

Salvation

Salvation - Read objectively for truth no matter how uncomfortable. If we believe the Bible is true and right then we ought to see how all of it works together instead of being certain upon one verse while discounting another. Either they are all correct or they are not. Let us watch for assumptions and drawing conclusions. Let us see patterns and search for scripture to define itself.

Our understanding will always be limited to the depth of our own personal experience. We must be willing to apply what is written for us to do to understand the message therein.

Look carefully at information describing actions and results or cause and effect relationships.

I will share my experience as it relates to passages. My experience involves decades of spiritual success and failings. Also, I have witnessed hundreds of testimonies from others.

Why so much information?

Our minds have the tendency to seek information to fit our own understanding and sometimes skews information to make it agreeable. To accept new information that challenges our beliefs we will need to witness much evidence to become convinced. We ought to let our minds struggle with confusion and pray for guidance to the truth with a willingness for spiritual correction.

The more information we can absorb to the truth the more we can become convinced. Especially if we have developed a belief that may be incorrect. Since all of us sin, all of us have corrections to be made within our minds that govern our choices.

Please read with God's patience, peace, and truth, with all heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Collaborate with others who understand and have experience.

Jeremiah 4:15 O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

NKJV

What are we saved from?

Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** through Him.

We are saved from wrath. So what is wrath?

Synonyms for wrath

connoption	displeasure	exasperation	flare-up
fury	hate	hatefulness	indignation
irritation	madness	offense	passion
rage	resentment	stew	temper
vengeance	boiling point	mad	

Antonyms for wrath

calm	calmness	delight	ease
glee	happiness	kindness	liking
love	peace	pleasure	

<http://www.thesaurus.com/browse/wrath>

Strong's Concordance chemah: heat, rage

Definition heat, rage

NASB Translation anger (7), angry (1), burning anger (1), enrages (1), fury (9), heat (2), hot displeasure (1), hot-tempered (3), poison (2), rage (3), venom (5), wrath (86), wrath and raging (1), wrathful (2), wrathful* (1)

(#2534) chemah Translated to wrath 124 times <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/H2534/chemah.htm>

(#639) aph: a nostril, nose, face, anger. Translated wrath 8 times

Qetseph (#7110) foam, indignation, sore, wrath Translated wrath 29 times

<http://biblehub.com/hebrew/7110.htm> Kaac (#3707) to be angry, be vexed, be indignant, be wrath, be grieved, provoke to anger and wrath translated 1 time to wrath <http://lexiconcordance.com/hebrew/3707.html>

Greek – New Testament

Thumos (#2372) 2372 thymys (from thyō, "rush along, getting heated up, breathing violently," cf. J. Thayer) – properly, passion-driven behavior, i.e. actions emerging out of strong impulses (intense emotion). (Translated) - angry tempers (1), fierce (2), indignation (1), outbursts of anger (1), passion (2), rage (2), wrath (9). <http://biblehub.com/greek/2372.htm>

Orge (#3709) anger, wrath, passion translated 30 times as wrath and 6 times as anger <http://biblehub.com/greek/3709.htm>

Have you ever witnessed someone who was violently angry, out of control, and just completely mad. Such anger can drive a person to hell. This understanding fits with salvation from God's wrath in a majority of scripture.

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Those who are self-seeking, liars, lustful, vain, and idolaters may abide in wrath, anger, absent of love and peace.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 25 But in **accordance with your hardness** and your [a]impenitent heart you are [b]**treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who "will render to each one **according to his deeds**": **7** **eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality; **8** but to **those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness—**9** indignation and wrath, **9** tribulation and anguish, on **every soul of man who does evil**,

In 12 step programs the first things to correct are self-seeking behavior and resentment. The practice of seeking God for help from self-centeredness and resentment is probably the most discussed action in meetings. It is often said, "resentment is like swallowing poison and waiting for the other person to die."

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things **the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience**.

Colossians 3:6 Because of these things the **wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,**

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 2:16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but **wrath has come upon them** to the uttermost.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

James 1:20 for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Personal Experience

There was a time in the late 1990's when I was working two jobs and going to school. I had a lot on my plate. (Getting through school on my own dollar without loans took some work.) Long-story short, I found myself angry at a new level. I had what seemed like an out of body experience in my anger. I was furious with how coworkers were noncompliant with instructions. The more I looked at how disobedient and selfish the coworkers were and how hypocritical management was, the angrier I became. As I sat there stuck in my anger on the verge of saying something that could get me fired I realized I was losing control. I became scared.

The following days I applied what was instructed to me in the beginning, to pray for help to do God's will and to be free of anger. "God please help me not to be offended by anything other people do. Please help me to keep a focus only on my work to ensure I do right." I prayed the prayer daily. It worked. I soon got promoted.

Anger can also be turned inward at self. We can hate ourselves and target ourselves to attack our core. Such anger is the opposite of God. God is peace, love, forgiveness, mercy, patience, and giving. Anger is a God killer. Anger destroys and God heals. God saves. To be saved from wrath is to apply God's grace, goodness, and righteousness. It not only aligns well with the Bible it fits in real life experience.

2 Corinthians 7:10 "For godly sorrow produces **repentance leading to salvation,** not to be regretted; but the **sorrow of the world produces death.**"

In my experience, real remorse and humble sorrow of wrongs can develop a willingness to make corrections, seek righteousness, return to good, and obey God. Yet if I deny the feeling or avoid taking responsibility I would be ignoring the Godly sorrow that can bring me to repentance that can lead to salvation. Such avoidance may be the sorrow of the world that produces death.

2 Samuel 23:5 “Although my house is not so with God,
Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant,
Ordered in all things and secure.
For this is all my salvation and all my desire;
Will He not make it increase?”

“House not right with God” means inward condition of thought, attitude, and feeling. In twelve step programs there is a saying, “trust God, clean house, and work with others.” The cleaning house is the seeking of spiritual correction of sinful errors.

Psalm 119:123-125

“My eyes fail from **seeking** Your salvation
And Your righteous word. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,
And **teach** me Your statutes. I am Your servant; Give me **understanding**,
That I may **know** Your testimonies. My eyes fail, **looking** for your salvation,
looking for your righteous promise.

This “seeking” and “looking” involves effort, focus, diligence and orientation of thought toward God and God’s ways.

(Psychology - the study of the brain God gave us to use)

Isaiah 12:2-3 Behold, God is my salvation, **I will trust and not be afraid**; ‘For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also **has become my salvation.**’ ”
Therefore with joy you will **draw water From the wells of salvation.**

Trusting God and God’s ways is the continuous choosing to do God’s will instead of self-will. With increased application and practice of obedience to God we may experience and witness what that brings, joy. We can experience

God becoming our salvation. The wells of salvation are the results of all the works of God's grace, righteousness, and goodness. The more of God's love we participate in the more we may drink from the well.

In my experience: I became an embarrassment to my family and was completely angry with the world so it was not difficult to let go of worldly ways. That part was already done. I did require the seeking and doing God's will which took some time to grow and develop. It took about a year of making many adjustments to my thoughts and actions before I became willing to completely trust God with all my heart, all my mind, all my strength, and all my soul. This completely trusting God came in spurts and did not last long, but the experience was powerful. Almost three decades later I can say the level of experience I have with God has everything to do with my spiritual condition, love God with all heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Isaiah 30:15 NIV This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.

"Repentance", "rest", "quietness", and "trust". In repentance I choose to make God's will my highest priority in my thinking, goals, focus, agenda, and tasks and to trust in such action. We can obey in action, but not in heart which is futile. Rest and quietness, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10.

Isaiah 49:6 NIV he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

Jesus was the light, what he taught and what he did, and we still have a choice of following the teaches of Jesus or not. "Salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" is different than Salvation will reach to the ends of the earth. The Bible clearly and repeatedly uses words like "if," "may," and "might" along with the phrase "those who." It is still up to us, if we choose to receive Salvation.

Acts 13:46 NIV Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us:

‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

Isn't Paul and Barnabas saying here that they are bringing salvation, that salvation can be rejected?

Romans 1:16 NIV For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings **salvation to everyone who believes**: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

Ephesians 1:13 NIV And you also were included in Christ **when you heard the message of truth**, the gospel of your salvation. **When you believed**, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

“when you” describes our required response.

Hearing the message of truth. I communicate many things to many people. All of them hear what I say, some of them retain the information, and only a few of them respond with the information to choices in how they will live. The ones who respond with the information making adjustments with how they live are the ones who really “hear the message of truth.”

Regarding Belief and faith - [Short video](#)

Philippians 2:12 NIV Therefore, my dear friends, **as you have always obeyed**—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling**,

In my experience doing God's will goes against many ideas within my mind. There are many situations where it is easier to lie, hate, or argue and uncomfortable to forgive, have sincere love, or serve with compassion. As I “continue to work out” my salvation I press toward the goal of administering grace.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 NIV For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but **to receive salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wrath is an inward anger which can destroy the heart, mind, and soul. It not only destroys those who choose the resulting condition and attitude, but also others around them. Once we learn forgiveness and mercy any resentment we carry is because of our own choosing. This has been my experience.

“Receive” a receiver in sports must catch the ball and hold it which requires focus and attention to the ball with the body taking action, being ready.

2 Timothy 2:10 NIV Therefore I **endure everything** for the sake of the elect, that they too **may obtain the salvation** that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Salvation in Christ Jesus. Read John 15 and take note of verses 6 & 7.

“may obtain”

Obtain - acquire - get. We ought to live more like Christ to get that which is in Christ.

2 Timothy 3:15 NIV and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are **able to make you wise for salvation** through faith in Christ Jesus.

“able to make”

Scriptures are able to make us wise, if we live more like Christ. How can we say we believe in Jesus if we choose to ignore what Jesus taught? Ignoring the one we believe is denial. What kind of faith is saying we believe and then acting in denial?

Titus 2:11 NIV For the grace of God has appeared that **offers salvation** to all people.

“Offers” Think of a gym that “offers” fitness to all people. Yet the spiritual conditioning is an intangible workout of God’s grace, goodness, and righteousness.

Hebrews 2:3 NIV how shall we escape if we **ignore so great a salvation?** This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was **confirmed to us by those who heard him.**

“Those who” Do a concordance search for “those who” (Underlined is a link) and digest slowly the pattern and learn what it means.

Hebrews 9:28 NIV so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to **bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

Perhaps the second coming will be an intangible spiritual experience on an individual basis? See how this verse fits with the rest. It wouldn’t make sense for the verse to be a contradiction.

Psalm 119:155 NIV Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not **seek out your decrees.**

Seeking out God’s decrees, ways, paths, will, righteousness, goodness, and grace seems to be a requirement and a regular pattern within the Bible.

Saved NKJV

1 Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, **which also you received and in which you stand,** 2 by which also **you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—**unless you believed in vain.

“If you hold fast”

“believed in vain” We can believe, but incorrectly.
(Psychology - think about thinking - introspection, are we believing correctly)

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be to **God who always leads us in triumph in Christ**, and **through us [d]diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge** in every place. 15 For **we are to God the fragrance of Christ** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, as [e]so many, peddling[f] the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

To be “the fragrance of Christ” we must smell like Christ. This means we ought to bare the fruit of Christ loving God as Christ did. If we believe that all things are possible with God then we are to believe this too is possible with God.

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But **he who endures to the end will be saved.**

Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who **endures to the end shall be saved.**

He who endures to the end. It can be socially awkward having sincere love for the truth, acting with patience toward peace, and being spiritually attentive in all things while; driving, working, etc. To love others sincerely can really change the course of interactions with a group that is unwilling. They may decide to avoid us or become quite uncomfortable. Yet being spiritually right is to participate in the saving grace.

Matthew 16:25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother [h]or wife or children or [i]lands, for **My name’s sake**, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

Mark 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake** and the gospel’s will save it.

Luke 9:24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for My sake** will save it.

Luke 17:33 **Whoever seeks** to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Luke 13:23 Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, 24 **“Strive to enter through the narrow gate,** for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I do not know you, where you are from,’ 26 then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ 27 But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you **workers of iniquity.**’ 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. 29 They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

Workers of iniquity - lawless or disobedience

Luke 18:24 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” 27 But He said, “The **things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**” 28 Then Peter said, “See, we have left [e]all and followed You.” 29 So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, **for the sake of the kingdom of God,** 30 who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Mark 16:16 **He who believes** and is baptized will be saved; but **he who does not believe will be condemned.**

Luke 8:12 Those by the wayside are the **ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts,** lest they should believe and be saved.

Luke 19:9 And Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come** to this house, **because he also is a son of Abraham**; **10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Sons of Abraham are those who have the faith of Abraham.

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him **might** be saved.

John 5:34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you **may** be saved.

John 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came [a]before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. **If anyone enters by Me**, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a [b]hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees **because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.** 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and **am known by My own.** 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and **they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.**

17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

In my experience, when I lay down my life (give up my will, wants, wishes, expectations, agenda, and worldly goals) and unite with God, God knowing me and me knowing God through my self-abandonment to to God’s will, I develop Spiritual ears to hear.

John 12:42 Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put

out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

44 Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

46 I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not

[g]believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.’

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this [l]perverse generation.” 41 Then those who [m]gladly

received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the

apostles’ [n]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all

things in common, 45 and [o]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[p] them among all, as anyone had need.

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [q]to the church daily those who were being saved.

Acts 15:10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus [b]Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.”

Acts 16:29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before

Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

31 So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Romans 9:27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **The remnant will be saved.** 28 For [b]He will finish the work and cut it **short in righteousness**, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.”

Romans 11:16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them **became a partaker of the root** and [d]fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, **remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.**

19 You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.”

20 Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off**, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore **consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, [e]goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.** 23 **And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.** 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, **not with wisdom of words**, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the [g]message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”**

20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the [h]disputer of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?** 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to **save those who believe.**

22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a [i]stumbling block and to the [j]Greeks

foolishness, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Glory Only in the Lord

26 For [k]you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many [l]noble, are called. 27 But **God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;** 28 and the [m]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him **you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—** 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord [c]Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7 Therefore [d]**purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump,** since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed [e]for us. 8 Therefore **let us keep the feast,** not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened **bread of sincerity and truth.**

“Purge out the old” and “keep the feast” with the “bread of sincerity and truth.”

1 Corinthians 7:10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. 12 But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. 13 And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him. 14 **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.** 15 But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not

under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. 16 For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Who we are affects others around us. If we are an angry person that affects others around us. Yet if we are Christian, growing in peace, mercy, love, truth, compassion, forgiveness, patience, gentleness, kindness and generosity, that ought to sanctify our spouse.

1 Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful [g]for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things [h]edify. 24 **Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.**

25 Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions **for conscience' sake**; 26 for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question **for conscience' sake**.

28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and **for conscience' sake**; [i]for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." 29 "**Conscience**," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's **conscience**? 30 But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 **Give no offense**, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as **I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.**

Paul, in the practice of God's ways and goodness seeks after the good of others in all things utilizing God's ways and grace. He is not seeking to increase others in worldly ways, although that also can occur, but in spiritual ways toward sincere love for the truth. And in this manner, attitude, and conscience, others "may be saved."

1 Thessalonians 2:10 You are witnesses, and God also, how **devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves** among you who believe; 11 as you know how we **exhorted, and comforted, and [c]harged every one of you**, as a father does his own children, 12 that you would **walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory**. 14 For you, brethren, **became imitators of the churches of God** which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also **suffered** the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did

from the Judeans, 15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are [d]contrary to all men, 16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

Speaking to the Gentiles back the would involves being present with them. It would be a very personal face to face encounter (no texting, email, phone, etc). Speaking in sincere truth with all heart, love, and compassion. Paul is suggesting the Gentiles can't be saved without this kind of interaction.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are [f]bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through [g]sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our [h]epistle.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and [i]establish you in every good word and work.

God provides us a choice. We can choose the delusion, deception, and condemnation or the truth to stand fast in the ways of God which can comfort our hearts and bring good work.

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, 13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an [d]insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all

longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to [e]God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul is describing Christ working in him that can save others. He “obtained mercy” for the purpose of being inwardly situated to show the goodness of Christ to others. This is more than just words. It is attitude prompted by belief, a choice of seeking Righteous ways in thought and pursuing the spiritual good in others.

1 Timothy 2 Therefore I [a]exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in [b]authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and [c]reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth [d]in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Speaking the truth in Christ is to speak with a similar heart and mind of Christ. Since Christ only did the will of God then Paul is speaking the truth in alignment with God’s will, purpose, and grace.

1 Timothy 2:15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

Notice the word “if.” This is a condition that must occur. Childbearing alone means little.

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one [d]despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, [e]in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to [f]doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

“In doing this you will save yourself and those who hear you.” There’s a lot going on here. We must “be and example.” That means we need to accept, understand, think, and live out sincere love and truth in all things to point of “purity.” He then says not to “neglect the gift that is in you.” This means we always will have the choice of neglecting the grace of God. If we “do not neglect the gift that is in” us then we will give ourselves entirely to God’s character, will, and grace so that it “may be evident to all.” And if we “continue in them” we “will save” ourselves and others.

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the [b]genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher [c]of the Gentiles. 12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

Keeping focused upon how we are to respond, receive, and obtain salvation let’s focus specifically upon what this passage describes. Serve God with a pure conscience “without ceasing”. If we keep our focus right here to respond in action, seeing how we can improve and grow accordingly we may experience good results. If we sit around theorizing things we do not understand we can miss taking action to live by the Holy Spirit within us increasingly gaining wisdom that can help us learn the things we do not yet understand. We ought to see what improvement we can make and do it. We

ought to choose more sincere love for the truth of how to live increasingly by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 33 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. 9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second [a]dmonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

“Not by works of righteousness” probably means our outward production of tasks, following traditions without heart, obeying the law without care for the real purpose of the law. Notice in line 8 it says “be careful to maintain good works.” We are not saved by the outward working of our outward activity, but by the “regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Obviously, we can’t renew the Spirit, but we can renew our attention, obedience, and listening to the Holy Spirit. This inward developmental system of hearing and obeying the Holy Spirit of God within us can save us, if we give ourselves over to it more and more.

Otherwise we can become “self-condemned” through our continued choice of neglecting the Spirit and choosing to obey our “warped” mind into “sin.”

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and [d]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man

observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone [e]among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

“Receive with meekness the implanted word” is to humble ourselves in attitude, thought, and manner to accept God's character as right and true with the intension of being obedient with it and living it out.

“Lay aside all filthiness” is to inwardly respond with action against thoughts which prompt us away from God's goodness, righteousness, and grace.

“Be doers of the word” is to act sincerely in obedience to God's purpose.

“Deceiving yourselves” occurs when we obey messages which prompt iniquity.

“Pure and undefiled religion before God” is not only visiting those who are weak in trouble, but also to “keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save [l]a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

“Wanders from the truth” is to begin obeying thoughts which lead us away from God's goodness, grace, ways, and paths. And “he who turns a sinner from the error” is one who can guide the person back into inward obedience to the Holy Spirit within them.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring [f]us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, [g]when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype

which **now saves us**—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the **answer of a good conscience toward God**), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

“Now save us—baptism (... answer of a good conscience toward God).” Taking this verse and seeing how it fits with many others can indicate our salvation is contingent upon a “good conscience toward God.” This seems to mean as our minds became more Godly or aligned with God, so is our salvation.

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but **rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings**, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 **If you are [e]reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you**, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. [f]On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 15 **But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a [g]busybody in other people’s matters.** 16 **Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this [h]matter.**

17 **For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;** and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now

“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

19 Therefore let **those who suffer according to the will of God** commit their souls to Him **in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.**

“Rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings” is not the suffering of death on a cross, but instead the suffering of being rejected, spoken evil of, and many forms of harsh treatment both spiritual and physical. See in 19 where it says “suffer according to the will of God” means as we become more aligned spiritually we will become more misaligned worldly and the world will respond in ways to bring us suffering. Not the whole world for some will love us dearly for our “doing good, as to a faithful Creator.” If we speak truth when others are lying we may “suffer as a Christian.” If we move patiently when others haste we may “suffer as a Christian.”

Revelation 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine [l]in it, for the [m]glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 And **the nations [n]of those who are saved shall walk in its light**, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor [o]into it. 25 Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into [p]it. 27 But there shall by **no means enter it anything [q]that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie**, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Romans 5

Romans 5:1 having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God

Justified: **Definition:** the act of pronouncing righteous, acquittal

Usage: acquittal, justifying, justification, a process of absolution.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1347.htm>

Justified by faith = peace

If we are indeed righteous we will “have peace with God.” We will sense this change and be aware of it. Others may sense it as well.

Romans 5:2 “access **by faith** into this grace”

Romans 5:2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:9 we shall be saved from wrath through Him (Christ)

Romans 5:10 we shall be saved by His life

Romans 5:17 those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:21 grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Through us being right with God in heart, mind, soul, and strength grace may abound. This grace is reconciliation and salvation. This comes through the giving of our selves inwardly over to know and serve God.

Romans 8

1 no condemnation to **those who** are in Christ Jesus, who^[a] do not walk according to the flesh, but **according to the Spirit**

Walk according to the Spirit means thinking actively, seeking continually, and living to fulfill God's will, purpose, ways, righteousness, grace, and goodness.

4 that the **righteous** requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit**.

5 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit**, the things of the Spirit.

Introspective living helps us to examine our minds and what we choose to ponder, look forward to, and replay in our thought life. We can see what we live according to by taking note what we think. By increasing our minds upon God's righteous ways, paths, and goodness and learning how indeed such things are good through experiencing them, we may position ourselves more spiritually to walk according to the Spirit and grow in spiritual things.

6 For to be ^[b]carnally minded is death, but **to be spiritually minded is life and peace**.

What is important here is to focus on being spiritually minded. What carnally minded is becomes less important as we make being spiritually minded more important. The minute we focus on anything not related to the spirit may be setting our minds upon the flesh. So let's increasing see how we can stay the course of keeping our minds upon spiritual things.

8 those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

If we set our mind on anything other than spiritual things we cease pleasing God.

10 If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Righteousness is walking rightly with God. First we set our mind upon God's ways, principles, character, and paths, then we practice such character, and then we sense the goodness through experiencing it. Tasting that spiritual goodness provides a sense or spiritual experience that can motivate us to continue in it.

Romans 10

1 that they **may be** saved

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

Within us is the Holy Spirit. The word of faith is to believe in righteousness. Belief is to live with confidence and conviction that the word is true. This means we will walk in truth.

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Believing that Christ is alive does multiple things. Most importantly here is that who Christ was, how Christ lived, and what Christ taught revealed to us God's righteous ways for us to live out in our lives to be with Christ. To say we believe in Christ and to not seek growth in Christ is neither good nor righteous.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

If we believe in our heart we set our minds upon righteousness to walk in it and act upon it. Confessing with our mouths as we think and act in righteousness can bring salvation not only to us but also to others around us which of course is the intension.

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Calling on the name of the lord is to think and act more in God’s righteous ways.

1 Corinthians 3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal.

Those who have yet to orient their inward condition to seek the development of God’s righteousness and to experience that righteousness both inwardly and outwardly to gain a spiritual experience cannot understand what that is. We cannot understand the Holy Spirit until we have engaged ourselves actively in obedience to it, living to connect with others spiritually, and tasting spiritual goodness.

9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

We are this if we think, act, and grow in obedience spiritually. We can’t be a worker for God without using God’s tools, character, principles, ways, etc.

10 **According to the grace of God** which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation**, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

What Paul seems to be saying here is that he has been preaching Christ principles/teachings which is the foundation. He is concerned that others may use that foundation and then add something not of Christ to it.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

In my personal experience I received God's grace and felt amazed by the spiritual wonder I had found. Yet since I was only 21 years of age I had yet to accomplish anything, to become successful in the world, and everyone pointed me to school, money, and business. So I followed, set my mind upon such things and my heart followed. Increasingly I fell away from productivity with spiritual things and became more productive within the world. I became miserable and increasingly felt lost, empty, and alone.

I had a good and solid foundation, yet what I built on that foundation was garbage. Money, property, and prestige diverted me from God's purpose and grace. Yet what proved this theology was my returning to the old teaching, resetting my mind upon God's righteousness and gradually learning to walk in it again. There again I grew in ability to taste the spiritual goodness. I currently continue to grow in it and am a witness to it. For me, this is a fact, not a theory. I have tested and tried it for decades.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

You ever been saved from a fire? Imagine escaping from your house as it falls down behind you with the wind from the collapse blowing ambers on you burning your clothes and skin. All your belongings are gone and perhaps you lose someone you love in the blaze. This is a warning.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone [b]defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

What we set our minds upon, flesh or spirit, carnal or righteousness, will develop within us. We have an opportunity to be with God if we choose to follow and obey God. We have a gift of grace if we receive and accept the goodness of that grace into our minds and hearts. We will find what we look for.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. In the beginning of setting our minds upon God's righteousness, goodness, and grace we can feel awkward, confused, out of place, and perhaps foolish.

For we are wise in we will need to deny and what we no nothing about we will need to pursue.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”; 20 and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

Ephesians 2

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the [a]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

“You once walked according to the course of this world” describes how we used to make decision before we submitted ourselves to God’s ways.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Love is the power we ought to experience within our hearts to know God. (read 1 john 4). This experiencing sincere love is saving grace that can transform consciousness, understanding, and knowledge toward peace. It’s the kind of love that is foolish to many. Sitting together in “heavenly places” may be a unified experience together of this sincere love for each other. Christ lived with and loved the Apostles each day. Meditate on this and reflect waking up together with peace and love, trusting and sharing everything, freely caring and expressing openly life together, and then going out together for the betterment of the world. How would such righteous activity both inwardly and outwardly affect hearts and minds?

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are

His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Love is a gift, if we accept and participate in it. We can deny the gift. We can choose not to participate in it. Faith is an active response to choose to accept our role in participating in the gift of grace within our minds and hearts. We choose to think about grace and act upon it. We choose to make it our goal and deny our old habits as we pursue righteousness. We are “His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” means who we are is evident by our attitude, actions, demeanor, and demonstration. The love of God in us moves outwardly toward others if indeed we participate in that love.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

This seems to me to be Paul explaining to the gentiles that Christ opened the door for the gentiles to partake in God. The “blood of Christ” could be regarding Christ being the ultimate sacrifice referring to the law, the sacrifice to end all sacrifices.

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The building continues throughout our lives as we seek to grow and improve our heart, mind, soul, and strength increasingly in Godly activity.

2 Peter 2

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you

with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction [a]does not slumber.

I believe Peter was very serious about false teachers and the serious spiritual destruction that comes from it. Spiritual evaluation ought to be done regularly to ensure we are growing in the love of God. We ought to seek diligently to improve our minds and hearts with God's ways and character. We ought to develop ways to set new spiritual goals to become more sincere, truthful, pure, and right with God. Such continuous corrective action will reveal those who are following deceptive disobedience.

Those who practice disobedience do not know they are in disobedience unless they are with others who are alive in Christ. Imagine spending a day with Christ being with you in every step. Would your behavior change? Would you be more careful what you thought and chose to do? And when Christ was not present would we return to our deceptive obedience?

“2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.”

Any teaching facility that condones false flattery as a norm may be subject to this. Smiling to make people happy without sincere love (sincere means pure) could be a disguise and understood as false flattery. If we do not have sincere love and peace within us, putting on a show to make it look like we do is deceptive. Instead we ought to speak the truth about our spiritual condition and seek improvement through God's grace. Walking around with an outward appearance of caring while inwardly our minds are full of evil is denying the truth. Yet there is a lot to discern here and each situation or context is unique. But if we are not actively speaking sincere truth about our deeper inward thoughts and feelings with a mentor or guide we may be living out deception. Our minds are deceptive.

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to [b]hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them,

tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

I believe Peter is suggesting how we choose to utilize our heart, mind, soul, and strength could have an impact upon our salvation. “But saved Noah... a preacher of righteousness” and “delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked” seem to indicate living righteously is important toward salvation.

Those who may not be saved

10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the **lust of uncleanness and despise authority**. They are **presumptuous, self-willed**. They are not afraid to speak evil of [c]dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord.

12 speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness

When we do not understand something, what do we do with it? Do we speak lowly of it? Do we change the subject? Do we treat it as unimportant? “Will utterly perish in their own corruption” may come from our choice to avoid what we do not understand. It seems we will reap earnings from righteousness or unrighteousness. We get to choose which one to obey.

13 carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of [f]adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray

Once we are “trained,” whether righteous or unrighteous, it becomes a natural part of our regular activity. Those trained in unrighteous do not understand what they do, but still follow their deceptions although unknowingly. And since we all sin we each follow, to some degree, deceptions which lead us to repeat the sin. If we train others with an attitude of condoning the sin, defending our ways, we become false teachers of unrighteousness. Since we all sin, and often defend our sin, there is false teaching amongst us all. Who goes transparently denies their sin everywhere

they go? Habits are contagious, right? Our sinful ways are picked up by others around us and if we do not openly talk about destructive unrighteousness with an attitude of repentance we can unknowingly become false teachers. Living for God correctly is to apply our all towards God's ways. If we do it a little here and there and act as if that is okay, that could be false teaching.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Many people go on retreats. Some retreats can last a week while others a few days. During the retreats there can be a continuous focus of love and deeper sharing with each other. People can gain amazing spiritual experiences with retreats. Others may go on missions and have similar powerful Godly experiences with righteousness. Yet upon return from their adventures they move back into the mainstream of life and often lose that spirit. So what happens? What is it that makes the righteousness go away? Often times people blame the distractions of the world and the monotony of life. Yet is it really the fault of what other people do? Is our righteousness really dependent upon our surroundings?

We are trained to be passive learners and this could be our biggest sin. We follow crowds and depend upon the crowds to lead us to God. We rely upon groups, retreats, and missions to place us in a scenario that will guide us into a more regular spiritual practice instead of taking the responsibility to develop a schedule ourselves that can also bring about a regular spiritual practice. Self deception keeps us from choosing to take responsibility to think, feel, and act more along the lines of God's ways and goodness. The truth is we can choose to be more patient and kind. We can seek peace. We can develop a sincere love for God's truth.

Jude 1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To **those who** are called, [a]sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

2 Mercy, peace, and love be **multiplied** to you.

“Those who are called, sanctified... preserved,”

Notice Jude uses the word “multiplied” regarding mercy, peace, and love. This means we are to grow in it which means we need to learn more about it and have it increase in our hearts and minds. That does not come without taking new action and changing our schedules.

3 I was **very diligent** to write to you concerning our **common salvation**, I found it necessary to write to you **exhorting you to contend earnestly** for the faith

4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord [b]God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

5 the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. 6 And the angels who did not keep their [c]proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the [d]vengeance of eternal fire.

See the notes on 2 Peter 2 about this

10 But these **speak evil of whatever they do not know**; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things **they corrupt themselves**.

“In these things” which are “whatever they know naturally” (that which they are accustomed and trained to do which is not fitting to God), “they corrupt themselves.”

Choosing to repeat sin when we know it is wrong is obeying sin to do sin. This is corruption which we enslave ourselves toward.