.**



There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
Proverbs 16: 25

THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE

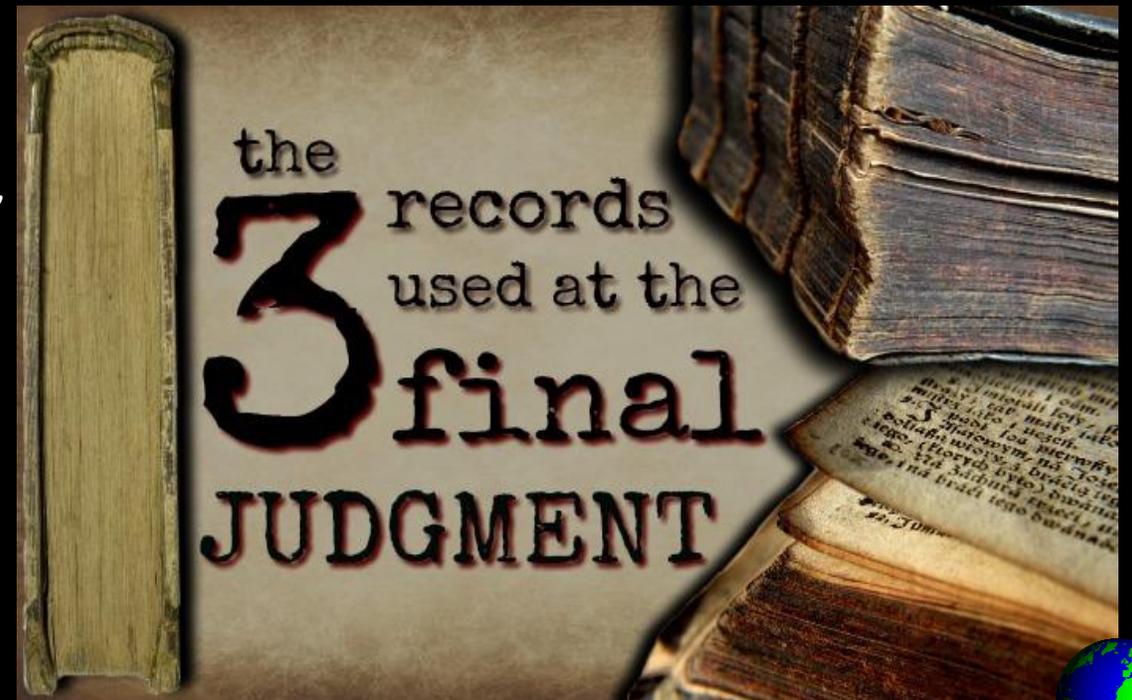
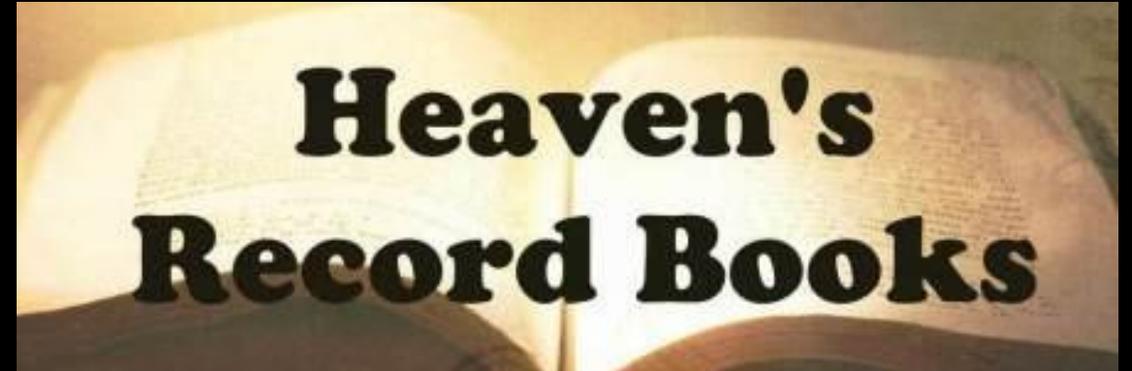


Deeds in Books determines Judgement

1 Peter 4:17-18 - For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

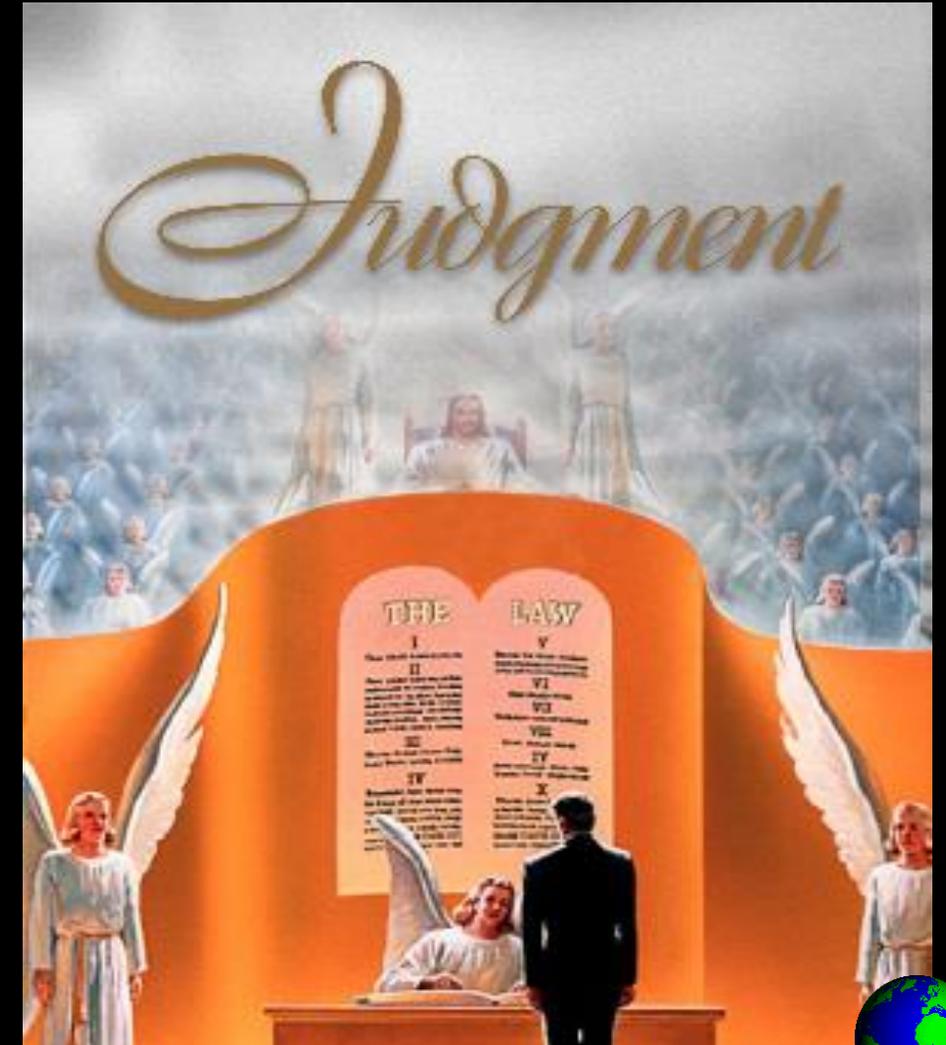
Revelation 20:12 - And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. – [The Great Controversy, p. 480](#)



The moral standard of God is eternal and universal

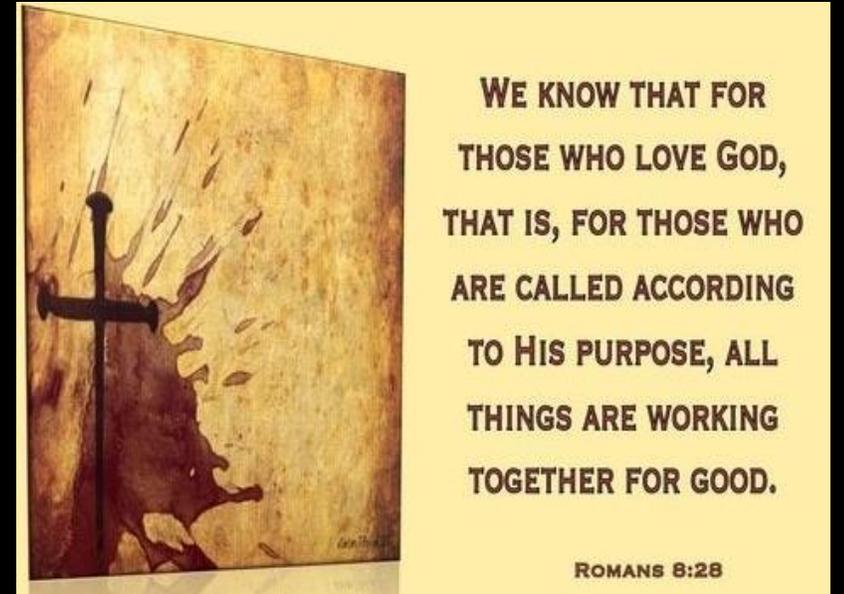
The law of God contains nothing that does not commend itself to the Christian's understanding, heart, conscience, and life. **Granted that sin's condemnation is softened by divine clemency to those who repent.** The moral standard of God is eternal and universal. **There is no abrogation of His commandments.** Reject them, violate them, burn them with fire, bury them; but bear in mind that there is no escape from the bondage, the burdens, the anxieties, and the guilt that sin produces. Sin is still man's darkest problem. **If you do not come to Christ for forgiveness and cleansing, the basic needs of life can never be met.** The sickness of the soul cannot be resolved by a different or a diluted moral code. If you are to find healing, and power to obey the commandments, you must seek the strength of God in Christ. **Living in fellowship with Him, you will find the yoke of the law easy and its burden light.**



We do not work to be good

There is something natural about good works flowing from the divine. However as we partake of the divine nature our sinful nature does not suddenly disappear. A conflict of sorts is set up as the Apostle notes ([Romans 7:13-25](#)).

Do we just relax and meditate and good things happen, or do we actively make choices (given the knowledge we have) and make effort (work) to cooperate with divine agencies in the development of character? The Holy Spirit provides the sanctifying influence and power, but does not cancel or substitute our will or doing. The formation of Christian character necessarily includes our individual choices and effort, enabled by Divine power. This is consistent with the purpose of the gospel, the restoration of the image of God in us. We do not work to be good. We work to please the Creator and He makes good works (including the avoidance of evil) more and more natural to us as we grow.



We are told to examine ourselves

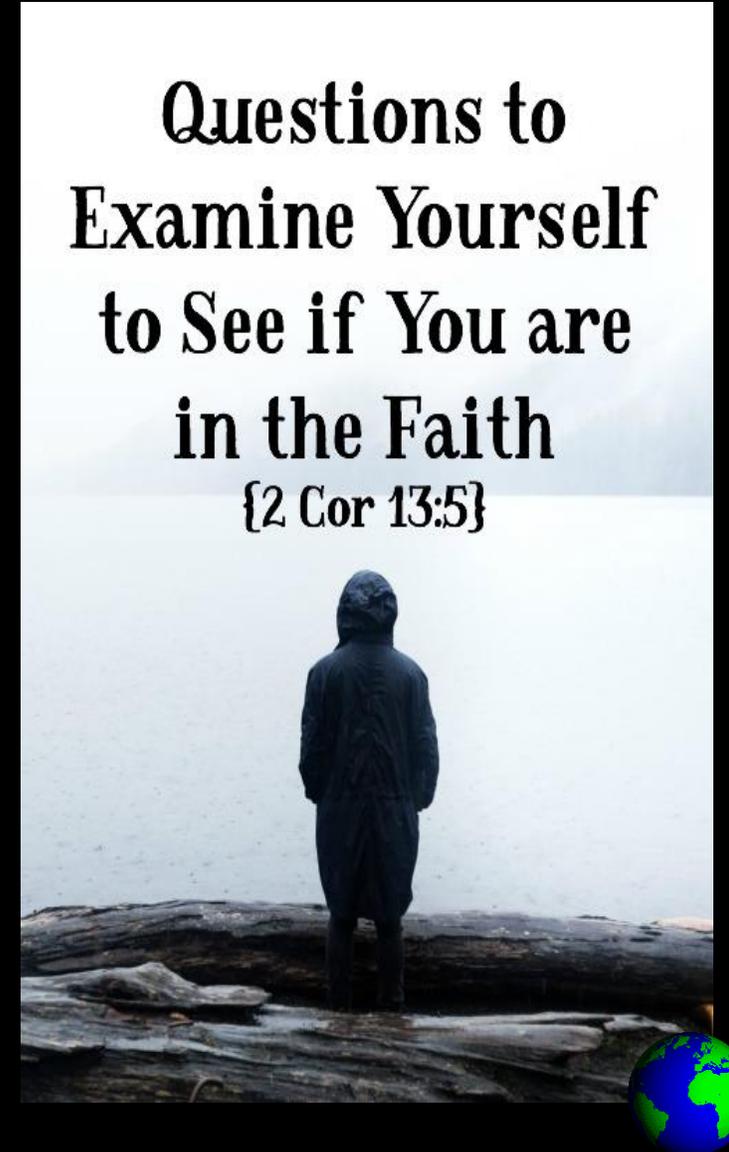
We are told to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith". **What does one examine? Their doctrine? Their profession? Their position in the church or involvement in it's activities? Do they examine their "faith"? How is that done?**

The psalmist's prayer in Psalms 139:23-24 gives us a clue, along with Psalm 19:14. We also read that scripture "is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" - 2 Timothy 3:16.

This places our focus where it belongs, as we see also in passages such as Psalms 1:1-3, Proverbs 2:1-5 & 3:1-8, etc... God's word is where faith comes from, and the works will follow without our needing to place our focus on them.

Jesus emphasized works (Matthew 7:21; 25:31-46) in the sermon on the mount and in parables to encourage effort and cooperation in His restoration work and as training for life in Heaven.

Questions to
Examine Yourself
to See if You are
in the Faith
{2 Cor 13:5}



The Bible places "a" focus on works, but not "THE" focus

If it is our earnest desire to become like Jesus, our prayerful study of His life will lead us on a right path through faith. If our object is to be seen of others as good, we will focus on looking good while missing the mark of our high calling. Our motives will direct our personal focus, and that placing faith and works in their proper relation might help some see the right course to take and how to examine themselves as called to do. It seems many are against any thought or mention of works at all, but that is not scriptural is it? Yet it must be understood correctly.

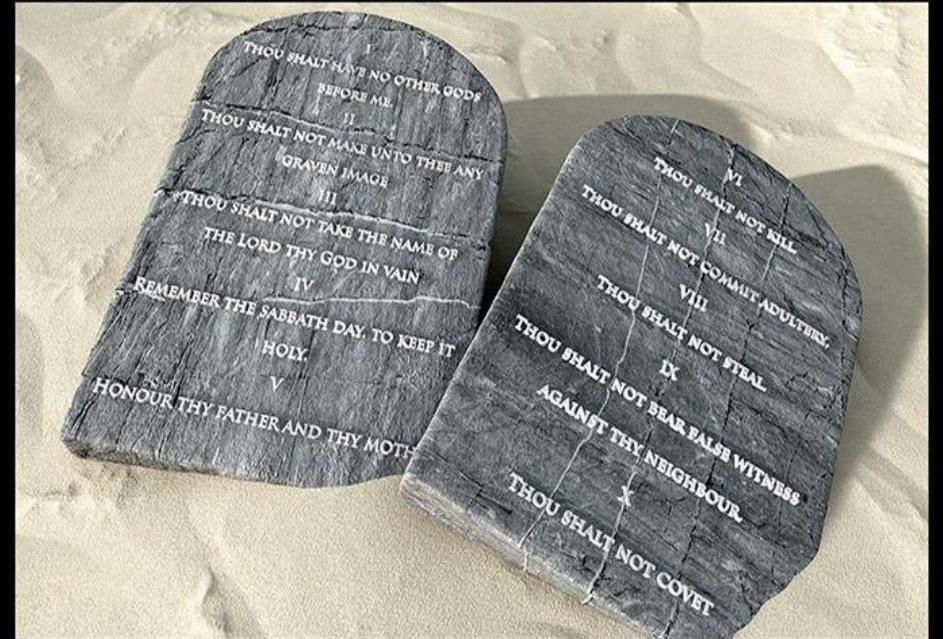


If we are saved by grace alone then all would be saved, regardless

The Bible says we are saved "by grace through faith"- [Ephesians 2:8](#). This eliminates "cheap grace" and demands a choice to be made in faith, and those who exercise faith in God's provisions will have the corresponding works of faith. Without God's grace salvation would be impossible, and without exercising genuine faith in God's grace it would be equally impossible. [Grace alone cannot save](#).

It's true that "the grace of God brings (offers) salvation", and judging the works of men will prove if they have faith in God's grace. Works are tangible and will reveal the truth in the light of God's commandments which are the basis of the judgement as Solomon points out in his conclusion "of the whole matter".

[Ecclesiastes 12:13,14](#) - *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*



"...Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (KJV)



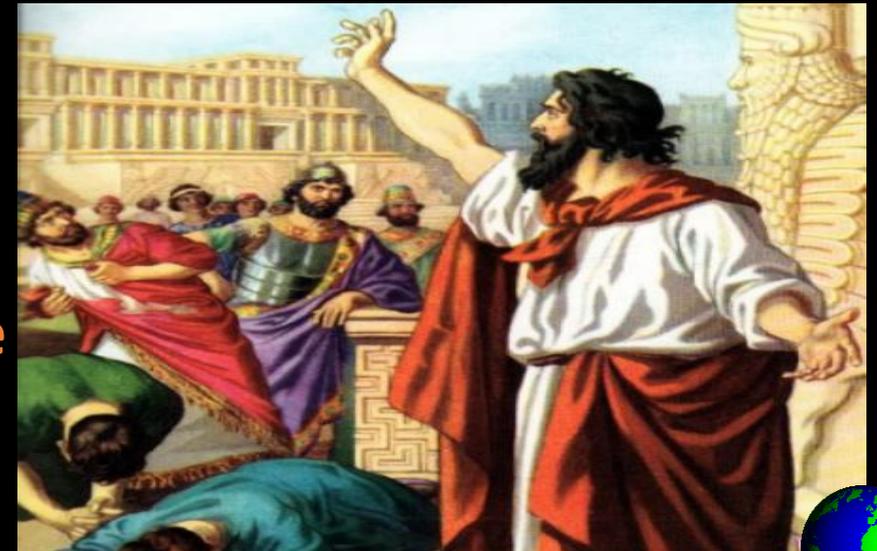
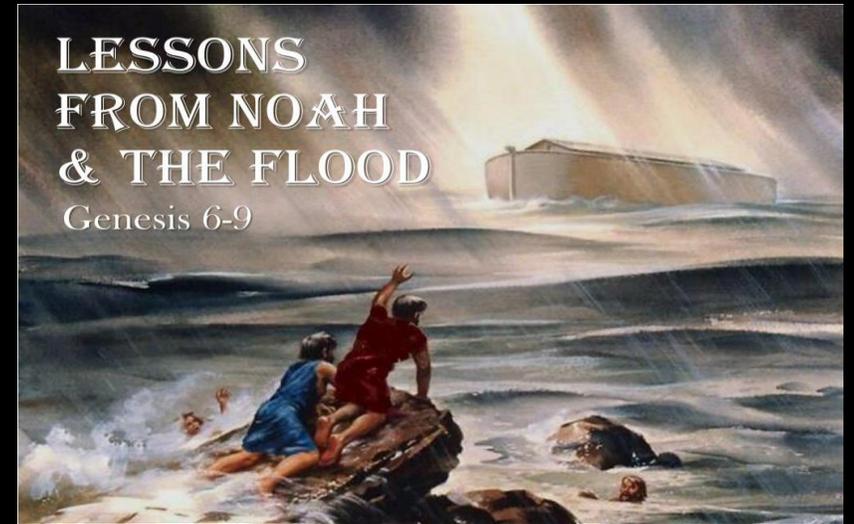
Noah's flood and the city of Nineveh are good examples

God's plan to save sinners is perfect and His grace sufficient. His goodness in all of this will lead us to repentance unless we allow sinful pride to blind us into seeking another way to be saved, of which there is none. We find that in Noah's day, many had no faith and denied the fact there was any danger, but this did not remove the danger they were warned of and offered escape from. The people of Nineveh exercised faith in Jonah's message from God and were saved by faith in God's grace, which was revealed by their works of repentance.

Faith in God's offer of grace is the victory that overcomes this world and its deceiver. ([1 John 5:4](#))

Anyone can claim to be a believer, but the judgment will discern between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. ([Malachi 3:18](#))

Those saved are "the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." - [Isaiah 54:17](#)



Evidence is what determines true or false

One of the things that happens in an investigation is determining what is false evidence and what is real evidence. **A judge makes the final decision as to what will be allowed into the courtroom as evidence.**

Our heavenly Father Who is our Judge will only allow the works to be presented that truly reveal our true character. He will be able to dismiss the false evidence so that the jury only sees the works that truly reflect our character. **God can dismiss Abraham's lie in Egypt and only allow the jury to see him offering his son on the altar.** Remember, "The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts." – **Steps to Christ, p. 57.**

In case some one wonders who I am referring to as the jury since it is God who Judges and makes the final decisions, "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life? - **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**

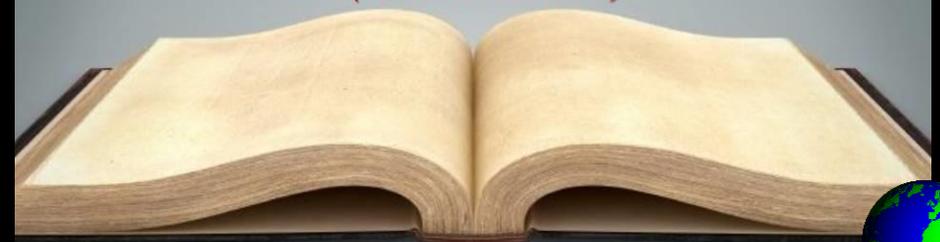


AND I SAW THE DEAD, GREAT AND SMALL, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE, AND BOOKS WERE OPENED. THEN ANOTHER BOOK WAS

OPENED, WHICH IS THE **BOOK OF LIFE.**

AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED BY WHAT WAS WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS, ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAD DONE.

(REVELATION 20:12)



Summary - Two elements emerge

Two elements inherent in [Romans 3:1-8](#) emerge clearly.

First, God is faithful, that is, He keeps His promises to human beings, even though they have broken their promises to Him ([verses 1-4](#)).

Second, there is no excuse in God's faithfulness for human sin, no encouragement to its continuance ([verses 5-8](#)).

These two points may seem to be in tension with each other, but for Paul they exist in unity and must be said together. Paul will develop the first point in his teaching on God's justification of the ungodly by faith, and the second point in terms of his teaching on judgment according to works.

These two elements are pillars in Paul's theology. For Paul they stand together, each helping to explain the full significance of the other and to guard the other from misunderstandings and false deductions.



but they will give account to Him
Who is ready to judge the
living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:5

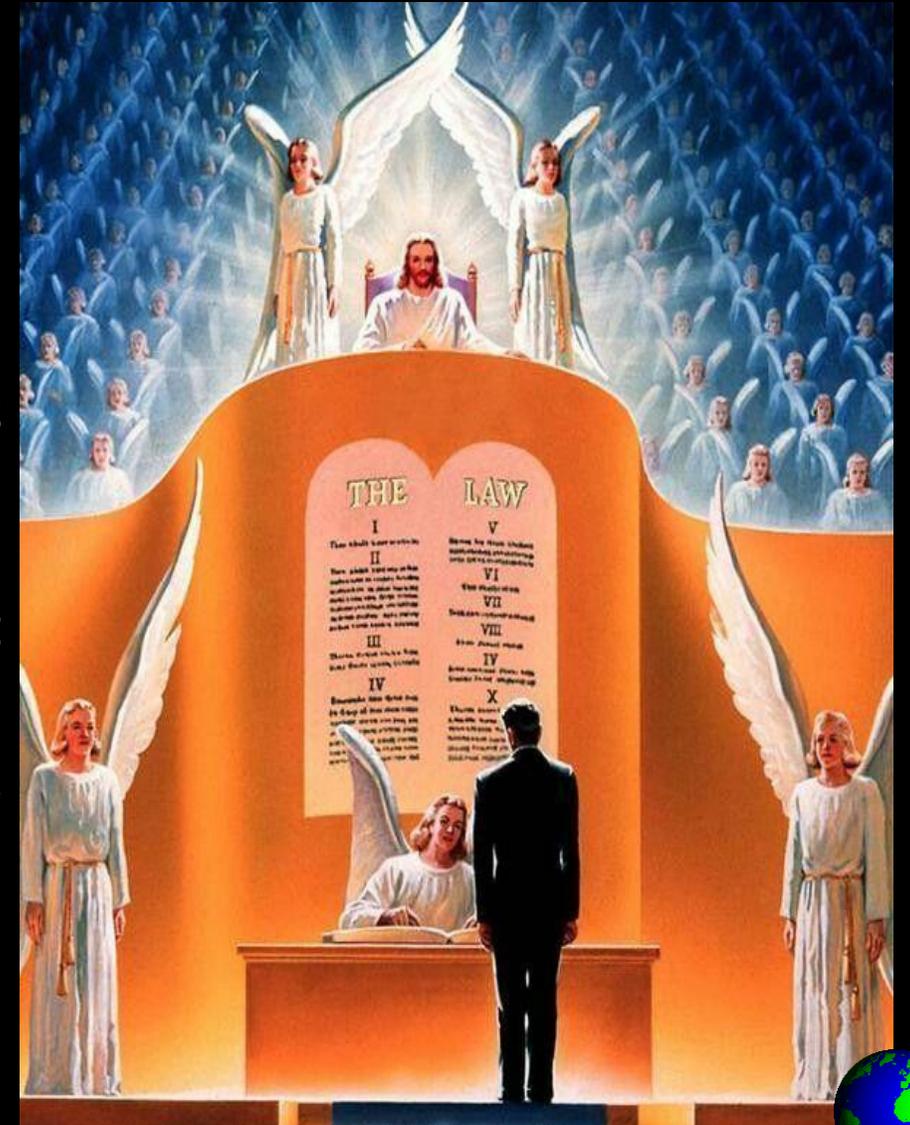


Conclusion

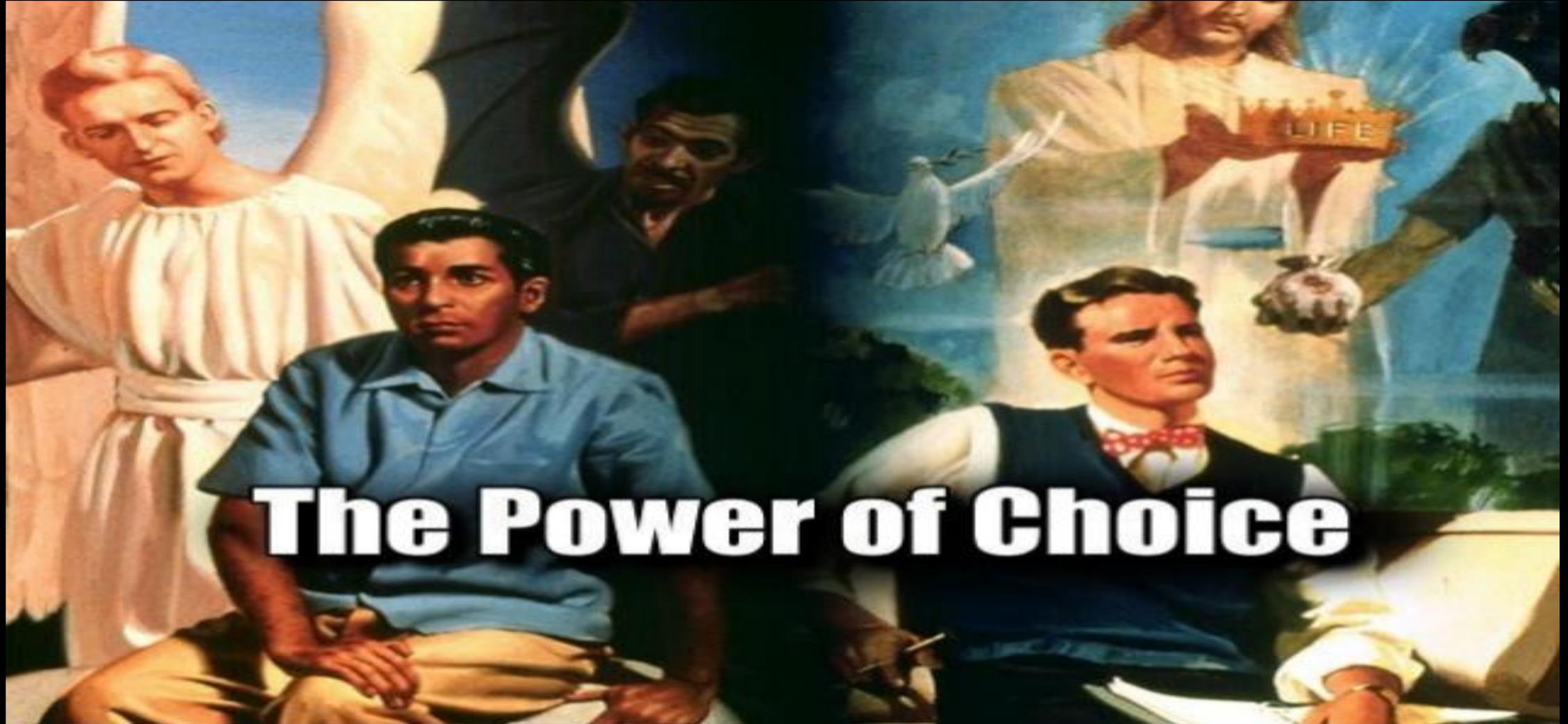
Justification by faith helps to guard the judgment from the false ideas that human beings never will be able to stand in God's judgment or that standing there self-goodness will place God's righteousness under obligation. In other words, justification contradicts the concept that humans cannot make it in the judgment or that they make it by themselves.

On the other hand, judgment according to works guards the doctrine of the justification of the *ungodly* from meaning the justification of *ungodliness*. If there is a judgment according to works, then justification must mean that the lives of the justified are claimed by Christ and that they are called to live for Him who died for them (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

When either of these pillars is weakened or removed by the desire for a quick, easy unity of thought, **we end up, not with a half-truth, but with no truth.** In terms of the actual data of Scripture, it is a fiction to believe that justification does not relate us to the rule of Christ as Lord or that the judgment does not relate us to the work of Christ as Saviour.

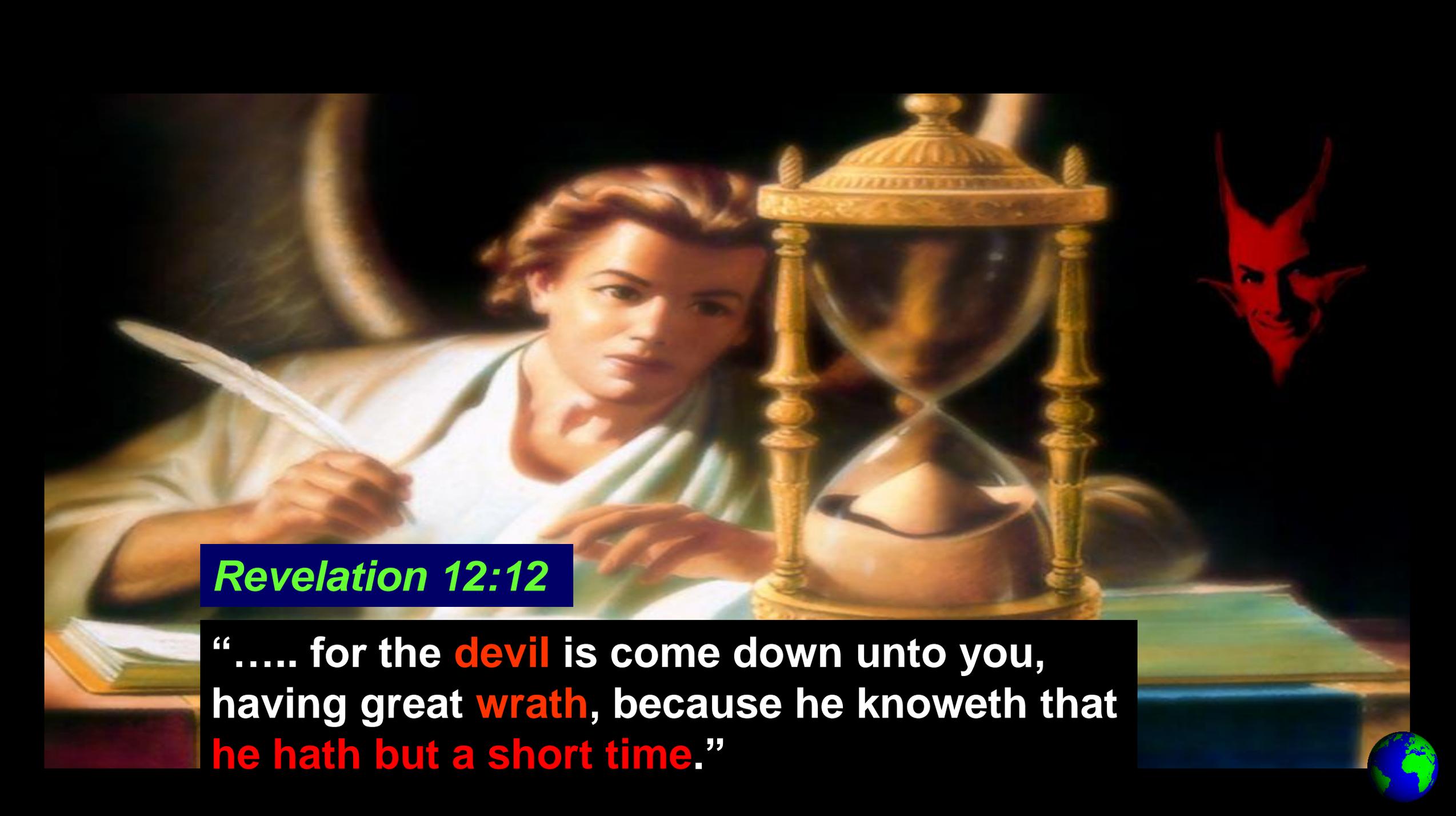


God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?