

SCRIPTURE
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

CHAPTER 19

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It lasted approximately 3 1/2 years.

Matthew 19:1 chronologically continues from Lk 18:14.

It takes place approximately 41 months after He began His ministry.

The entire chapter takes place in this general time period.

(Departure from the Galilee)

(Marriage and Divorce)

Mt 19:1. And it came to pass (or came about), that when Jesus had finished these sayings (or words) (or saying) (or talking about) (these things), he departed (or left) from Galilee, and came (or went) (or traveled) (down) into (or to) the coasts (or region) (or east side) of Judea (or the Yarden, or Jordan River) beyond (the) (or to the other side) (of the) Jordan.

COMMENTARY

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Mt 19:1. Back in Lk 18:14, which preceded Mt 19:1, Jesus had spoken a parable to those which trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others.

Then in Mt 19:1, Jesus left the Galilee and went down (this should represent elevation), to the region (or coasts) (or borders) or east side of Judea in the vicinity of or beyond the Jordan River but on the other side, that is, the eastern side. The area was called Perea.

Jesus began heading to Jerusalem, where He will be crucified. Jesus knew all things. He knew what was ahead and when. Within a generation from the time that Jesus would be crucified, Israel would cease to exist. That happened in 70 AD, when the Roman armies came. Approximately 2000 years would pass before Israel would become a nation again, in

what the Bible calls the latter days, latter times, and latter years.

There was heavy opposition to Jesus then, just as there is today to the **very few true** Bible-teaching churches. Those are the churches that do not compromise their message of Bible prophecy, repentance, and obedience to God's Word. As there was opposition to Jesus then, it is the same today to the few that both profess Jesus Christ and follow Him in both word and in deed.

Note: Churches that teach sprinkling and infant baptism are so biblically illiterate that it would be difficult to truthfully classify them as a Bible-teaching church. Keep in mind that not all churches that claim to be a Christian church, are really a Christian church. There are many counterfeits, just as there are many false Christs, and false religions, and false ways to get to heaven. Does your church confess that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**—without being asked?-ref 1 Jn 4:2,3; 2 Jn 7. Very, very few do. It is the same with both radio and television ministries. Few confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is in harmony with the Scriptures that reveal clearly the number that actually go to heaven is extremely small compared to the number that think they will go to heaven.

The first few words of Mt 19:1 reveal to us that Jesus had finally finished speaking. His last words were relating to forgiving others. And if a person does not forgive others, then they in turn will not be forgiven. With those words, one might wonder how many might think they will be forgiven, but they will not, as they still hold grudges, and unforgiveness, and even hatred in their heart against others.

Herod Antipas was the ruling authority at that time in Jerusalem. He was there through the authority of Rome.

Mt 19:2. And great multitudes (or large crowds) (or great crowds) followed him; and he healed them there.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:1**, And it came to pass (or came about), that when Jesus had finished these sayings (or words) (or saying) (or talking about) (these things), he departed (or left) from Galilee, and came (or went) (or traveled) (down) into (or to) the coasts (or region) (or east side) of Judea (or the Yarden, or Jordan River) beyond (the) (or to the other side) (of the) Jordan.

Mt 19:2. The fame of Jesus had been growing. It was now somewhere in the vicinity of 41 months after Jesus had been baptized by John. The time that Jesus would go to Jerusalem and be rejected was drawing closer.

Jesus had been healing the sick and even raising the dead. He had been doing and teaching that which His Father had given Him to do and teach. His Father was speaking through Jesus.

There was no disease that He could not heal. There was no one possessed with a demon, that He could not cast out. There were no doctors or medical personnel in those days as there are now. Often when a person got sick, they might die.

However, the vast majority of things which Jesus said and did are not recorded in the Bible. For it is written: Jn 21:25-And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

The number of people following Him had been increasing more and more. There might be 5000 men, plus women, and children or even more.

The ministry of Jesus may be characterized by

Marriage, Divorce, and Eunuchs

Mt 19:3. (And) The (or some) Pharisees also came unto (or to) him, tempting (or testing) (or to test) (or trap) him, and saying unto him (or they asked), Is it lawful (or permitted) for a man to put away (or divorce) his wife for every cause (or for any cause at all) (or for any and every reason) (or on any ground whatever)?

these words: Preaching, teaching, healing, and miracles.

Their ages may have been similar to the ages of today; for it is written: Ps 90:19-The days of our years are threescore years and ten (which is 70). And if by reason of strength they be fourscore years (or 80), yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:2**, And great multitudes (or large crowds) (or great crowds) followed him; and he healed them there.

Marriage, Divorce, and Eunuchs

Mt 19:3. The **Pharisees** were a religious group in Israel at the time of Jesus. They were also a political party. They are mentioned approximately 98 times in the New Testament.

They had strict observances to both the traditional and written law. They had many man-made rules that were contrary to God's Word. They had a proud, superior attitude. Many were hostile to Jesus.

They were prominent in Israel from about 1BC to 70 AD, when Israel was destroyed. They believed in an after life. Paul was a Pharisee.

The supreme court of Israel in ancient times was the Great Sanhedrin, which had 71 members, consisting of both Pharisees and Sadducees.

Some of these came to Jesus to try to tempt Him and **trap Him in His words**.

They asked Him, "**Is it lawful** (or permitted) for a man to put away (or divorce) his wife for every cause (or for any cause at all) (or for any and every reason) (or on any ground whatever)?" These testings or challenges

would continue throughout the ministry of Jesus, until, at the very end, Jesus silenced them and all others as well, in Mt 22:43-46, with a question they could not answer. There was even a division among various religious groups, such as the followers of Hillel versus the followers of Shammai on this issue.

The followers of the **Shammaites** (or Shammai) only allowed a man to put away his wife because of sexual immorality as reflected in Deut 24:1-4.

The **Hillelites** (or views of Hillel) allowed a man to put away his wife for most any reason.

Jesus is the Word. He is the Bible. Through out the time of His ministry no one was ever able to trap Him in His words or gain an upper hand. Jesus, knowing all things, would have known in advance what people would ask Him and even what would be the results of any answer He might give.

Reverting back to the question that the religious leaders asked: they wanted to know whether it was right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?

As it has been said in **Mt 19:3**, (And) The (or some) Pharisees also came unto (or to) him, tempting (or testing) (or to test) (or trap) him, and saying unto him (or they asked), Is it lawful (or permitted) for a man to put away (or divorce) his wife for every cause (or for any cause at all) (or for any and every reason) (or on any ground whatever)?

Mt 19:4. And he answered and said (or replied) unto them, Have ye (or you) not (or haven't you) read, that he (the Creator) which made (or created) them at (or from) the beginning made them male and female.

Mt 19:4. Jesus directed those that questioned Him to the Scriptures. He began His answer with, "**Have ye not read?**" These words appear a total of 7 times in the Gospels. Jesus knew their hearts. He knew their thoughts. He knew how they twisted God's Word and made their own rules. As already mentioned, Jesus

knew in advance how they would respond to anything He might say. He is God.

Jesus was not welcomed in most synagogues in the days of His ministry. Even so it is today in Israel. Most Jewish synagogues do not use the New Testament, and they ignore the prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament, that is, the writings of Moses and the prophets.

When Jesus quoted from Genesis, He was making it clear that it is the Word of God. It is the inspired Word of God.

People did not evolve, as some may teach in schools which greatly misleads children in these latter days. God made Adam and Eve. Not one single word or statement in the Bible has ever been found to be wrong; no, not one.

Jesus answered their question of: Is it lawful (or permitted) for a man to put away (or divorce) his wife for every cause (or for any cause at all) (or for any and every reason) (or on any ground whatever)?

First of all, forced marriages by a person's parents or relatives is not biblical.

Jesus answered with: He (the Creator) which made (or created) them at (or from) the beginning made them male and female.

There was not, nor is there now any allowance allowed for two men or two women to be united in any way. Such is against nature itself and no offspring can result. However, this lifestyle is expected to increase more and more into the Tribulation, which is soon to come. God completely destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for this sin. When touring Israel, there is a place along the Dead Sea, a pillar of salt, which is called Lot's wife.

God is revealed as having created mankind.

Mt 19:5. And (He answered and) said, For this cause (or reason) shall (or should) a man leave (his) father and mother, and shall cleave (or be united) to his wife: and they twain (or the two) shall be (come) one flesh?

They did not evolve from some single cell creature. God is further revealed that He made a male and a female. As we know, this was Adam and Eve.

His answer continues into the next verse.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:4**, And he answered and said (or replied) unto them, Have ye (or you) not (or haven't you) read, that he (the Creator) which made (or created) them at (or from) the beginning made them male and female.

Mt 19:5. Jesus continues speaking and reveals that God did it this way so that a man would leave his father and mother.

Note the word "father" comes first.

The term "mother" comes after.

The man shall leave his parents and shall then be united to his wife. He shall cleave to his wife.

Then the two shall be one flesh. In other words, they shall be married. Marriage is of God.

The union is not to be just living together, it is to be an intimate union; as it is written, one flesh. Any married man or woman that does not fulfill this God created union is in sin. No woman is to deny herself to her husband, and no husband is to deny himself to his wife. A marriage is both a physical and spiritual union. As a result, they become as one, especially when Jesus is in the center. The woman was originally part of the man. The only reason that they might not come together might be if there was some kind of physical handicap that in no way could be compensated for.

The man is to leave his father and mother.

The man is to be united with his wife, which

Mt 19:6. Wherefore (or consequently) (or thus) they are no more (or no longer) twain (or two), but (will become) one flesh. What therefore God hath (or has) joined together, (or what God has joined together) let not man (or no man) (or no one) put asunder (or separate) (or split apart what God has joined together).

also means the wife is to be united with her husband. They are to cleave to each other.

They are to become one flesh.

Any marriage that finds one partner intentionally denying himself or herself to the other is living in continual sin and rebellion to God's Word. An attitude of: I just do not want to submit to my husband, or the husband does not want to come together with his wife, are in rebellion to God's Word.

Marriage is not a worldly contract, even though it is a worldly contract. It is ordained by God, and what God has joined together let not man put asunder or separate-ref Mt 19:6.

1 Cor 6:15 tells us, Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ.? Shall I take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:5**, And (He answered and) said, For this cause (or reason) shall (or should) a man leave (his) father and mother, and shall cleave (or be united) to his wife: and they twain (or the two) shall be (come) one flesh?

Mt 19:6. As has already been stated, the man and woman become one flesh.

A marriage is not just ordained of man, it is ordained of God; as it is written, "what God has joined together..." In God's eyes, they are as one.

Then a severe warning is brought forth. That warning is that **man is not to split or separate what GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER.**

Do true Christians cheat in their marriage? To do so, is sin and wickedness.

**(Life is a Test)
The Bible and the Church
Hell
Marriage**

God looks at a married couple as one, one flesh. Marriage is a union under God.

The scripture leaves no provision for a divorce. It is written What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.

However, if one cheats on the other, which, God forbid, is rampant in this generation, a man may divorce his wife. Adultery is a grievous sin. Many have committed this sin, and many are going to be in hell. Yet does anyone ever believe they will be in hell-probably no, except in a joking manner.

**(Life is a Test)
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Mankind is being tested. Will they submit to God's Word, or not? That is the question. The vast **majority of churches are not of God.** They are of the Adversary.

Few people devour God's Word (**the Bible**) and so most people are biblically ignorant of what is a church ordained of God, and what is not.

One key is this. If the church does sprinkling baptism and infant baptism, this reveals clearly **their biblical understand is lacking.**

Does the church confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh? Very, very few do.

It is written: 1 John 4:2, 3-Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:** And every spirit that **confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:** and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 John 7-For many **deceivers** are entered into the world, who **confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

It is still 41 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Regarding if there is a place called hell—note, it is written:

Lk 16:22-25-And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; **AND IN HELL** he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and **thou art tormented**.

Regarding marriage and divorce, Mt 19:6.

Deut 24:1-5. When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.

2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;

4 Her former husband, which sent her away,

Mt 19:7. They say (or said) unto (or to) him, Why (then) did Moses then command (or give the commandment) (that) (a man) to give (or hand his wife) a writing (or certificate) of divorcement (or divorce), and to put her away (or divorce her)?

may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:6**. Wherefore (or consequently) (or thus) they are no more (or no longer) twain (or two), but (will become) one flesh. What therefore God hath (or has) joined together, (or what God has joined together) let not man (or no man) (or no one) put asunder (or separate) (or split apart what God has joined together).

Mt 19:7. The Word of God is the end of all controversy. It is the Creator's guidelines covering life and death. It is the only hope man has that he may not perish for eternity.

The verse starts with "they." These are the Pharisees, mentioned in verse 3, that were tempting Jesus. They misunderstood Deut 24:1 to 4.

They challenged Jesus, saying, why then did Moses allow divorce, by commanding a man to give a certificate of divorce to his wife and to put her away from him?

Verse 7 uses the words, Moses then "command."

The writing of divorcement was to include what the wife had done, and then the appointed judges would delay, so that the matter would not be done hastily.

Mark 10:11-12 tells us: And He saith unto

Mt 19:8. He (Jesus) saith (or said) (or replied) unto them, Moses because of the (or your) hardness of your hearts (or heart) (or because your hearts were hard) (or hardened) suffered (or permitted) (or allowed) you to put away (or divorce) your wives: but from the beginning it was not so (or this way).

them. Whosoever (speaking of a man) shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.

Both the man or wife could commit adultery depending on what they did.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:7**. They say (or said) unto (or to) him, Why (then) did Moses then command (or give the commandment) (that) (a man) to give (or hand his wife) a writing (or certificate) of divorcement (or divorce), and to put her away (or divorce her)?

Mt 19:8. Jesus had been asked why then did Moses command a man to give a document of divorce to put away his wife.

Jesus responded with the reason. **Note, how could any human know why something was done back in the days of Moses?** Only God could know such a thing.

Moses did allow or permit a divorce.

Jesus answers the question regarding Moses allowing a divorce. The certificate of divorce was given because of the hardness of a man's heart. Note, Moses allowed the divorce. He did not command it to take place.

Sometimes a man just became dissatisfied with his wife. It is one thing seeing a woman and even spending time with her. It is a very different thing to be married to a woman. She might be a wonderful, loving person and a good housekeeper.

But on the other hand, she might be a lazy or cold-hearted person that didn't want to clean the house, or cook the meals, or respond in the bed. She might be a "wanting to be in control" or domineering woman. She might have

Mt 19:9. And (now) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you), Whosoever (or whoever) (or anyone who) shall put away (or divorces) his wife, except it be for fornication (or immorality) (or marital unfaithfulness) (or sexual immorality), and shall marry (or marries) another (woman), committeth (or commits) adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

wandering eyes for other men. She might be found not to be a virgin.

A woman might be beautiful on the outside, but a very evil person otherwise. Case in point—the beautiful young, woman that danced before Herod that sought for John the Baptist's head.

Then Jesus tells those that asked, something only God could know. He said, "but from the beginning it was not so (or this way)."

There was no divorce in the beginning.

In the days of Adam and Eve, there was no divorce. When were divorces finally allowed? That question was not brought up or answered.

The answer Jesus gave was somewhat in line with the viewpoint of the Jewish group of the Shammai.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:8**, He (Jesus) saith (or said) (or replied) unto them, Moses because of the (or your) hardness of your hearts (or heart) (or because your hearts were hard) (or hardened) suffered (or permitted) (or allowed) you to put away (or divorce) your wives: but from the beginning it was not so (or this way).

Mt 19:9. Jesus has just explained that Moses allowed a man to divorce his wife. It was because of the hardness of the husband's heart. But then Jesus explained such was not permitted from the beginning, which would have been from the time of Adam.

Then Jesus explains that any man that divorces his wife and marries another woman is committing adultery. The exception to this would be if his former wife committed adultery or sexual immorality, then he is free to divorce her and remarry without sin.

The only grounds for a man to divorce his wife is if she commits adultery. The reason is that she has broken what God commanded, that is, the two shall be one flesh.

Also any man that marries a woman that has been divorced is committing adultery, because she had committed fornication, which is sin.

Note. God has clearly certified He created Adam and then Eve.

God is the one that has ordained the marriage between a man and a woman.

God gives the only biblical reason for a divorce. That is fornication or sex with someone other than the person's husband. The union of one flesh between the husband and wife is then broken.

In this wicked and permissive sexual generation, many men and women have broken God's command and the oneness of the husband and wife in the marriage.

The verse also covers remarriage. If a man marries another woman, he is committing adultery, unless he divorced his wife because **she committed adultery**. Then, if he remarries, there is no adultery.

Adultery by either the wife or by the husband does free up the other to remarry. But if the husband or wife divorces the other, just because they want to be free to remarry, when they remarry, they commit adultery. They sin.

However, they are not to remarry one that has unbiblically divorced the other and is guilty of sin as a result.

1 Cor 7:1-17 gives us more information regarding marriage.

v.1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

v.2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

v.3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

v.4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

v.5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

v.6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

v.7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

v.8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

v.9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

v.10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

v.11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

v.12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

v.13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

v.14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

v.15 But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.

v.16 For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

v.17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:9**, And (now) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you), Whosoever (or whoever) (or anyone who) shall put away (or divorces) his wife, except it be for fornication (or immorality) (or marital unfaithfulness) (or sexual immorality), and shall marry (or marries) another (woman), committeth (or commits) adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Mt 19:10. After the disciples of Jesus had heard all that He had said, they made a comment. Which disciples "they" represent is not stated. It may be said that they all had in their heart what was uttered by whoever spoke.

Their comment was that if this is how the

Mt 19:10. His (or the) disciples say (or said) unto him, If the case (or relationship) (or if this is the situation) (or this is how things are) of the man (or between a husband) (and) be so with his wife, (or is like this) it is not good to marry (or it is better not to marry).

Mt 19:11. But he (Jesus) said (or replied) unto (or to) them, All men cannot (or not everyone can) receive (or accept) (or grasp) this saying (or statement) (or teaching), save (or but only) (for) they (or those) to whom it is (or has been) given (or meant).

marriage and divorce situation is between a man and his wife, it seemed good to the disciples that it would be better not to get married at all. The teaching of Jesus on this subject was not in harmony with the teachings of the religious establishment.

Jesus made it clear that divorce was allowed; however it was not encouraged by God as it ran counter to God's intention for a marriage. Divorce was only allowed in the most extreme situations.

A marriage under God is not the same as a marriage without God. When both people are following Christ in a marriage, a harmony and peace should exist that the world cannot understand. The two are usually in harmony in nearly all matters, and when they are not, the two can seek God together for guidance. It is written, Pv 18:22-Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing. Also Pv 19:14-And a prudent wife is from the Lord.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:10**, His (or the) disciples say (or said) unto him, If the case (or relationship) (or if this is the situation) (or this is how things are) of the man (or between a husband) (and) be so with his wife, (or is like this) it is not good to marry (or it is better not to marry).

Mt 19:11. After the disciples made the comment regarding this particular situation that it is better for a man not to get married, Jesus replied that not all men could grasp or accept this teaching. The only ones that could receive and understand this teaching would be those to whom it was meant to be understood or to whosoever could grasp these words.

The Roman church did not understand the teachings of Jesus on this subject, which is reflected in the church trying to force a single lifestyle on people. **Jesus did no such thing.**

Mt 19:12. (For there are different reasons why men do not marry.) For there are some eunuchs, which (or who) were so born (that way) (without the desire) from their mother's womb: and there are some (others) eunuchs, which were made eunuchs (or castrated) of (or by) men: and there be (or are also) eunuchs (or others), which (or who) have made themselves eunuchs (or renounced marriage) for the kingdom of heaven's sake (or sake of the kingdom of heaven). He (or the one) that is able to receive it (or accept this or it), (or can grasp this) let him receive (or accept) it (or should accept it) (or do so).

When a person is "in" Christ, the word of God becomes more and more clear as one studies it. However, when a person is not "in" Christ, but only thinks they are, darkness is their understanding. Regarding both the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches, if they can't understand something so simple as water baptism is by full immersion (buried in the water)-ref Ro 6:4, then how could they ever understand the more difficult things of the Bible?

God is saying that marriage was a good thing-ref Pv 18:22; however, there are some that are called to not be married for God's purpose.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:11**, But he (Jesus) said (or replied) unto (or to) them, All men cannot (or not everyone can) receive (or accept) (or grasp) this saying (or statement) (or teaching), save (or but only) (for) they (or those) to whom it is (or has been) given (or meant).

Mt 19:12. Verse 12 covers why some men do not choose to marry. There are three categories.

1-Some were born and never had the desire or felt the need to get married.

2-Some renounced marriage or were made eunuchs. They did this for the sake of the kingdom of God.

3-Some were made a eunuch to serve in places where they might be guarding women, even king's courts.

Regarding a woman, it involved the removal of the ovaries, so she could no longer conceive.

Whosoever is able to grasp or understand this teaching as it applies to themselves, let this

person receive it.

Subject: a **Eunuch**: Definition: A man castrated before puberty. It's meaning is a "court officer."

Such results in the loss of the male sex hormones and the failure of the development of the secondary sexual characteristics.

This includes and results in the loss of the production of sperm, the loss of the beard, the loss of a deeper voice, the loss of an adult-sized penis, and the loss of the characteristic male body shape.

The possibility of sex with women is thus removed.

This is usually done to a person early in life.

(For there are different reasons why men do not marry). Some seek to wait upon the Lord with no distractions.

Jesus did not imply that abstaining from marriage was a better thing to do. Also note Gen 2:18 and 1 Tim 4:4.

Many anointed people of the Bible were not single. They chose to marry. None of the lineage of Joseph, who was married to Mary, were eunuchs; for if they had been, there would not have been a Joseph.

The Catholic Church (which is the Great Harlot of the Revelation) has also been the great deceiver of billions). It believes the priesthood is to be celibate, even though there are no scriptural grounds for this practice.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:12**, For there are some eunuchs, which (or who) were so born

(that way) (without the desire) from their mother's womb: and there are some (others) eunuchs, which were made eunuchs (or castrated) of (or by) men: and there be (or are also) eunuchs (or others), which (or who) have made themselves eunuchs (or renounced marriage) for the kingdom of heaven's sake (or sake of the kingdom of heaven). He (or the one) that is able to receive it (or accept this or it), (or can grasp this) let him receive (or accept) it (or should accept it) (or do so).

Still 41 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Mt 19:12 goes to Mk 10:1.

Mk 10:1 goes to Mk 10:12.

Mk 10:12 goes to Mt 19:13.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Little Children

Mt 19:13. Then were there brought unto (or to) him (some) little children, (for Him) that he should (or might) put (or lay) (or place) his hands on them, and pray (for them): and (or but) the disciples rebuked them (the people) (bringing them) (or those who had brought them).

Still 41 months into the ministry of Jesus.

Mt 19:12 goes to Mk 10:1.

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The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Little Children

Mt 19:13. The various events that happened, although they appear they were just at random, they were by design.

Jesus had been teaching on marriage and eunuchs, and now he is dealing with little children.

In this case, little children were brought to Jesus. The purpose was two-fold. First, was that Jesus should lay His hands on them and then pray for them. However, the purpose was also to open a door to teach on certain, very important subjects.

The children that were brought were not older ones that might be stubborn or rebellious. Some were probably brought by both parents, and others by their mothers. Jesus elevated women, as the Father intended it to be.

The children were little, but they were not

infants, which can be seen, as He told them to come in the next verse.

They were the kind that looked to and trusted in their parents, as a born again Christian is to do regarding Jesus (Who is God's Word).

They were small, childlike, humble, and teachable, of which most people are not.

They were representative of the way a person is to be, when they come to Jesus
to learn,
be humbled,
and be repentant,
and be saved.

Many, many, many so-called Christians, who are absolutely positive they are saved and will go to heaven, will, in fact, go to hell and the lake of fire. They were not humble, repentant, and childlike. They did not steadfastly continue in obedience to God's Word, when the devil tempted them.

Note God's Word in Mt 7:22-23:

Many will say to me in that day,
Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?
and in thy name have cast out devils?
and in thy name done many wonderful works?

v. 23-And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

It is the "little" children that Jesus will put His hands on. It is the little children that Jesus prayed for. It is the humble, broken, repentant, and childlike Christians that should find Jesus will receive and hear their prayers.

However, the disciples did not understand at this time. They did not understand Jesus was teaching those around Him, through receiving

Mt 19:14. But (or however) Jesus said, Suffer (or let) (the) little children (or let the children alone) (or let the children come to me), and forbid them not (or do not hinder them) (or do not [or don't] stop them), to come (or from coming) unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven (or for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these).

the little children and praying for them.

So, because the disciples did not understand, they rebuked or spoke against the people that brought the little children. They may have considered it was a waste of time for Jesus to minister to little children.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:13**, Then were there brought unto (or to) him (some) little children, (for Him) that he should (or might) put (or lay) (or place) his hands on them, and pray (for them): and (or but) the disciples rebuked them (the people) (bringing them) (or those who had brought them).

Mt 19:14. Jesus appears to have been very direct in His response to His disciples that were discouraging the people from bringing the little children. He straightly said, "Do not stop them to come unto me."

Each person that wishes to be forgiven by Jesus needs to become humble, even as a little child. God resists the proud-ref Ja 4:6. The little children are referred to as being infants in Luke 18:15.

To be forgiven, a person needs indeed be humble, be repentant, and should be burdened with their sinful condition, and without hope. The only hope a person can have is the forgiveness that is only through Jesus that paid a horrible price of being tortured and marred worse than any man. This He did for each person's sins that would trust in Him and be willing to obey His Word and follow Him.

Note, at some altar calls, some come crying, regarding the weight of their sinful condition. They may cry with joy that the heavy burden of sin is taken away, as a result of repentance and Jesus taking that heavy burden of sin upon Him.

Indeed, let the little children, the childlike, repentant person come; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven belongs to the humble, the burdened, the repentant, who will cast their heavy sin weight upon Jesus; and then, afterward, follow Jesus. To follow Jesus is to follow His Word. To follow His Word is to put aside many distractions and begin devouring the Bible. God's Word is to be first in the true Christian's life.

If hearing and reading God's Word (God's Word is Jesus) is the only way faith comes, if this is both needful and required, then there are only a few that will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Only a few will become **childlike**, humble, and meek.

Only a few will obey God's Word as a little child obeys his parents.

Only a few will continue to dwell in the calling God has given them.

Lk 18:17 tells us: Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter in.

Many go astray to another calling, that is, one that Satan gave them afterward, which looks like God's calling, but it is a diversion. Indeed, that is exactly what the bible teaches.

A person can indeed be doing what looks like God's work, but is not the calling God has given them. It is a calling that has caused the person to deviate from God's original calling.

Childlikeness, humbleness, and devouring God's Word is needful. Mk 10:16 shows Jesus blessed them.

Ref. Mt 7:22-23-Many will say to me in that

day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name **done many wonderful works**? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Only those that build on the hearing or reading and obeying the Bible as a **LITTLE CHILD**, only these shall inherit the **kingdom of heaven**.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHILDLIKE?

The following words and others may be used.

It begins with being broken into small pieces, so God can restore you, and transform you, and rebuild you, and renew you and your mind to the image of Christ-ref Ro 12:2.

Childlikeness:

to want correction,
to be soft to correction,
to be humble to correction,
to be obedient to correction,
and all this with a Christlike attitude, even to one's death on the cross.

The Bible is to be the first, and the last and the center of a Christian's life.

Let the broken,
humble,
repentant,
and childlike come to Jesus (Who is the Word) for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Childlikeness to correction is needful and even required for those that follow Jesus.

Does the church correct their people anymore with God's Word?

Is your church an entertainment and socializing center, or is it a center that fears God and trembles at His Word of correction???

If a person does not **DESIRE** to be **IN** God's Word now (that is, the Bible), then, is it not correct to say that neither would they **DESIRE** to be **WITH** God's Word, which is Jesus for eternity.

BEWARE. If a person is at a good, Bible-teaching church, but is tempted to leave it for any reason, **BEWARE.** **TO DEPART,** without consulting with the very person that God has put over you, **IS A CLEAR INDICATION, YOU MAY NOT BE IN GOD'S WILL,** no matter how many people you may have ministered to afterward.

This is why God tells many that perish He never knew them, even though they prophesied in the name of Jesus, and cast out devils in His name and did many wonderful works in the name of Jesus.

The gate is strait, and the way is narrow.

Walking with Jesus was an awesome learning experience for the disciples. Many things that they believed were wrong. Other things they believed were only partially correct.

So it is with nearly everyone today. Religions can be contrary to God's Word in many things. What is needful is for each person to cleanse their mind of what they believe and start reading God's Word, over and over. Yet few will do this; and so Satan gets the victory, because it is Satan himself that puts thoughts into a person's mind to not read God's Word.

Each professing Christian needs to become more and more childlike, so he can become more and more teachable from the Bible, as a little child is to be teachable by his father.

It is absolutely almost beyond understanding

Mt 19:15. And (when) he (had) laid (or after laying) his hands on them, and (He) departed thence (or went on his way) (from there).

that some preachers have now turned to using **psychology** and the Word of God has been partially or totally omitted.

A hundred years ago such people would have been scorned or ignored. But, now, they have millions of followers and are very rich

Yes, it is going to get worse. And when the Rapture comes, many will be left behind and will cry out, "Lord, Lord open to us," but Jesus will reply, I KNOW YOU NOT-Ref Lk 13:25.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:14**, But (or however) Jesus said, Suffer (or let) (the) little children (or let the children alone) (or let the children come to me), and forbid them not (or do not hinder them) (or do not (or don't) stop them), to come (or from coming) unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven (or for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these).

Mt 19:15. The little children came. How many came is not mentioned. After they came, He laid His hands on them.

It may be said that the little children sensed they were in the presence of God, but the religious establishment in their beautiful attire that loved the praise of men more than the praise of God, these did not.

Those little children that Jesus chose and laid His hands on, undoubtedly were affected in some wonderful way for the rest of their lives, as probably were their parents also. The Creator of all things had chosen them.

After Jesus was finished, He then departed from there and went away.

In contrast, it is interesting chronologically the next event was the rich young ruler rejecting Jesus in favor of his riches.

Time period is still 30 years plus 41 months.

Mt 19:15 goes to Mk 10:13.

Mk 10:13 goes to Mk 10:16.

Mk 10:16 goes to Lk 18:15.

Lk 18:15 goes to Lk 18:17.

Lk 18:17 goes to Mt 19:16.

(The Rich Young Man)

Mt 19:16. And, behold, one (a man) came (up to or approached Jesus) and said unto (or to) (or asked) him, Good Master (or teacher) (or Rabbi), what good thing shall (or must) (or should) I do, that I may have (or get) (or obtain) eternal life?

As it has been said in **Mt 19:15**, And (when) he (had) laid (or after laying) his hands on them, and (He) departed thence (or went on his way) (from there).

Time period is still 30 years, plus 41 months.

(The Rich Young Man)

Mt 19:16. Next, we see a contrast.

First, there were the little children. Jesus had said of them, "Of such is the kingdom of God."

Next, we see the rich young ruler that rejected Jesus in favor of his riches.

Sometime after Jesus had left, a man came up and approached Him. He was a ruler-ref Lk 18:18, but the Scriptures do not tell what he ruled over. Thus, he was a man that had authority.

He then addressed Jesus as "Good master or good teacher." He acknowledged that Jesus was both a good person and that he was also a good teacher.

However, he did not recognize Jesus as God or as being divine.

However, the man did believe in eternal life after physical death takes place.

Mt 19:17. And he said unto (or to) him, Why callest thou me good? (or why are you asking me about what is good?) there is none good but one, (or only one who is good) that is, God: but if thou (or you) wilt (or wish) (to) (or will) (or want to) enter into life (or obtain eternal life), keep (or obey) the commandments.

Nevertheless, the man had no knowledge on how to inherit eternal life, although he did believe there was a life after our existence on earth comes to an end.

The man seemed to believe that the life that existed after our life on earth is finished could be earned by doing something special. Many people even today believe the same way. Some believe in salvation by works. Some believe that if their good works are more than their bad works, they will go to heaven.

He asked, "What **MUST** or what should I do to obtain eternal life?"

As it has been said in **Mt 19:16**, And, behold, one (a man) came (up to or approached Jesus) and said unto (or to) (or asked) him, Good Master (or teacher) (or Rabbi), what good thing shall (or must) (or should) I do, that I may have (or get) (or obtain) eternal life?

Mt 19:17. Jesus did not ignore the man. He responded. However, his response was probably unexpected. Jesus said: "Why callest thou me good?" (or why are you asking me about what is good as some translations indicate? This second group of words seems to give a different meaning to the preceding words. The answer Jesus gave seems to indicate that the KJV is correct and the other translation is in question.)

The word "good" can give an indication that salvation is based upon merit or being a good person, which is totally incorrect. Yet many misled people also believe this way. Jesus healed people. He raise the dead. Therefore, Jesus must be a good person; yet the Bible clearly teaches all our righteousness is as filthy rags-ref Isa 64:6. Some very misled people believe that at the Judgment our good acts and bad ones will be balanced. If the good out weights the bad, we will go to heaven.

If that was the case, then Jesus would appear to have died for nothing. It is amazing, when people are not reading the Bible as they ought, how completely "stupid" their thinking can be relating to the things of God.

Jesus did not give the man time to reply to his question. Jesus continued on.

Then Jesus made a statement. He said: There is none good but one, (or only one who is good) that is, God. Jesus was speaking of His Father, which is in heaven.

Then Jesus made a direct statement. His answer first contained a question, and then the question was followed with the answer the man sought, but did not want when he heard it.

Jesus said: If thou (or you) wilt (or wish) (to) (or will) (or want to) enter into life (or obtain eternal life), keep (or obey) the commandments which would be the laws Moses laid down. Jesus connected eternal life with obedience to God's Word. One may say how can we know the commandments without reading the Bible or going to church? The answer is, they cannot. The comment of Jesus seems to imply that the person was on the outside of eternal life.

Now there are the Ten Commandments, but there are also numerous other commands throughout the Old Testament also. In addition, there were the many unbiblical rules and regulations laid down by the religious leaders.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:17**, And he said unto (or to) him, Why callest thou me good? (or why are you asking me about what is good?) there is none good but one, (or only one who is good) that is, God: but if thou (or you) wilt (or wish) (to) (or will) (or want to) enter into life (or obtain eternal life), keep (or obey) the commandments.

Mt 19:18. He (the man) saith (or said) (or inquired) unto (or to) him, Which (ones)? (And) Jesus said, Thou (or you) shalt do no (or shall not) (or don't) (commit) murder, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not commit adultery, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not steal, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not bear false witness (or testimony),

Mt 19:18. Jesus had told the man to keep the commandments in order to obtain eternal life.

To this the man replied, "Which ones?" There are the Ten Commandments; however, there are also many other commands given in the Scriptures also. It is interesting that the man responded with "which" in view of the fact that Jesus said "commandments," which is plural.

Then Jesus listed 7 commandments. Four are in verse 18, and three in verse 19.

All 4 in verse 18 begin with "Thou shalt not."

These included: 1-Thou (or you) shalt do no (or shall not) (or don't) (commit) **murder**. This is number 6.

2-Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not commit **adultery**. This is number 7.

3-Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not **steal**. This is number 8.

4-Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not **bear false witness** (or testimony). In other words, a person was not to "lie" regarding situations. This is number 9.

Three involved physical acts. One command involved what comes out of a person's mouth.

Beware of having hate in your heart toward any person.

Beware of looking on a woman and mentally committing adultery with her in your heart.

Beware of coveting after things or stealing them in your heart.

Beware of lying to anyone about anything. Beware of saying things to people that are not true, thus bearing false witness or misleading people.

Mt 19:19. Honour thy (or your) father and thy mother: and, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) love thy (or your) neighbour as thyself (or yourself).

If a person does these things, it would seem obvious that they have not repented. It would seem obvious they are not deeply immersed in the Bible, which should develop in them the fear of God and also faith to overcome sin.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:18**, He (the man) saith (or said) (or inquired) unto (or to) him, Which (ones)? (And) Jesus said, Thou (or you) shalt do no (or shall not) (or don't) (commit) murder, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not commit adultery, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not steal, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) not bear false witness (or testimony),

Mt 19:19. Jesus commands a person to **honor** both their father and mother. He mentions the father first, then the mother afterwards. This is number 5.

In Gen 1:26-God said, Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.

God created the male, and then the female. God commanded that they multiply.

Now he commands the offspring in verse 19 to **honor** both their father and mother. The father again is mentioned first.

Then the verse continues and ends by saying one is to also **love** their neighbor, even as you love yourself. This also appears in Leviticus at the end of the verse in chapter 19, verse 18.

This can be said to sum up all of our relationships with people. The first word is "LOVE," and then it says thy neighbor, and then it tells the person how much. It is the same as you love yourself. Whatsoever you may do for yourself, do it also for your neighbor.

This was all in response to the question of one that said to Jesus back in Mt 19:16-...Good Master (or teacher) (or Rabbi), what good thing

Mt 19:20. The young man saith (or said) unto (or to) him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet (or what am I still lacking or what do I still lack or where do I still fall short)?

shall (or must) (or should) I do, that I may have (or get) (or obtain) eternal life? The Jews did believe in life after death.

Not mentioned in this verse, but it needs to be said: Mt 22:37-40:

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

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:19**, Honour thy (or your) father and thy mother: and, Thou (or you) shalt (or shall) love thy (or your) neighbor as thyself (or yourself).

Mt 19:20. The young man that was rich appears to have been a very good person, even from when he was a boy. He was what may be called a self-righteous person; yet, he seemed to realize that he was still falling short of eternal life-ref Mt 19:16. Many people may use the words, "I am not a bad person," when confronted with their sin or falling short of attaining eternal life.

The young man responded with the words that very, very few people could honestly say. He said, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet (or what am I still lacking or what do I still lack, or where do I still fall short)?

The young man exalted himself to a place which seems impossible. He seemed very self-centered and self-righteous as just mentioned.

Yet, Jesus appeared to agree with him Jesus never indicated to him that what he said was not true.

This seemed indeed to be a good person with

Mt 19:21. Jesus said unto him, If thou (or you) wilt (or if you wish to) be perfect (or complete), (or if you are serious about reaching the goal) go and sell (your possessions) that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou (or you) shalt (or shall) (or will) have treasure (or riches) in heaven: and (then) come and follow Me.

good works and which had keep God's commandments.

He was far, far better than most people. Yet all of his good attitude, honesty, and good things he did, was not enough to get him into heaven. If any man could get into heaven on his own good deeds or merits, this person might qualify.

Regretfully, there are in this present generation people that believe they are without sin. They believe they are a good person. They do not comprehend that all our righteousness are as filthy rags-ref-Isa 64:6.

The good man that was rich asked Jesus: what lack I yet (or what am I still lacking, or what do I still lack, or where do I still fall short)? It appeared that the young man wanted God.

Then Jesus hit him in his most vulnerable area. It was his riches and possessions. This verse appears to tell each person that they need to look within themselves and see what unrepentant hidden sin could be an obstacle to totally surrendering to Jesus, which includes total repentance.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:20**, The young man saith (or said) unto (to) him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet (or what am I still lacking, or what do I still lack, or where do I still fall short)?

Mt 19:21. Jesus now begins to speak about being perfect or complete. He already did seem to believe in Jesus. The man did appear to trust in the words Jesus spoke.

Jesus then told the rich, young man things he **did not want to hear**. These are things every rich man needs to hear that believe they are following Christ (which is God's Word).

Jesus told him: (If you are serious about reaching the goal) go and sell (your possessions) that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou (or you) shalt (or shall) (or will) have treasure (or riches) in heaven: and (then) come and follow Me.

Jesus told him that he must do something first before following Him. This was because he enjoyed his riches. He trusted in his possessions. He is told that he must get rid of that one obstacle that would keep him from placing his trust totally in Jesus. Repentance precedes salvation. Regretfully, the preaching of these latter days sometimes excludes repenting. Thus, people perish, yet have a false hope they will not perish. How many rich men were positive they would inherit eternal life, only to find when they died, they perished?

Yes, he had faith in Jesus.

Yes, he believed in Jesus.

Yes, he had kept the commandments.

But yes, he also trusted in his riches. A person cannot serve both God and money.

Jesus told him: (If you are serious about reaching the goal) go and sell (your possessions) that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou (or you) shalt (or shall) (or will) have treasure (or riches) in heaven: and (then) come and follow Me.

A person cannot serve both God and money.

Wow, what an incredible thing! The Creator of the universe personally spoke to him and offered him eternal life combined with riches in heaven he would also have.

Regretfully, his negative attitude regarding letting go of his earthly possessions, especially all of them, showed that these were more important to him than eternal life and having eternal riches in heaven. He would lose

nothing, because he would have riches in heaven. He would only lose his riches at that time, and then he would soon be dead anyway.

In addition, once the possessions were sold, he was told to give the money away to the poor. But then Jesus, the Creator of all things, personally invited him to follow Him. As Jesus would go about healing the sick and raising the dead, he could personally be with him.

In **refusing** the invitation of Jesus, what he didn't count on or did not consider was that he would both not have an eternity with God, but he **would have an eternity in horrifying torment.**

He is **now in hell**, being tormented in the flame. Now, he regrets those few years he lived in luxury, in exchange for being tormented in the dreadful place called hell. Now he knows he made the most serious and terrifying mistake any human can make. He chose a few minutes of luxury in exchange for hell and the lake of fire.

Soon he will appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and then he will be cast into the everlasting lake of fire. **That he didn't consider at that time.** But now he realizes he will pay for that horrible mistake as he is tormented day and night forever and ever in excruciating torment. He will never have another chance.

He loved himself and his riches. His riches and this world, at that time, were more important than following Jesus himself and receiving eternal life. Most people make the same error that this man made. The "NOW" is more important to them than "TOMORROW."

A person's average lifespan is about 25,550 days. What good is it to live like a king for this entire period of time, but then be tormented day

and night for a trillion times a trillion years, and never, ever have any hope of it ending?

The penalty for rejecting God's forgiveness and not following Jesus (the Word) is so **terrifying**, so **severe** that no words can even begin to convey it.

Any person or clergy that **boasts about his riches or possessions, or money or being famous, which can be considered as pride, is not humble. Such boasting can put stumbling-blocks in the way of people seeking biblical truth and eternity with God. God's Word is clear. Sell all you have and then come and follow Me.**

Boasting and pride in one's possessions is not in harmony with the teachings and attitude of Jesus. Loving the world or the things of the world is not the attitude one is to have. Anything that is an obstacle to following Jesus, needs to be crucified or repented of.

Note Acts 8:17-19-Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8: 20-23-But Peter said unto him, Thy money **perish with thee**, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if **perhaps** the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Unrepentant, wicked thoughts are sins.

Mt 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 (which is money).

Regarding many people, their riches and possessions are their god along with Jesus. They worship Jesus and trust in their money. Many do follow Jesus, but they also follow other things which are just as important to them.

However, when one looks at the amount of time most people spend in the Bible, as compared with the many things of this world, the evidence is clear.

To follow Jesus is to spend time in His Word, and then obeying His Word. What in your life is taking so much time that it seems that there is no time left to read your Bible?

The very foolish person may say, "I'll try to be a good person, and if I find some time to read my Bible, I might do so for a few minutes on Sundays."

Oh, foolish person. Both God's Word and the billions in hell right now can tell you—you already have one foot in hell right now. If you do not repent, you are doomed. Whatever obstacle is hindering you from studying your Bible and obeying it, repent of it.

The true test of a professing Christian is will they love God (which is God's Word) above all lusts, and desires, and people, and things. The fact that few read God's Word very much is the evidence that God is not first in their life.

Until Jesus is first in a person's life, their hope of escaping the lake of fire for eternity is only hope, and not reality.

For a true, born again Christian, everyday should mean Jesus first. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Then there is yet another story God's Word gives us regarding a rich man, that now wishes he could have a second chance and repent, or he wishes he could somehow warn his relatives that hell is real, don't come here.

Luke 16:20-31-And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22-24-And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25-26-But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27-29-Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30-31-And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

As already alluded to: Jesus (who is God) asked the young rich man to come and follow Him personally, and He promised him riches in heaven—yet the person refused.

One might ask, has Jesus called you, but you also refused to repent and surrender to God's Word? Or did you begin to follow Jesus, but then you turned back?

The disciples that followed Jesus (which is God's Word) are now are with Him for eternity. Few, in this latter day generation, truly follow Jesus. Many profess they do, but, in reality, they do not study the Bible, and neither do they obey it.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:21**, Jesus said unto him, If thou (or you) wilt (or if you wish to) be perfect (or complete), (or if you are serious about reaching the goal) go and sell (your possessions) that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou (or you) shalt (or shall) (or will) have treasure (or riches) in heaven: and (then) come and follow Me.

Mt 19:22. But when the young man heard that saying (or heard this) (or this statement), he went away sorrowful or grieved) (or sad): for he (was one who) had (*or owned) great possessions (or great property) (or great wealth) (or because he was wealthy)

Mt 19:22. Note, the person was a young man. He had his whole life before him. He had plans and hopes. There was just no room for Jesus. Yes, he wanted to follow Jesus, but he also wanted to follow the ways of this world.

He did not want to hear the words that Jesus spoke to him.

He was not about to sell all the riches that he had and then, on top of that, give the money to the poor. However, now after having been

tormented in the fire for about 2000 earthly years, he wishes, oh, how he wishes he had repented, but **THERE IS NO REPENTANCE** once a person's earthly body has died. There is no repentance in hell.

What is the obstacle in your life that hinders you from totally submitting to God's Word **right now?**

Is it property, possessions, money, worldly desires or responsibilities, or just being bogged down with so much to do?

Note Luke 16:22-25-And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And **in hell** he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

So few understand that this **LIFE IS** nothing **BUT A TEST.**

For some, that test lasts only a short time. For others, it lasts much longer. Few know when they are going to die. For some, it comes suddenly, perhaps in an accident. For others, it can be a long, drawn-out illness with pain and suffering.

If you are a typical person, you may live to an average age of about 68 years worldwide, or perhaps 78 in the USA. Ages vary according to what country you reside in. Women usually live longer than men by about 5 to 6 years.

It is written in Ps 90:10-The days of our years are 70. and if by reason of strength they be 80 yet is their strength labour and sorrow, for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

This verse indicates an average lifespan of 70 years or, if by extra strength, 80 years.

Research has been done concerning how many believe they will go to heaven, if there is such a thing. The number is nearly everyone.

Some don't believe eternity exists. Worldwide, the number that are saved, according to God's Word, is very, very small.

Eighty years should be about 29,200 days. How many of these days has already passed in your life, but you may not yet have **totally** given your life over to God's Word (which is Jesus)?

Most people that commit their life to Jesus do so at an earlier age, but there are exceptions.

Some may say, they will give their life to Jesus tomorrow. However, every tomorrow that passes you by, means that the chance of you surrendering to Jesus grows smaller and smaller. For most, **tomorrow never comes**, regarding surrendering to God's Word (which is Jesus).

Regretfully, only a very small fraction of the people that are absolutely positive they are saved show any sign, at all, of the fruits or evidence of being saved according to God's Word.

Does anyone, at all, anywhere truly know they are going to the lake of fire? Nevertheless, nearly all do. Only a very few, a very, very few will be with Jesus. Read your Bible. See if these things are so.

If a church does sprinkling baptism or infant baptism, **that church does not understand the Bible**; and neither do those that go there. They do not understand coming up out of the water into the newness of life-ref Ro 6:4.

The rich man may have had a great life, but now he is being tormented day and night. Death on earth is not the end of a person's life. It is only a transition. Our earthly body dies, but our life goes on. The Bible tells me so. However, some have died and come back to life. The overwhelming reports indicate the person was still alive. Some reports were wonderful. Others were horrifying, which is very much inline with what God's Word tells us-ref Lk 16:23.

Repeating Mt 19:22. But when the young man heard that saying (or heard this) (or this statement), he went away sorrowful or grieved) (or sad): for he (was one who) had (*or owned) great possessions (or great property) (or great wealth) (or because he was wealthy)

Which of these things are hindering you from immersing yourself in the Bible??? Is it:

the lusts of the flesh, and all sorts of things,
or the pleasures of this life,
or the cares of this life,
or certain possessions,
or foods,
or riches,
or handheld devices,
or the television set,
or computers,
or sex outside of marriage,
or desiring attention.
The list can go on and on.

Excuse-makers are rejected. As it is written: Lk 15:19-And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them, I pray thee have me excused. What is your excuse

Mt 19:23. (And) Then said Jesus unto (or to) his disciples, Verily (or truly) (or yes) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), That a rich man shall hardly (or it is [very] hard for a rich man to) enter into the kingdom of heaven.

for hesitating to follow Jesus and the Bible?

The meat of God's Word is perfection; however, few people in this generation ever get beyond being lukewarm. As already said: The meat of God's Word is **perfection**.

Also **holiness** is not understood or comprehended in this latter day generation. It is seldom heard
in the pulpits,
on the radio,
on the television,
or seen on the Internet.

Heb 12:14-**Follow peace** with all men, **and holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Many men know far more about their favorite football or baseball team than they do the Bible.

Many women know far more about what goes on in their neighbor's house, than in the house of God.

Would you biblically repent and surrender all for Jesus if you had to? The answer for most is NO. What a tragic thing it is that Jesus paid with His own life the penalty for a person's sins, and yet most people reject this wonderful gift.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:22**, But when the young man heard that saying (or heard this) (or this statement), he went away sorrowful or grieved) (or sad): for he (was one who) had (*or owned) great possessions (or great property) (or great wealth) (or because he was wealthy).

Mt 19:23. The only commentary that needs to be given with this passage of Scripture is this.

Mt 16:26-For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

(KJV).

Luke 9:25-For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? (KJV)

A person's years on the earth may be 70 or more years.

A person's years in the world to come have no limit.

Most want to live their life now the way they desire and are willing to take their chances regarding eternity, if there is such a thing. They are biblically uninformed.

Most, by their actions, want to spend eternity in torment, as long as they can do what they want right now. However, the sad reality is, because most do not read the Bible or hear the Bible being taught, they have no chance to know what awaits them. And the billions of people now in hell crying out, "Don't come here," the people of this world cannot hear because God has made it this way.

Indeed, if a person will not hear or read God's Word, nothing will persuade them. The Word of God affects each person differently, according to how their heart is. Most run from it. Some tolerate it. Only a few run to it. Preachers know this. Therefore, most clergy are careful in what they preach. They do not want to lose their congregation, for then how could they pay their church bills?

These are the latter days, when people will no longer put up with sound doctrine. If Jesus preached today, most would run away, some might try to stone Him, but barely no one would follow Him. Only a very, very, very small percentage read their Bible faithfully and obey it. Most television preaching is carefully done to raise money to stay on the air. Very few tell a person to deny himself and pick up their cross

Mt 19:24. And again (or furthermore) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you), It is easier for a camel to go (or pass) through the eye of a needle (or a needle's eye), than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

daily and follow Jesus, Who is the Word of God. Few dare to tell people to immerse themselves in God's Word daily and do what it says. For if they did, how could they pay their extremely high radio and TV bills?

Both the poor and the rich must surrender to Jesus in the same way. That means repentance, and picking up ones cross, and following Jesus by faith. It means devouring God's Word and doing what it says every day, not just on Sunday.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:23**, (And) Then said Jesus unto (or to) his disciples, Verily (or truly) (or yes) I say unto you (or I tell you the truth), That a rich man shall hardly (or it is [very] hard for a rich man to) enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 19:24. In verse 23, Jesus said, "A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Then in verse 24, Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go (or pass) through the eye of a needle (or a needle's eye), than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Twice Jesus refers to the difficulty of a rich man going to heaven.

The reason for this is that a rich person places his trust in his riches. A poor man is more likely to seek God. It is not uncommon today for rich preachers to even boast of their possessions, even on television, which include their nice houses, and cars, and possessions. Some seem to equate having riches with God showing approval of the misguided message they preach.

Many people of this world seek for riches in prosperous countries. However, in India, and many places in Africa there are many that live

in poverty, especially out in the countryside. Their mode of transportation is walking, or a bike, or a bus.

People in the rural areas of India and Africa can see in the darkness of the night far better than people in the western nations. They can walk on stony roads barefoot as their feet have been hardened because they have no shoes.

Many, in underdeveloped countries, do not possess a Bible; and it is hard to obtain one, if one lives in the countryside.

Such people may tend to seek God more than the people in the more prosperous countries.

In **America**, there are many, many Christian churches, and perhaps more so, in both the town and rural areas of the Carolinas and other Bible-belt states. However, the preaching in America, for the most part, has become very watered-down, as compared to what it was back in the 1800s, and early 1900s.

Many churches, in these latter days, have become socializing centers, rather than Christ-centered centers. Most people in most churches are inactive, when it comes to both **studying** God's Word and **servicing** God.

Case in point. As I recall, regarding a certain so-called, Bible-teaching church in North Carolina, nearly their whole message was centered on a picnic they planned to have after the service was over.

There are radio and television stations in America that are mainly Christian stations. However, there are some ministers and evangelists on these stations that actually boast of their riches. Also they drive the same kind of cars and live a lavish lifestyle the same as multi-millionaires do. Their moderation does not seem to exist.

Jesus said: Mt 8:20-And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Yes, there is still some good preaching in America, and in other countries, but it is hard to find. Regretfully, it is as the Bible said it would be in these latter days. Most of the Christian churches and their followers are "Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." Lukewarmness is everywhere. Being "hot" for "Jesus" (which is **God's Word**) is seldom found anymore. Conforming to **God's Word** is not in the hearts of most professing Christians. Mt 19:24 (regarding the near impossibility of a rich person entering into the kingdom of God), applies to many people today.

This is because the average person in these latter days (in much of the world) is very rich in possessions and comfort compared with those of two hundred years ago. This includes the clergy. Such things as electricity, automobiles, buses, air conditioners and air travel did not exist at that time

As already alluded to, when a person comes to Jesus, that person needs to die to himself more and more, so Jesus can become more and more in their life. The eye of a needle can symbolize entry into the kingdom of heaven. The person that comes to Christ must **die to himself daily** and become smaller and smaller, as a result of repenting, and hearing, or reading and obeying God's Word.

As a person dies to himself, they become less and less, but Jesus becomes more and more in their life. One may say entering heaven is only possible through the strait gate and narrow way. As already alluded to, entering heaven can be compared with going through the eye of a needle. Jesus is the key that reveals the way

Mt 19:25. (And) When his (or the) disciples heard it (or heard this), they were exceedingly amazed (or greatly astonished) (or utterly amazed), saying (or said), (or they asked) Who then can be saved?

and opens the gate, but few there be that find it. A repentant sinner that has died to himself through faith in Jesus Christ and has become smaller and smaller, can indeed enter heaven, no matter how small the gate may seem or the needle's eye may be. The rich man cannot shrink, as he will not die to himself.

In a wall, there may be a large gate. But within that large gate, there may be a very small gate. A camel with lots of baggage could not enter the small gate. All the items the camel was carrying would have to be unloaded first.

Lots of possessions,
lots of friends,
the **cares of this world**,
the **deceitfulness of riches**,
the **lusts of all sorts of things**,
and the **pleasures of this life**
can CHOKE GOD'S WORD, which is the Bible.

This is especially true in prosperous countries that also preach nothing more than a lukewarm Gospel that convicts people of nothing, including sin. Rich men can hardly enter heaven, but the poor may find the door.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:24**, And again (or furthermore) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you), It is easier for a camel to go (or pass) through the eye of a needle (or a needle's eye), than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mt 19:25. Jesus had just made the statement that it was easier for a camel to go (or pass) through the eye of a needle (or a needle's eye), than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. This astonished the disciples. Their response was in effect: Can anyone then be saved? They did not understand that it was almost impossible for a rich man to place his trust in Jesus, rather than in his money or

possessions.

A poor man seeks Jesus to help him.

A rich man has no need to seek the help of Jesus, because his money can buy much of what he needs.

A poor person cries out to Jesus for food and clothes and healing. A rich person goes and buys all the food and clothes he wants, and then goes to the best doctors he can find.

One walks by faith. The other walks by sight.

Who then can be saved?

It is those that **trust in the words of Jesus**, that is, the Bible.

It is those that **follow and obey the Bible**, and not riches.

It is those that **pick up their cross and follow Jesus**, that is, His Word.

It is those that **do not** put their trust in the world and the things of the world or the world system.

Few there be that find and follow God's way.

To go through the eye of a needle, one must deny himself. To grow in Jesus, one must become smaller and smaller. A person must decrease, while Jesus must become bigger and bigger and increase in a person's life as a result of faith. With God, all things are possible—ref Mk 10:27.

God's mercy is God's grace, which makes the impossible—possible.

Jesus is God, Who came to this earth in human form (in the flesh). One may say that man is nothing more than a vapor of smoke that appears and then is gone. The only question that really counts in a person's life is, what does a person do regarding Jesus? If Jesus

becomes his life, he will be saved. If Jesus is nothing in his life or only a part of his life, such as on Sundays, he can expect to perish.

Jesus must increase in a person's life. A man must decrease-ref Jn 3:30.

The false teachings of the Pharisees reflected God gave wealth to those he loved. The Pharisees loved the praise of men. They loved to walk in beautiful attire, being greeted in the market places. Some of this teaching may have influenced the apostles.

At this saying, the disciples were astonished. It seems they didn't comprehend that Jesus was only speaking of rich people that trusted in their wealth.

A person's trust (or faith) must be **in Jesus only** as their only hope of salvation. It must be in the finished work that Jesus did on the cross. It must be in the Bible, which is God's Word. Jesus is "The" Word of God.

Since faith only comes by hearing, and hearing by the WORD OF GOD, few are really saved, even though they think they are. Most Bibles in people's homes are dust collectors. They are a place people may keep important dates. They are not worn out from being read often.

Little Scripture is preached in most churches. As a matter of fact, so little of God's Word is preached, if a person went to church every single service for a life time, they would probably never even hear one quarter of the entire Bible.

This is the generation of preaching to please what people's ears itch to hear. It is not the generation that brings forth God's Word with power, in which people fall on their knees with tears in their eyes being convicted of sin, and

Mt 19:26. But Jesus beheld (or looking upon) (or looked at) them, and said unto (or to) them, With men (or man) (or humanly) this is impossible; but with God all things (or everything) are (or is) possible.

then truly repent.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:25**, (And) When his (or the) disciples heard it (or heard this), they were exceedingly amazed (or greatly astonished) (or utterly amazed), saying (or said), (or they asked) Who then can be saved?

Mt 19:26. Jesus responds to the question asked by His disciples, "Who then can be saved?"

Jesus looked at His disciples and stated that with or through man, or humanly, or, we may say, by human effort, no one can be saved.

Man cannot save himself from eternity in the lake of fire. Mankind is lost.

It is absolutely impossible for humanity to enter the kingdom of heaven. All of man's good works are nothing more than filthy rags with God.

It is written in **Isa 64:6**-But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Nevertheless, through God, everything is possible. The work that Jesus came to do, was to pay the penalty for people's sins. However, that payment was only for those that would repent and trust in the finished work of Jesus, and pick up their cross and follow Him.

How many truly follow Jesus, which is God's Word? Very few. How much time each day do you spend **reading your Bible**? Is it only now and then? Then you are following Jesus, now and then.

How much of your time each day is spent **doing the works of God** and even speaking about God and His Word? Some are Sunday

only Christians. Most are not a Christian at all. They are Sunday morning Christians, now and then.

In other words, they are **counterfeit** Christians that have little or **no understanding** of what it means to actually "follow Jesus." They are fake Christians, and other fake Christians can't tell they are illegitimate or counterfeit.

They are spiritually **blind**, but do not recognize it, as the blindness in their heart has kept them from understanding they are blind.

Some proclaim faith in Jesus with their mouth, (but most do not) but their lives reflect no repentance, or faith, or faithfulness in devouring God's Word, which is the Bible. Neither do their lives or conversation reflect serving or trusting in Jesus in any way, shape, or form.

Only through repentance and faith in Jesus are all things possible. Man cannot save himself by any means.

The apostles forsook all to follow Jesus.

The rich merchant refused to do so.

The apostles (except Judas) inherited eternal life through faith in Christ. Will you do as they did?

As it has been said in **Mt 19:26**, But Jesus beheld (or looking upon) (or looked at) them, and said unto (or to) them, With men (or man) (or humanly) this is impossible; but with God all things (or everything) are (or is) possible.

(Rewards)

Mt 19:27. Then answered Peter (or Peter answered) and said unto (or to) him, Behold, (or look) we have forsaken all (or left

(Rewards)

Mt 19:27. Peter responded. He seemed to be among the most outgoing of all the disciples.

everything), and followed thee (or you); (So what (then) shall we have therefore (or what then will there be for us)?

Peter, speaking on behalf of himself and the others said: We have **FORSAKEN** all (or left everything), and followed thee (or you). Peter did not say he sold his possessions, he simply forsook all he had. He had done what the young man with the great possessions would not do. He had done that which God calls all of His followers to do, but most will not.

Now Peter asks on behalf of all the disciples, "What will there be for us?" One might say this was a bit selfish; however, Jesus did answer the question in the next verse.

Paul said these words regarding what was ahead: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ-Phil 3:7.

There are two key words here. "**FORSAKEN**" is one. "**Followed**" is the other. Forsake the world, and follow Jesus.

The big enemy of following Jesus is our self.
Self-interest,
self-reliance,
selfishness,
selfish pleasures, lusts, and the cares of all sorts of things.

Also a lack of faith or trusting God can hinder a person from stepping out and doing what God asks him to do.

There is no religion,
no philosophy,
no concept,
no meditation,
and no promises,
there is nothing that can in any way even remotely compare with the **Word of God**. It is perfect.

Nothing offers its followers a changed life in this world, plus peace with God, and eternal life in the world to come. What does God require? It is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

If repentance and faith in Jesus Christ are in place, then water baptism by full immersion is a command afterward. Infant baptism and sprinkling baptism are Satan's counterfeits. Flee from any church that does or teaches these, and don't look back. Jesus Christ is come in the flesh-1 John 4:2,3; and 2 Jn 7.

Nothing explains the struggle people experience because of Satan, except the Bible.

Ever wonder why people curse the name of God, but **not the devil**?

Yet it is the devil that is the condemner, and God is the Savior.

The Bible, with all of its facts and information, is absolutely 100 percent accurate.

Multitudes have spent part of their life, or even a lifetime, trying to find one fact, one statement, one location, one prophecy, or anything in the Bible that is untrue.

None succeeded.

One matter to be considered is, that in doing so, some have become saved. They realized that no such book could exist, if there was no God.

Did you know that both automobiles and airplanes are described in the Bible?

Little could Peter even begin to imagine the life that was ahead and how God would use him. What Peter would ultimately have is many persecutions and hardships, yet joy in leading many to Christ. Nearly all of what would become the apostles would die a violent death. All would be persecuted. But, ultimately, Peter and the other apostles would have great joy in reaching many for Christ, and then rewards in heaven.

Mt 19:28. And Jesus said unto (or to) them, Verily (or truly) (or yes) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you) (the truth), That ye (or you) which (or who) have followed me, in the regeneration (or renewal of all things) (or in the regenerated world) when the Son of man shall sit (or sits) in the (or on) (or His) (glorious) throne of his glory, ye (or you) also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Judas would ultimately betray Jesus and commit suicide.

Indeed, the disciples would ultimately reach out into many countries. Some would also become authors of parts of the New Testament.

A person that forsakes all for Jesus, will usually have many joys in leading people to Jesus, but with persecutions also. Some may die for following Jesus, but shall be rewarded many times over in the life to come.

Forsaking the world is not only in a person's actions, it is also from the heart.

Even in these latter days, many are being greatly persecuted and killed for preaching the Gospel, especially in Middle-Eastern countries.

Paul said in **Phil 3:8**-Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:27**, Then answered Peter (or Peter answered) and said unto (or to) him, Behold, (or look) we have forsaken all (or left everything), and followed thee (or you); (So) what (then) shall we have therefore (or what then will there be for us)?

Mt 19:28. Are you a follower of Jesus? You may say, Yes. Do you read your Bible very much? You may say, now and then. Then you are not a follower of Jesus. You are deceiving yourself. Lukewarm (so-called) Christians are not going to be accepted.

To follow Jesus is to follow the Bible. Some may claim to have been a Christian for 10 years, yet they have never read the whole Bible.

Many, many, many that believe they are going to be in heaven, yet they are going to find they are rejected. If only they could hear the screams of their loved ones trying to tell them to repent, lest they also come to the horrifying place of eternal torment.

Verse 28. The regeneration is speaking of the **thousand year reign of Jesus Christ**. Jesus returns to this earth at the time of Armageddon, which is immediately following the horrible Tribulation. All the saints are with Him. Satan will be bound and sealed, so he cannot deceive the nations. The curse that is currently on the ground will cease. It appears the orbit of the earth will change at the time of Armageddon, as the earth is going to move out of her place.

During the Millennium, Jesus shall reign on the earth as the King of kings, and Lord of lords. The twelve apostles shall sit upon twelve thrones. They shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel. What a glorious future the apostles will have, but Judas chose to receive 30 pieces of silver and forsake Jesus. He has now already been in hell for about 2000 years, with terrible sufferings. Where will "you" be?

James, John, and Peter had already had a glimpse of the future, when Jesus was transfigured.

There is no mentioned in this verse, but it is in others, that is that the saints shall also reign and rule with Jesus.

They shall reign over tens, hundreds, thousands, and countries, depending on their works they do on this earth after being saved. All are called to serve God in various positions.

Serving God now begins with devouring God's Word and obeying it.

Those that have forsaken houses, brethren,

Mt 19:29. And every one that (or who) hath (or has) forsaken (or left) houses, or brethren (or brothers), or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands (or farms) (or fields), (for my sake or) **for my name's sake**, shall receive an hundredfold (or many times as much) (or a hundred times more) (or as much), (with persecutions) and shall (or will) inherit (or obtain) everlasting (or eternal) life (in the world to come)-also Mk 10:29,30.

lands, or other things shall receive 100 times more in the life to come, plus everlasting life.

Regretfully, many simply say a sinner's prayer, and then go about business as usual.

We did some personal research. While working for a well-known evangelist, we did followup work going to the homes of those that came to the altar for salvation. Regretfully, even though they came to the altar and said a sinner's prayer, the number that showed any interest in studying their Bible afterward was very disappointing.

Many are called, but very few are going to be chosen.

What most people have given up for Jesus is nothing. Neither have they repented of their sins. Neither do they read their Bible as they ought. Yet they are fully confident they will be in heaven, as many are.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:28**, And Jesus said unto (or to) them, Verily (or truly) (or yes) I say unto (or to) you (or I tell you) (the truth), That ye (or you) which (or who) have followed me, in the regeneration (or renewal of all things) (or in the regenerated world) when the Son of man shall sit (or sits) in the (or on) (or His) (glorious) throne of his glory, ye (or you) also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mt 19:29. This verse speaks of forsaking property and relatives for the sake of Jesus. Those that do shall receive much more (including persecutions) plus inherit everlasting life. The centerpiece of the message is that Jesus (which is **God's Word**) is not to be just a part of your life, He is to BE YOUR LIFE.

Lk 14:20 tells us regarding excuses: And another said, I have married a wife, and

therefore I cannot come.

The Old Testament teaches that when a man marries a wife, he is to be free at home one year to cheer up his wife.

Deut 24:5-When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

Excuses are numerous when it comes to reading the Bible, and obeying it, and serving God.

Jesus desires us to come to the marriage supper of the lamb-Rev 19:9. Regretfully, all too many want to prosper in this world, and then also want eternal life afterward.

To follow Jesus, one needs to repent. This is a stumblingblock to many.

A person needs to **repent** of sin. This is a stumblingblock to many.

A person needs to begin **reading God's Word**, for faith can only come as a result of hearing and reading God's Word. This is a stumblingblock to some.

A person needs to **obey God's Word**. Something many do not want to do.

A person needs to be **transformed** into a new creature, whose heart and mind is centered on God's Word. This happens to only a few.

A person is **under commandment** to be **baptized by full immersion** in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, after believing on Jesus as their only hope of salvation.

For all that a person **gives up** on this earth for the sake of Jesus, they shall receive a **hundredfold more in heaven, and** also inherit **eternal** (or everlasting) **life**. They shall also return with Jesus, riding upon white horses

when He returns at the time of the Battle of Armageddon. During the Millennium, they will reign over 10s, 50s, 100s, cities, etc., as Jesus reigns in Jerusalem as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

When a person comes to Jesus, the first **NEED** they have is to "**learn of Me.**"

They need to begin to immerse themselves in God's Word.

From God's Word comes repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Repentance is required for salvation, but as one grows in God's Word, more repentance should follow.

A person cannot serve God and money.

However, a person may say, regarding this latter day generation, that many don't seem to be forsaking anything since they asked Jesus to be their Savior. Yes, this is true. Many say a sinner's prayer, but no change in their life takes place. The answer to this comment is this.

Matt 18:3, 8, 9-And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

8. Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

9. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Hell or heaven awaits every person. It has been said by a certain Bible student that he believes that less than one percent of the

world's population inherits eternal life if one believes God's Word totally. Both the unrepentant and lukewarm Christians and those that do not obey God's Word are rejected. Those that follow the Great Harlot are rejected.

God's Word says very clearly that a person is to **repent** first, and then be **baptized** (which is by full immersion)... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost-ref Acts 2:38.

Mark 16:16-He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matt 28:19-20-Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching them to observe all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Before a building can be completely rebuilt, it needs to be completely destroyed.

Before a person can become as Jesus would have him be, he must totally deny himself and pick up his cross and follow Jesus.

Is there any church anywhere in the world any more that teaches as Jesus did? Most teach to please their congregation, but do not teach as God would have them do.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:29**, And every one that (or who) hath (or has) forsaken (or left) houses, or brethren (or brothers), or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands (or farms) (or fields), (for my sake or) **for my name's sake**, shall receive an hundredfold (or many times as much) (or a hundred times more) (or as much), (with persecutions) and shall (or will) inherit (or obtain) everlasting (or

Mt 19:30. But (or and) many that (or who) are first shall (or will) be last; and (many who are) the last shall (or will) be first.

eternal) life (in the world to come)-also Mk 10:29,30.

Mt 19:30. "Many" is a key word in this verse. "Surprise" may be a word that goes with this verse.

Also note Mt 20:16, which says: So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

The Word of God has clearly revealed and also in talking with people the following is revealed. The facts are that **no one believes they will go to hell.**

Plus, many do not believe it exists. The reason they do not believe is they are biblically illiterate and blind. They are like a child in kindergarten, who sometimes doesn't even know how to tie his shoelaces.

Many others believe in the Roman Catholic lie of purgatory, which IF they would read their Bible, they would know, it is a lie. Why are Catholics so biblically illiterate? They choose their church teachings and reject reading their own Bible. Their sinful, unrepentant heart deceives them. They listen to the voice of Satan in their thoughts, over the voice of God in His Word.

But the Bible teaches very clearly that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord-ref 2 Cor 5:8.

The only other alternative is, when a person's body dies on the earth, they go to a place called hell, which is a waiting place of torment for the final Great White Throne Judgment, which is followed by eternity in the terrifying place called the lake of fire.

Many mix false beliefs and works.
Some have few works, but other things also.

Many are going to be very surprised, when the Judgment comes.

Salvation is strictly a result of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, Who is come in the flesh. Water baptism by immersion is a command that follows afterward. Works that God gives us to do must line up with God's Word and is a result of faith.

There is no infant baptism in the Bible. Baptism is a result of repentance and believing, and a baby cannot do either.

As it has been said in **Mt 19:30**, But (or and) many that (or who) are first shall (or will) be last; and (many who are) the last shall (or will) be first.

Chronologically, Mt 19:30 goes to Mk 10:17.

Mk 10:17 goes to Mk 10:31.

Mk 10:31 goes to Lk 18:18.

Lk 18:18 goes to Lk 18:30.

Lk 18:30 goes to Mt 20:1.

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