

Pathway to Peace Ministries
KJV Bible Study Guide:
The Gift

Written by Carlene Rodgers

What is God's gift for us?

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God** *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Ephesians 2:8, 9

8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the **gift of God**:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast."

The gift of God is eternal life! Living forever with Jesus when He comes again. We cannot save ourselves, we need Jesus Christ. It is by accepting this gift that we will soon live forever with Jesus.

When will we be able to receive the gift of eternal life? When can we live forever?

John 6:40 - "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have **everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**"

Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt."

John 5:28, 29

28 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

17 **Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Revelation 21:3, 4

3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Death is compared as a sleep. Those who sleep in Jesus will be raised back to life in the resurrection of life. And then all the righteous that are alive and remain will be together meet the Lord in the air. The Bible makes it clear, when Jesus Christ comes to bring His faithful followers to Heaven He will not walk around on earth, every eye will see Him coming in the clouds. **Revelation 1:7** says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him..." Jesus says in **Matthew 24:23-27**, ²³"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. ²⁴For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ²⁵Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in

the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not. ²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Examples of those who God raised back to life to strengthen our faith in the resurrection.

John 11:21-26, 39-44

- 21 “Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.
 22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give *it* thee.
 23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.
 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.
 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?
 39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days.
 40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?
 41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.
 42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.
 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.
 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”

Matthew 27:51-53

- 51 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;
 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,
 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.”

2 Kings 13:20,21

- 20 And Elisha died, and they buried him. And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year.
 21 And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band *of men*; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

1 Kings 17:17-23

- 17 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.
 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?
 19 And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.
 20 And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?
 21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.
 22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.
 23 And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.

Act 9:36-42

- 36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.
 37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid *her* in an upper chamber.

- 38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring *him* that he would not delay to come to them.
- 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.
- 40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning *him* to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.
- 41 And he gave her *his* hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.
- 42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

How do we have the gift?

John 4:6-14

- 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.
- 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.
- 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)
- 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.
- 10 **Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**
- 11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?
- 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?
- 13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
- 14 **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst **come**. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

John 7:37,38

- 37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him **come unto me, and drink.**
- 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

When someone gives you a gift it is free for you, but it cost the giver. How much does this gift cost? God owns everything money is nothing to God. If it cost money He would have easily paid for it with money for the Bible says in Haggai 2:8, "The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts." **So how much did it cost the Giver of the gift?**

1 Peter 1:18,19

- 18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
- 19 But with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

John 3:14-16

- 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
- 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
- 16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

\$Money could **NOT** buy you and I back. The price of you and I was more than a \$ trillion dollars. The redemption price of us cost the life of God's dear Son. Because of His great love for us, He gave us this most valuable gift! Do you understand the value of the gift? How much do you value it?

Without this gift, what would be our eternal destiny?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death...

1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

How did sin enter into this world and what was its result?

Genesis 2:16,17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt **surely die**.

But what did Satan through the serpent tell Eve in order to deceive her into sin?

Genesis 3:4,5

4 And **the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:**

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, **she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat**, and gave also unto her husband with her; and **he did eat**.

Satan lied to deceive Eve to commit sin. What else does Satan use to deceive people?

Revelation 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy **sorceries were all nations deceived**.

Strong's Definition for sorceries:

Greek word pharmakeia From G5332; *medication* ("pharmacy"), that is, (by extension) *magic* (literal or figurative): - sorcery, witchcraft.

Thayer Definition for sorceries:

- 1) the use or the administering of drugs
- 2) poisoning
- 3) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it
- 4) metaphorically the deceptions and seductions of idolatry

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and sin entered this world with its penalty "thou shalt surely die."

The Strong's Hebrew Definition of "Surely die" is Mûth Mûth or the word die written twice. This is where the term second death comes from. This is the death that is the penalty for sin that is to perish forever with no hope of living again.

Revelation 2:10,11

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the **second death**.

Revelation 20:5, 6

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such **the second death** hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:12-15

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.

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

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.**

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:6-8

6 And he said unto me, **It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

It was because of sin that Christ had to die on the cross to redeem us from this second death! The first death is not forever for those who die in Christ it is compared to sleep. If we accept God's gift, death would be like a sleep before the grand trip to Heaven! That is when we will have eternal life. Not on this sinful world but Heaven!

If God did not give His Son to die to pay the penalty for our sins, we would not have forgiveness and cleansing from sin?

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission**.

Remission: From G863; *freedom*; (figuratively) *pardon*: - deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission. (*Strong's Definition*)

Romans 5:17-21

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so **by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Without the gift, we would have eternal death with no hope of a resurrection.

For us to have the gift of eternal life, Jesus Christ bore the penalty of our sin and gave us His righteousness!

John 3:14,15

- 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Remember when the children of Israel sinned they were bitten by fiery serpent. These serpents were very poisonous. Many of the Israelites died. "Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee **a fiery serpent**, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live." Numbers 21:7,8 In John 3:14,15 Jesus said, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus took that fiery sting, which is a representative of sin, from us!

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Isaiah 53:5-8

- 5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.
 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

1 Peter 2:24,25

- 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

What if I sin?

James 2:9-12

- 9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
 10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.
 11 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.
 12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

1 John 1:8, 9

- 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just **to forgive** us *our* sins, **and to cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

Act 3:19 **Repent** ye therefore, **and be converted**, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Behold the Love of God in the Gift of God!

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

John 15:13,14

- 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Even though the gift is free, poor and rich can have it, is there an exchange that must be done?**Isaiah 55:1-3**

- 1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy **wine and milk without money and without price.**
 2 Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.
 3 Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, **and your soul shall live**; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

What does it mean to come buy and eat and buy wine and milk without money and without price?**1 Peter 2:1-3**

- 1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere **milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby**:
 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

John 6:53-58

- 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.
 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.
 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.
 57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.
 58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

Matthew 26:26-29

- 26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.**
 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;**
 28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**
 29 **But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

John 15:3-10

- 3 **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**
 4 **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**
 5 **I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**
 6 **If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.**
 7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**
 8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**
 9 **As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**
 10 **If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**

What am I to exchange?

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Titus 2:12-14

- 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.

Ezekiel 18:31,32

- 31 **Cast away from you all your transgressions**, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?
- 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn *yourselves*, and live ye.

James 1:21 Wherefore **lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.**

Romans 13:12-14

- 12 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**.
- 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
- 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Ephesians 4:22-24

- 22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
- 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
- 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Zechariah 3:1-7

- 1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.
- 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire?
- 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.
- 4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him.** And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and **I will clothe thee with change of raiment.**
- 5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.
- 6 And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying,
- 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

The exchange is yielding ourselves to Christ by abiding in Him letting go our sins and God gives us the gift!

Do you understand the value of the gift?**Matthew 13:45,46**

- 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:
- 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Do you understand the value of the gift? If so worldly advantage and sin is not worth anything to you, you would give up all for the gift! I Surrender All.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Let's look at Luke 9:23 again.

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow me.

Cross: From the base of G2476; a *stake* or *post* (as *set* upright), that is, (specifically) a *pole* or *cross* (as an instrument of capital punishment); figuratively *exposure to death*, that is, *self denial*; by implication the *atonement* of Christ: - cross.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Matthew 10:38,39

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

1 Peter 4:12-16

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or *as* a thief, or *as* an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Mark 8:34-38

34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Revelation 2:10,11

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Jesus bore His cross

John 19:16,17

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Examples of those who understood the value of the gift

Hebrews 11:1-40

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.
- 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- 4 By faith **Abel** offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.
- 5 By faith **Enoch** was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
- 6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- 7 By faith **Noah**, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
- 8 By faith **Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
- 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:
- 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
- 11 Through faith also **Sara** herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.
- 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.
- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.
- 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.
- 16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.
- 17 By faith **Abraham**, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,
- 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
- 19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.
- 20 By faith **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.
- 21 By faith **Jacob**, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.
- 22 By faith **Joseph**, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.
- 23 By faith **Moses**, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.
- 24 By faith **Moses**, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
- 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
- 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.
- 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- 29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.
- 31 By faith the harlot **Rahab** perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.
- 32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and *of* Barak, and *of* Samson, and *of*

Jephthae; *of* David also, and Samuel, and *of* the prophets:

- 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might **obtain a better resurrection:**
 36 And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:
 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;
 38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth.
 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:
 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 12:1,2

- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Job 19:25-27

- 25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth:
 26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:
 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me.

What a bad decision people make to value the world more than the gift of God.

The rich young ruler

Mark 10:21,22

- 21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
 22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Demas

- 2 Timothy 4:10** For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.
 Demas did not understand the value of the gift.

Do you understand the value of the gift?

What is Christ's prayer for us?

John 17:24-26

- 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.
 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.
 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jesus Christ is coming very very soon

Hebrews 10:37-39

- 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

- 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Revelation 22:7,12,20 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Heaven

Revelation 21:1-5

- 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
- 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.
- 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
- 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Do you understand the value of the gift?

The invitation is for all

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Parable of the Invitation to the Supper

Matthew 22:1-14

- 1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,
- 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,
- 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
- 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage.
- 5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:
- 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*.
- 7 But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.
- 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.
- 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
- 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
- 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:
- 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.
- 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

Why does God in His love want us to turn from sin and receive His gift?

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

- 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

14 For **God shall bring every work into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

Hebrews 10:26-30

- 26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,
 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.
 28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:
 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?
 30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, **The Lord shall judge his people.**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? **Be not deceived:** neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Revelation 22:14,15

- 14 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.
 15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, *As* I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Revelation 3:19-21

- 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.
 20 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.
 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

Only Jesus Christ can cleanse us from sin and give us His gift of eternal life.

Sin, like leprosy, is disgusting.

Isaiah 1:4-6,16-20

- 4 Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.
 5 Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.
 6 **From the sole of the foot even unto the head *there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores:*** they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.
 16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;
 17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.
 18 **Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.**
 19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:
 20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

How fast does Jesus cleanse us from sin?

Let's look at an example of how fast Jesus cleansed actual leprosy.

Matthew 8:2,3

2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3 And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And **immediately his leprosy was cleansed.**

Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Save: to *save*, that is, *deliver* or *protect* (literally or figuratively): - **heal**, preserve, save (self), do well, **be (make) whole.** (*Strong Definition*)

The Two Crowns**1 Corinthians 9:24,25**

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now **they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.**

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve **two** masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 12:31-35

31 But rather **seek ye the kingdom of God**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning;

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: **hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.