

***Do you want to stay part of my family?***

**(Ahia- Jesus is my Brother)**



***Joas Natan***

**Dedicated to:**

*The many parents and grandparents who raised their children and grandchildren with the prayers that they will be following Jesus. To them, who were bitterly disappointed at the end of their Christian upbringing of their children when the children rejected Jesus as Saviour, especially those children, who openly embraced atheism. It must have been a tragic day when you saw all your efforts to bring your children to God, go to waste and even see your children abandoning the marriage as instituted by God, as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman.*

*May you as parents and grandparents, by reading this book, find the grace and courage to keep on praying for these children. God is faithful. Just keep on doing your part while there is still time.*

*Someone once said:*

***“I am going to trust You, Jesus, to work it out.***

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## Part 1

# **“Do you want to be part of my family?”**

## Chapter 1

*“Do you want to stay part of my family?”*

This was unsuspected coming from the 47-year-old son of his brother, who stayed in another country.

*“Why do you ask me such a question, John?”*

*“I got the impression you are not approving of my lifestyle”*

This was true. He broke their relationship 10 years ago when he discovered that John was an atheist. John lived with a woman and did not believe in marriage. Twins were born out of this relationship but the woman where not the mother of the twins as they were produced by John’s sperm and an unknown woman’s egg cell. The woman, John lived with, carried the twins to birth acting as a mother for the twins.

*“Before I answer your question I want to ask you a question, will that be all right?”*

*“Fire away uncle”*

*“John, do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died for your sins on a cross, and came to life on the third day, as your Redeemer from sin?”*

John did not think long before he answered. He was sure about what he believed.

*“No, I don’t believe in Jesus, being the son of god. There might have been a Jesus living on the earth long ago but he falls into the same category as Buddha or Confucius. He was a mythical person created by the imagination of a certain group of people. He was part of the people’s culture. However, there might be a higher force like something you are calling God.”*

*“John, thank you for being honest with me. Now let me answer your question: I am 82 years old. My time of walking over into eternity is near. The most precious thing to me is my trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who paid in full for my sins on the cross a Calvary. I believe He rose from death and is at present interceding for me where He sits at the right hand of God. Soon I will be with Him. I am not going to do anything that will harm my relationship with Jesus. If you ask me to choose between my God and being part of your family, I choose Jesus.”*

*“Well, uncle that settles it. From now on you will not be part of my family. I cut you out. But, I must warn you, you might be losing your brother, my father, also in the process.”*

These were hard words for Uncle as he and his wife were without children and Brother was the only blood relative alive from his father’s side. He knew his

brother's family were everything to him and his brother highly regarded John. John was a medical doctor and had a good position in a big hospital in another country. The two children of John were also the only grandchildren Brother had. Brother previously hinted about Uncle being rejected by him and his family if he was not willing to accept his son. This happened when Uncle declined an invitation to a family gathering where John would be present.

*"Goodbye, John."*

They hugged for the last time.

It was with unease the old man saw the next Sunday coming. He and Brother phoned each other on Sunday at eleven and usually talked for an hour. The next Sunday his brother phoned but Uncle could sense something was wrong. The conversation was strained and after a few minutes, there was nothing more to say. They spoke once after that and again the conversation was hard to keep up. Since then, 5 months passed without any communication between Brother and Uncle. It felt to Uncle as if his brother had died. He went to his Bible and he spoke to God about the incident. God had mercy on him and gave him 15 Bible scriptures as an answer to his longing to do the right thing. Let's look at these 15 Scriptures:

## Chapter 2

### Choosing God

#### Why such a devastating choice?

Any parent with children will find it hard to comprehend how one can choose to discard his children because of the choices they made. Even harder to comprehend is why an uncle could be so harsh in his decision-making as to consider cutting the family ties with the only family he had left.

A preacher once explained it in the following way:

*Death is not dying as we experience it.*

*Death is when God comes to you and says to you:*

*“We stayed a lifetime in your house on earth. It is now time for you and me to move to My house where we will be staying the rest of eternity.”*

Uncle was on the brink of moving with Jesus over to God’s house.

Without seeking confirmation and use of concordances God revealed to Uncle His will using 15+ Scriptures. I would like to share some of them with you:

#### 1. Old Testament.

##### **Deut. 13: 6-11 (Amplified Bible)**

*If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own life entices you secretly*



*saying, Let us go and serve other gods- gods you have not known, you or your fathers.*

*8. You shall not give consent to him or listen to him; nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him.*

*9. But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be the first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.*

We, living under the new covenant of grace given to us by Jesus, are not bound to the literal execution of the words in Deuteronomy. We however get an idea of how God is feeling about people rejecting Him.

**Ezra 10:10 ( About marriage to a woman who does not believe in God)**

Atheists, discarding marriage, are guilty of a double transgression. They not only reject Jesus and what He tells us to do but they also despise God`s plan for mankind as far as marriage is concerned. In Genesis 2:24 we are taught:  
*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his **wife**, and they shall be one flesh.*

Married couples are meant to be unified in every possible way; spiritual, emotional and physical.

## 2. New Testament Scriptures

### **Hebrew 13:4 (Expositor`s Study Bible)**

*Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled (Lawful sex between a husband and wife holds no defilement): but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. (This proclaims all sexual conduct outside of marriage to be defiled).*

Jesus means nothing to the atheists and what God says about marriage does not count for them. They live as they please and there exists no moral boundaries for them except their lusts, ideas and desires.

People respecting God`s will, as far as marriage is concerned, will find it hard to tolerate such a hedonistic lifestyle.

The sorrows of many God-fearing parents originate in situations where the unmarried couple visit the parents and insists that the parents accommodate them and willingly agree to and condone their immoral lifestyle. This poses an even bigger problem when unmarried couples bring their children, born out of wedlock, with them. Grandparents have a special fondness for grandchildren and unmarried couples regularly misuse the love of their parents to seek some sanction for their unmarried relationship. Many times the grandparents have to choose to either put a stamp of approval on the unmarried relationship or to lose their children

and grandchildren. Fear of rejection usually influences the final decision of parents and grandparents

## **2 John Verse 10: (The Living Bible)**

This part of the Bible has special significance for the person seeking clarity about the right attitude towards atheistic views on relationships:

*If anyone comes to teach you, and he doesn't believe what Christ taught, don't even invite him into your home. Don't encourage him in any way. If you do you will be partner with him in his wickedness.*

## **2 John: verse 10**

This part is so important that we are also going to look at how the

**Amplified Bible** translates it:

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine (is disloyal to what Jesus taught), do not receive him, (do not accept him, do not welcome or admit him) into (your) house or bid him Godspeed or give him any encouragement. (Godspeed means a prosperous journey)*

*11. For him who wishes him success (who encourages him, wishing him Godspeed) is a partaker in his evil doings.*

Various other translations like the following versions confirm this meaning:

*The Expositor`s Study Bible, King James Version, NKJV, Afrikaanse Bybel: 1953, 1983 en 2000 vertalings, Die Bybel vir almal, and Die Boodskap*

It is almost impossible to put God`s will more clearly. The question now remains; *what are we going to do with this message?*

We have two choices:

*Accept the Bible as God`s Word,*

Or

*Reject the Bible and God.*

The next verses confirm the choices man must make.

### **1 John 2: 22 (Amplified Bible)**

In these verses, we are taught more about the person *who is disloyal to what Jesus taught: (Amplified Bible)*

*“Who is (such a) liar as he who denies that Jesus is the Christ, (The Messiah)? **He is the antichrist** (the antagonist of Christ), who (habitually) denies and refuses to acknowledge the Father and the Son.”*  
*Here you find the recipe for partaking in the work of satan by becoming part of the antichrist. It is so easy; just shut your ears for the Word of God, and follow the leading of satan by accepting the antichrist, welcoming him, greeting him and admitting him into your house.*

### **1 John 4: 2 (Amplified Bible)**

Closely linked to the previous part we find the following:

*By this, you may know (perceive and recognise) the Spirit of God: every spirit which acknowledges and confesses (the fact) that Jesus Christ (the Messiah) has become man and has come in the flesh, is of God (has God for its source);*

*And every spirit which does not acknowledge and confess that Christ has come in the flesh (but would annul, destroy, sever, disunite Him) is not of God (does not proceed from Him). This (nonconfession) is the spirit of the antichrist (of) which you heard that was coming, and now is already in the world.*

The influence of satan is rampantly destroying the trust of many Christians in Jesus as their Savior. His extensions reach through the antichrist into many God-fearing families and as Jesus said, satan is the father of all lies; he kills, destroys and misleads. Let`s look at some of the devastating influence satan has on families when they give him an opening:

### **Luke 14: 25 (Amplified Bible)**

*Now huge crowds were going along with Jesus and He turned and said to them,*

*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his (own) father and mother ( in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison*

*with his attitude toward God) and (likewise) his wife and children and brothers and sisters—(yes) and even his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

According to these words of Jesus, anything or any person taking God's position as number one in your life becomes an idol. As we know we cannot serve two masters; either we will hate one and love the other. This also goes for family relationships. In this regard, Jesus has some hard words for us:

**Luke 12:51 (Amplified Bible)**

Jesus knows about our fondness for our families and He also knows about the dangers of idolising family. He explained His position in easily understandable words so that no one would doubt His will: In Luke 12: 51 we find Jesus speaking His will in this regard:

*Do you suppose that I have come to give peace to the earth? No, I say to you, but rather division;*

*52. for from now on in one house there will be five divided (among themselves), three against two and two against three.*

*53. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother...*

In many families, this is the case today. The reason usually is the influence of the antichrist in the family. Jesus had some hard words for the antichrist. We find them in Romans 16: 17

### **Romans 16:17 (Amplified Bible)**

*I appeal to you, brethren, to be on your guard concerning those who create dissensions and difficulties and cause divisions in opposition to the doctrine (the teaching) which you have been taught. (I warn you to turn aside from them) to avoid them.*

*18. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites and base desires, and by ingratiating and flattering speech, they beguile the hearts of the unsuspecting and simpleminded (people).*

*Most of the time the Bible gives specific guidelines on the way we are to treat the antichrist, like in 2 John: verse 10:*

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine (is disloyal to what Jesus taught), do not receive him, (do not accept him, do not welcome or admit him) into (your) house or bid him Godspeed or give him any encouragement. (Godspeed means a prosperous journey)*

*11. For him who wishes him success (who encourages him, wishing him Godspeed) is a partaker in his evil doings. (The Living Bible)*

Following God's guidelines on treating the antichrist will have serious consequences for the child of God. The most disheartening consequences are usually in family relationships. Therefore you may find the following encouraging:

**Luke 6: 22 (Living Bible)**

*What happiness it is when others hate you and exclude you and insult and smear your name because you are Mine.*

*23. When that happens, rejoice! Yes, leap for joy! For you will have a great reward awaiting you in heaven.*

**Matthew 19: 29**

Brings even more comfort:

*And anyone who gives up his home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children or property, to follow Me, shall receive a hundred times as much in return and shall have eternal life. But many who are first now will be last then, and some who are last now will be first then.*

**2 Cor. 6: 14**

To remove any uncertainty about the way we have to treat the unbeliever, Paul teaches us the following in 2 Cor. 6: 14 (Living Bible):

*Don't enter into partnership with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness? And what harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can 'a Christian be a partner with one who doesn't believe? And what union can there be between God's*



*temple and idols? For you are God`s temple, the home of the living God, and God has said of you, “I will live in them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be My people. That is why the Lord has said, “Leave them; separate yourselves from them, don` t touch what is unclean: and I will welcome you, and be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters.”*

### **2 Tim.3:1 to 5: (Living Bible)**

To be able to identify the antichrist, Paul gives us some more indications about the nature of the antichrist:

*You may as well know this too, Timothy, that in the last days, it is going to be very difficult to be a Christian. People will love only themselves and their money; they will be proud and boastful, sneering at God, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful to them, and thoroughly bad. They will be hardhearted and never give in to others, they will be constant liars and troublemakers and will think nothing of immorality. They will be rough and cruel and sneer at those who try to be good. They will betray their friends; they will be hotheaded, puffed up with pride, and prefer pleasure to worshipping God. They will go to church, yes, but they won` t believe anything they hear. Don` t be taken in by people like that. Stay away from them.*

**Mat. 12: 46 ( Amplified Bible)**

Many people tend to idolize their family by putting higher importance on them than on God. In this regard, Jesus put His own words in the Bible to show us the real truth. We find it in Mat. 12:46 and further on:

*Jesus was still speaking to the people when behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to Him.*

*Someone said to Him, Listen! Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to You.*

*But He replied to the man who told Him, Who is my mother and who are my brothers?*

*And stretching out His hand toward (not only the twelve disciples but all) his adherents, He said, Here are My mother and My brothers.*

*For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother!*

For those people submitting to the leading of the Holy Spirit, it is evident there are at least two groups of people on earth. Each group requires special handling. Let`s take a look at these two groups:

### 3. **Brothers and sisters in Christ**, followers of Jesus Christ.

Amongst your brothers and sisters, you will find enemies. We get clear directions regarding these family members “You must love your enemies: pray for them, do well to them. Most of all you must forgive them for injustices committed towards you. How can you ask God to forgive your trespasses when you are unwilling to forgive your fellow brothers and sisters?

You must treat your brothers and sisters with respect, with loving kindness and fulfil their needs.

### 4. **Treating the antichrist.**

Who is the antichrist?

The person *who is disloyal to what Jesus taught: (Amplified Bible)*

*“Who is such a liar as he who denies that Jesus is the Christ, The Messiah? **He is the antichrist** (the antagonist of Christ), who habitually denies and refuses to acknowledge the Father and the Son.*

*And every spirit which does not acknowledge and confess that Christ has come in the flesh (but would annul, destroy, sever, disunite Him) is not of God (does not proceed from Him). This (nonconfession) is the spirit of the antichrist (of) which you heard that was coming and now is already in the world.*

*According to the Bible, he must be treated in the following way:*

- 1. I appeal to you, brethren, to be on your guard concerning those who create dissensions and difficulties and cause divisions in opposition to the doctrine (the teaching) which you have been taught. (I warn you to turn aside from them) to avoid them.*
- 2. When the antichrist tries to persuade you to accept his outlook on life, you must resist him, do not listen to him, do not accept his apologies, do not try to defend him. Let him be dead unto you.*
- 3. Sever your links to those who discard marriage especially when they form relationships with antichrist women.*
- 4. Do not welcome the antichrist at your home.*
- 5. Do not greet the antichrist.*
- 6. Do not form any relationship with the antichrist. You may become part of his life.*
- 7. Be aware of the antichrist when he tries to sever your ties with Christians.*
- 8. Satan is the father of lies especially the lie about Jesus. Keep away from anyone trying to lead you astray and to try to influence you in denouncing Jesus as the Son of God, our Redeemer.*

9. *Without believing in Christ as the Son of God you become the antichrist and such a person does not have the Holy Spirit. They possess the spirit of the antichrist.*
10. *When you follow after Jesus expect a lot of problems, especially from those who do not believe in Jesus.*
11. *To follow after Jesus means you are submitting all in your life to God and God's will. If you are not willing to give all to Jesus you are not worthy to be His follower.*
12. *Families will be divided when some follow after Jesus and some don't.*
13. *To give up your brother to please God will only bring big rewards in the afterlife.*
14. *The price to follow after Jesus is humiliation and rejection.*
15. *Do not associate with the antichrist. Do not even eat with such a person. Remove such a person from those you associate with.*
16. *You have no common ground with the antichrist. Do not be yoked with him in any circumstance.*
17. *Stay away from the self-righteous, hypocritical persons who live in a make-believe world, pretending to be Christians*

## Chapter 3

### The Sanctimonious

The last paragraph on the previous page referred to the possibility of a third group of people apart from Christians and Anti-Christians namely the sanctimonious group or the group pretending to be Christians. What is the sanctimonious like?

The sanctimonious person looks like a real Christian or tries to look like a Christian without being a true Christian. They walk and talk like a Christian without an inner conviction about the Redeemer of their sins. Such a person may attend church regularly, make confessions about how Jesus is helping him, and live a clean life without being addicted to pornography, or alcohol but he does not have the Holy Spirit living in him. Therefore he cannot display all the fruits of the Holy Spirit. He has to fight against the old human nature on his own and cannot count on the Holy Spirit to lead him and teach him how to discern God's will. He usually tries to copy the behaviour of the true Christian but seldom succeeds

The sad part of this group is the pretending without knowing you are pretending. Many people grow up in a church with fixed dogmas, rules and traditions. They learned to go through the church rituals without any conviction that what they are doing is the right thing,

without a living relationship with God and God's Son, our Jesus, without any joy about being saved, without a need to bring others into God's kingdom, without any confirmation of the Holy Spirit living in their hearts and without loving Jesus as the Son of God who did everything to save them from permanent damnation.

They are assured from the pulpit that everything is in place and that they are on their way to heaven. They even recite mantras about being saved, they sing words without meaning about the joy of being saved. They might even discuss the sermon and tell each other what a wonderful message it was.

The big test is when these pretenders get onto the sidewalk outside the church doors. Very seldom does the feeling of being saved last past a few minutes of being outside of church. There is seldom a lasting conviction and a lasting need to live for Christ and to further the coming of His kingdom. Their own needs become soon dominant again.

It therefore is not easy to spot the sanctimonious person. The problem becomes more acute when you remember that the true Christian sometimes behaves in a sanctimonious way, like in the case of Peter. In Gal. 2:11 Paul criticizes Peter by calling him sanctimonious. Peter was quite happy to eat together with the heathens who were not circumcised after accepting Jesus as their

Savior. But when the Jewish Christians from Jerusalem arrived he suddenly became reluctant to carry on as he used to for fear of what the Jews might be saying about him.

Other examples of sanctimonious behavior are the following:

1. A Christian might be reluctant to use alcohol when his pastor is in the vicinity while he otherwise would have no problem to partake in partying.
2. Christians might display forgiven behavior towards fellow road users when other Christians are present but will swear and show signs towards road users when he is alone in the car.
3. Bumper stickers displaying crosses and Bible verses usually are giveaway signs of the sanctimonious person when his road manners indicate hatred to fellow road users.
4. In Church the sanctimonious person will wave hands, shout Hallelujah and even try to speak in tongues while when he is alone at home none of these signs are displayed when he worships God
5. A Christian won't have a problem worshipping God, lying in bed with his pajamas on, but in Church the same God is worshipped by kneeling, bowing his head, raising his hands, fully attired in his suit or best clothes, being seen by other churchgoers.



6. Some Christians use the image of a converted person to impress their customers and to influence them into making a business deal.
7. Beware of the person who gossips behind a person's back without giving the person a chance to defend themselves.
8. The sanctimonious person expects God to forgive him of his transgressions but is not willing to forgive another person theirs
9. The sanctimonious Christian thinks he can commit sins without God knowing about them. They think they can mislead God.
10. The sanctimonious Christian believes he can spend God's money better than trusting the church to do it.

The big question now arises on how a true-believing Christian must treat the sanctimonious person when he becomes aware of the misleading life the false Christian is leading.

I think the ground rule is:

*Honest, sincere, spoken in love, to save the person's soul by bringing him to true repentance and acceptance of the grace of God.*

Before attempting to take the speck out of your brother's eye you must be certain that your eye is without a plank (Mat. 7:2).

Jesus used a special word for those who are so critically inclined.

He called them:

*Hypocrite!*

He then continues to tell them how to handle the person acting like a hypocrite:

*First, get rid of the plank. Then you can see how to help your brother. (Mat. 7:5 Living Bible)*

The way you go about correcting your brother is of utmost importance. First, search your own heart for jealousy and hatred. Many times this is the opportunity for the unforgiving spirit to find cause to scold another soul for unforgiven injustices of the past. (Hebr. 12:15)

Without the right attitude, the person trying to correct a brother might even become a sanctimonious person revealing his hypocrisy.

The way to handle a transgression of another person is well documented in Mat. 18:15:

*If your brother wrongs you, go and show him his fault, between you and him privately. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.*

*But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that every word may be confirmed and upheld by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

*If he pays no attention to them refusing to listen and obey, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector.*

The Expositors Study Bible says:

*Let him be unto you as a heathen and a publican. (There can be no fellowship.)*

Let him be unto you as the anti-Christ.

## Chapter 4

### Four groups of people

Jesus made a perfect distinction between people by dividing them into four groups. We find it in Mark 4:3 (Living Bible)

***Listen!** A farmer decided to sow some grain. As he scattered it across his field some of it fell on a path, and the birds came and picked it off the hard ground and ate it.*

*Some fell on thin soil with underlying rock. It grew up quickly enough, but soon wilted beneath hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil.*

*Other seeds fell amongst the thorns that shot up and crowded the young plants so that they produced no grain.*

*But some of the seed fell into good soil and yielded thirty times as much as he had planted. Some of it even sixty or a hundred times as much.*

*If you have ears, **listen!***

In the following verses, Jesus explains the parable to his disciples. The seed represents the Word of God going out from Jesus. The way the seed reacts represents the four ways people accept and react when they hear the Gospel:

#### 1. First Group

These are the people likened to the seed that fell on the hard ground, the path. This group of people hear the Word but the Word is discarded and makes no impression on them. They live amongst other believers, own a Bible but do not read it. When they read it makes no impression on them. It must be remembered that the Word of God is coming from a Spiritual Person, By the Spirit of God to spiritual beings. The hard hearts of the people in this group make it impossible for the word to penetrate their hearts and minds. Soon after hearing the word satan removes it by substituting it with other worldly interests.

We daily encounter this group around us. They are indifferent to the things of God. They live as they like and are interested mainly in their own well-being. They are a law unto themselves, live according to their moral codes and their consciences are seared to such an extent that nothing penetrates their hard hearts.

Sometimes a radical intervention penetrates the hard hearts, something like a severe trauma, and the person's life course is changed. Otherwise, most of this group drifts through life to a sad end. Only a Godly intervention mostly because of other people's prayers can save a person in this group. Sad to say, most people in this group become full-blown antichrists who further the interests of the ungodly.

- 2. The second group of people** are those who hear the Word and receive it with gladness. They are shallow people and are easily swayed from the

Gospel message when some other influence, interest or joy overtakes their lives.

There is not much difference between this group and the previous one.

The only difference is that the person from the second group may experience for a short while a revival before collapsing back into old paradigms and destructive ways of living.

Because of many underlying rocks and the thin layer of soil, the person's life remains without fruit. His spiritual life plant soon withers away when he encounters problems like rejection and persecution.

The sad part about this person is the fact that they are willing to try again but usually with the same consequences. We often see this in the life of the severely addicted person.

When these people are not tested it may seem as if they are progressing on the way of the Spirit-filled Christian. When they relapse into old bad ways of living it poses a challenge to the Christian helping this person. It becomes a big challenge for the person extending a helping hand and may even lead to doubts about God's willingness to intervene in the other person's life. It is therefore necessary for the helper to seek guidance from God to know what he must do and how long he must carry on in his care giving. Mat. 10:14 might be applicable in this instance for sanctimonious people are everywhere:

*Any city or home that doesn't welcome you—shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you leave. Truly, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off at Judgement Day than they.*

**3. The third group of people** are those who hear the Word, accept the Word and let the Word have a positive influence on their lives. Sadly the Word cannot compete with the worries about this life, the calling of the abundant rich life of earthly blessings and the longing after possessions. The Gospel becomes entangled with humanistic ideas. The best way to discern this group is to look for people with inconsistency, doubt and always being ready to listen to new ideas. They are always on the lookout for security outside of God's provision. They are the victims of prosperity teachers who like the people to believe that they will get blessings when they bestow blessings. These people do not accept the truth that you give because you have already received it abundantly.

Because of these people's insecurities and uncertainties, they are a dangerous group to associate with. Their uncertainties are contagious and they seldom believe that God is in control of their lives. They usually are humanists telling themselves they are in control and they don't need God. They are the seekers after security not coming from God.

The best is to stay away from this group.

You will find many antichrists in this group.

**4. The Fourth group of people** is the group the true Christian aspires to be part of. These people hear the word and the seed of the word finds abundant rich fertile ground to sprout, to grow and to bear fruit; fruit of the spirit. This fruit will carry with it also the seed that will sprout in other souls to bear fruit also in them and through them.

God warned us that this group consists of only a few people. It is not the pavilions packed to the full with aspiring Christians twisting God`s words to make them palatable and to reconcile them with their desires and interpretations.

In this regard the following words in Luke 13: 23 are important:

*Someone asked Him: “Will only a few be saved?”*

*And He replied: “The door to heaven is narrow. Work hard to get in, for the truth is many will try to enter but when the head of the house has locked the door, it will be too late.*

These are the holy ones full of the Holy Spirit of God by which they bear fruit even a hundred times as much.



## **Chapter 5**

### **Guilty or not Guilty**

At the final judgment, God will determine whether the person before Him is guilty or not guilty. There will only be two groups of people: those whose sins are forgiven and those whose sins are not forgiven. There will be no room for appeals, and the verdict will be final. The penalty for being guilty is everlasting damnation in hell, as stated in Matthew 23:33 and Mark 9:45-47.

It is essential to understand that every single word in this sentence carries a profound and impactful meaning. Many people choose to interpret it in a way that poses no threat to their eternal destination after life on earth. Some try to justify their beliefs by saying that there will be opportunities to repent during their ordeal in hell, or that a loving God won't be so harsh in His judgment. Others are making excuses for missed opportunities during their lifetime when they could have repented and accepted redemption.

However, the truth is that not even the most brilliant advocate will be able to get the guilty person not guilty. The time to accept God's grace is now, as at the final judgment it will be too late. Once God has made His final judgment, God will determine whether the person before Him is guilty or

not guilty. There will only be two groups of people: those whose sins are forgiven and those whose sins are not forgiven. There will be no room for appeals, and the verdict will be final. The penalty for being guilty is everlasting damnation in hell, as stated in Matthew 23:33 and Mark 9:45-47.

## Chapter 6

### The Trial

**Satan:**

*Your Honour, You are God and today you must give a true and just verdict about the way this sinner acted during his lifetime on earth.*

*Do You see all the books next to the accused? You, better than anybody else, know about the thousands of transgressions recorded in those books. Nobody can argue about the fact that those transgressions are the accused own doing. I demand that the accused must be punished for all his transgressions by sending him to hell for all eternity. He is as guilty as I am and must receive the same punishment.*

*Can You remember the lies he told the Receiver of Revenue when he stole money which could have been used to alleviate the plight of the poor people of this country?*

*I am sure You know about the money he stole from you when he refused to tithe.*

*You must know about his anger towards people who treated him badly but he refused to forgive them, even when You forgave him the many times he transgressed your rules.*

*He called his fellow men idiots. You, Yourself said such persons must suffer in Hell.*

*Your Son told a parable of a person who owed the king a lot of money but the king had compassion on him and set him free from paying it back.*

*When this man met someone who owed him a little debt he grabbed him by the throat and demanded immediate payment. When the person could not he threw him in jail. You know this was to teach forgiveness. You and I know the accused is guilty of the same transgression. He also must be thrown into hell.*

*Do you remember how easily the accused forgot your good deeds to him and how he soon returned to his old ways?*

*Only You know how guilty the accused is and how he deserves to be punished in hell. I will be waiting for him there.*

***The Rightful Judge:***

*Jesus, You are here to defend the accused. What can you say after You heard the strong case satan made against your client?*

***Jesus:***

*Honourable Father, thank you for the privilege to say something in defence of the accused.*

*I know this person very well. He came to me many years ago and believed in Me. He confessed his sins and asked Me to forgive him. He believed that I was punished on his behalf for the sins he did.*

*Please open the many books in which the accused sins are recorded. Will You please read some of the transgressions?*

**Judge:**

*All these books are empty and there are no transgressions recorded in them.*

**Jesus:**

*That is my main argument. If I may remind You, Father, about Your Word where You recorded in Hebr. 8; 12 and 10:17 that the sins of this man will be forgiven and You would never think about them again. You will remove his sins as far as the East is away from the West. All because You are a just God and You know I have been punished on behalf of the accused.*

*In all fairness, you must remember that satan is the father of all lies as You have said in John 8: 44. Nothing he says is true and he never has good intentions when he speaks. Remember when he even tried to mislead you and tried to persuade you to do his will by making bread out of stones when You were hungry after fasting for 40 days?*

*May I remind you about our conversation before You sent me to Earth to suffer for the sins of mankind? It was about the books where all the sins of mankind were recorded. You are a righteous God and we all know that there must be punishment for all the sins of mankind. There is not a person on earth who can justly be punished for all the sins. There was only me and I willingly accepted my fate because I love mankind and want them to be with us, fully redeemed and sinless.*

*We agreed that you will wipe away all the evidence of sin against mankind if I suffer for their sins because I am sinless. There will be one provision: man must confess his sins to Me and accept that My suffering on the cross will be enough to set him free from the consequences of his sins forever. Those people accused of sinning who believed in our plan were in Your grace set free from their sins. The sins were wiped out and there is nothing in all those books for which these dear ones will have to suffer. I suffered on their behalf.*

*There I could declare on the cross at Calvary these holy words: **Eloi, Eloi, lama, Sabatini** which means:*

*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*

**God's verdict:**

**I find the accused not guilty!**

## Chapter 7

### The Second blow

Uncle found it hard to recover from the first blow when his brother and the brother's son rejected him. But worse was to come.

Apart from the brother's son there also were two daughters. The youngest one followed in the footsteps of her brother and rejected Jesus as Saviour.

But the other sister was very close to her uncle. She accepted Jesus as Saviour when she was 12 years old and openly showed her love for Jesus.

After losing his brother and his brother's son, Uncle had only two girls

left, one of whom was also an Antichrist. The one who accepted Jesus

was the one bright ray of hope he had. Apart from these Uncle had a

distant aunt of 86 who did not play a part in his life. As stated previously

Uncle and his wife for the last 57 years, had no children. The birthday of

his favourite niece got closer and Uncle was now in the sixth month of his

brother's "death". He decided to send her a nice e-mail for her birthday

and wrote the following:

*Dear .....,*

*I thought long and hard about my best wish for you.*

*I am asking God to give you the security and peace of an intimate*

*relationship with Him. May nothing come between you and your Saviour.*

*Greetings,*

*Uncle.....*

Uncle waited for a response. Then gradually it dawned on him that his brother's family was sticking together. The one ray of hope he had for the family of his brother, namely the one girl, was casting her lot with the rest of the family. She was also rejecting him and was cutting her ties with him. Something in him rebelled. He had almost no family left and he started to feel the old desperate loneliness he had 70 years ago when he grew up as an only child for 9 years before his brother arrived. However, he still had his wife, God, and a few friends.

A bitter disappointment took hold of him and he felt the old hate against antichrist, the son of his brother, for what he did to the family. It took a lot of effort and work from the Holy Spirit to convince him that he must love his enemy. He started to pray again for the antichrist which was hard at first, but gradually brought peace and calm into his heart again.

This second blow almost floored him. He tried to identify with the girl and gradually he got the picture that comforted him. She was 46 old without a husband and children. Her close family was all she had apart from God. She was not spiritually mature enough to choose God above her family even if she might have known it was the right thing to do.

God intervened again and gave him the wonderful words of John 16:31:

*.....the time is coming – in fact, it is here –when you will be scattered.....leaving me alone. Yet I will not be alone, for the Father is with me ... You will have peace of mind. Here on earth, you will have*



*many trials and sorrows; but take courage, I (Jesus) have overcome the world.*

The girl had her birthday on Wednesday. On Thursday the first thing Uncle did was to go through his e-mail. There was no response from his brother's daughter. It was then that doubt set in and he started to worry about the positive response he was waiting for. It was as if his opponent was getting the upper hand and was only waiting to give him the knockout punch. Friday morning he did the same thing. There still was no reaction to his e-mail. He got despondent and prepared himself for the worst, the final rejection from the one person he still had hope for. During Friday night he prepared the note he was going to write to her. It was a nightmare experience. While he was writing this chapter on Saturday morning he realised he did not have a look at his e-mails for the day. As he opened the e-mails to his surprise he got a response on his congratulations to his brother's daughter. She wrote the following email:

*Dear Uncle,*

*Thank you for your email and the good wishes.*

*I do not understand what is going on.*

*Will come and visit soon.*

*Love and good wishes.*

.....

Uncle responded in the following email:

*Dear.....*

*Thank you for the more-than-welcome email.*

*You will never know how much it meant to me.*

*Greetings*

.....

Never before did he feel such a relief. It felt as if he woke up from his nightmare.

So the story, in the case of Uncle`s rejection by this girl, was fiction. The reason this nightmare is taken up in this story is the fact that in many cases in real life it is not fiction and many people suffer the utmost pain and rejection in similar circumstances. To you, my wish is that you may experience the comfort and security of God`s presence in the same way I had in my dream.

When he thought about this incident Uncle realised there might be another lesson enfolded in the experience he had. He got thinking about Abraham and especially about the part where God asked Abraham to take his son Isaac and offer him on a mountain which He would show Abraham as recorded in Gen. 22:

*Later on, God tested Abraham`s faith and obedience.*

*“Abraham!” God called.*

*“Yes, Lord?” he replied.*

*“Take with you your only son—yes, Isaac whom you love so much – and go to the land of Moriah and sacrifice him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will point out to you.*

Abraham waited almost a hundred years for God’s promise to be fulfilled before Isaac was born. This was a very special child and he loved him dearly. How was it possible for Abraham not to rebel against God’s wish? How could he obey God, still love God and trust God to work it out?

He had to follow God’s direction and to trust God. So he took his only true son and set out for one of the most difficult tasks of his whole life.

Isaac was fully trusting his father but enquired about the offering as they did not take an offering with them. Abraham gave the wise reply:

*“God will see to it, my son”*

When Abraham took the knife and lifted it to plunge it into his son, to slay him God intervened and shouted:

*“Abraham! Abraham!”*

*“Yes, Lord! He answered.*

*“Lay down the knife; don’t hurt the lad in any way, for I know that God is first in your life- you have not withheld even your beloved son from Me.*

Uncle took this lesson and applied it to his own experiences. Is it possible that God was also testing him to see if he is willing to give up the last of his family if he must choose between them and God?

## Chapter 8

### Category of the Holy Ones.

Bank tellers are taught to distinguish counterfeit notes. One technique is to let the teller handle non-counterfeit notes till he gets the feeling of what the real thing feels like. The moment he feels the counterfeit paper he would be able to feel the difference.

The holy ones of God are like the non-counterfeit notes; when you come into the presence of these people you know you now have come into the presence of a true believer. Like the watermark on a non-counterfeit note the mark of Jesus's presence is part of that person. Most of the time the fruit of the Holy Spirit indwelling will be evident in the person's life, his demeanour, the way he speaks, his desires, his love and his forgiveness.

The light of God's presence makes the watermark evident in the holy person's life. (Rom.8:16)

In this comparison the bank is the kingdom of God, the tellers are the holy ones of God, the counterfeit notes are the ones imitating the fruit of the Holy Spirit's indwelling. They look like the real thing but are worthless. In your daily encounter with other people expect to come across the genuine thing as well as the counterfeit Christian (1 John 2:18).

When the counterfeit Christian becomes successful in his imitating of the real Christian he usually starts to mislead the real Christian. As many will be following the misleading it becomes more difficult to discern the real

from the counterfeit. Today, in 2024, when most Christians believe the end times to be near, we find it sometimes almost impossible to make the correct distinction. One example is the case of one of the leading denominations in South Africa accepting in the highest decision-making body of the church things that are forbidden in the Bible. One thinks about the ordaining of pastors who openly declare their homosexual preferences and prefer to marry persons of the same gender. Jesus warned the church in Mat. 7: 13 against the big falling away in the end times. He urged His followers to try hard to go in through the narrow gate into heaven as few would be going in. He explicitly warned against the influence of the antichrist as the influence of the antichrist will be overwhelming in the end times. Deceptions will be hard to discern. Take for instance the newest technology in the world. Most people are in awe when they get information about the new world order although they seldom understand what it is about. Take for instance the “wonder world” of robotics. If you can show some knowledge about the “bots” you rise in the estimation of many people; not to mention augmented (increased, enriched) reality, Virtual reality Metacosmos, the connection of the internet of internet and many more. Most people do not recognise the dangers behind this new wonder world and words. Mostly they are man`s endeavours to create and in creating to feel like they are God. Take for instance VR (virtual reality) the new buzzword in modern science.

Reality has to do with the experience of life utilizing the normal 5 sense-organs. It is the state of things as they are rather than as they are imagined to be. In understanding virtual as in virtual reality one opens the possibility to the occult. Occult comes from the Latin, *occulta* which has to do with hidden, secret; usually knowledge about the paranormal which borders on aspects of witchcraft. In the Book Revelation, when carefully studied, the signs and wonders of demons and antichrists are recorded not dissimilar to what technology is at present aspiring to.

The true Christians will be discerned by the suffering they will endure.

When Pastor Wurmbrand suffered in prison and was on his death bed still preaching and leading people to Christ once was asked by one of his tormentors:

*“Why are you always praying? Who are you praying for?”*

He answered:

*“I am praying for you, my brother.”*

## **Chapter 9**

### **Children**

Children always form a very special part of any grouping of people. They are also important when we are speaking about people knowing God and how to treat them. We want to trace the development of children and how we must respond to them.

Children are born fully dependent on parents or other adults to care for them. Gradually the child is taught how to fend for him- or herself and to look after themselves. Children are not naturally inclined to do the right thing and must be guided by educators, especially as far as moral aspects are concerned. The child develops independence and a will of its own.

Gradually the child attains adulthood and must take up his responsibilities. During adulthood, he or she must take responsibility for their actions and the consequences of their decisions. They gradually acquire their own sets of norms and values and try to transfer them onto their children. When old age sets in the person usually starts looking for an old age home where he can with dignity step over into eternity.

Jesus used the image of a child being born to teach Nicodemus about being born again, (John 3:4) of Spirit and water. If you do not die to yourself and confess your sins to Jesus, accept that He paid in full for all your sins, because he is the only sinless Son of God, you cannot be saved.

Being saved means your old self died, God came into your life and created a new life in you. You are born again.

Like a child getting born and developing through phases the new born child of God also must develop and acquire a Christian identity as described in 1Cor. 3:1:

*Dear Brothers, I have been talking to you as though you were still just babies, in the Christian life, who are not following the Lord, but your own desires; I cannot talk to you as I would to healthy Christians, who are filled with the Spirit.... And even now you still have to be fed on milk, for you are still only baby Christians, controlled by your own desires not God's.*

This group of immature children of God requires special treatment. To a certain degree we all are part of this group. In certain aspects we are maturing faster than in other aspects. Some of us are more tested by circumstances and tend to grow spiritually faster than other persons. Some of us are late bloomers. Life must toss us around and show us where we need some special training before we become willing to respond in the correct way.

Identifying the level of maturity in a Christian is not very easy as our own level of development also play a role in this regard. We cannot judge another person if we are still trying to get a secure footing in the world of



the adult Christian. Therefore we must take note of the wise words of Jesus in Mat. 7:1:

*“Don` t criticise, and then you won` t be criticised. For others will treat you as you treat them.”*

These wise words do not exempt us from taking note of mistakes in the lives of other people. Therefore Jesus also warned us about the other extreme view of making His gospel cheap when He warned us:

*“Don` t give pearls to swine!*

*They will trample the pearls and turn around and attach you.*

Born again Christians do not always grow. They might stagnate in a certain stage of development and might even relapse. Some people believe a Christian can fall away from God`s grace. Persons like Dr. Charles Stanley believe that once a person becomes a Christian he cannot fall away. The problem in this regard is the uncertainty about the born-again Christian; was he or she converted? Did he or she accept Jesus as Saviour or was it a mock conversion? It is hard to believe that a true born-again child of God can willingly give up the Holy Spirit living in him. Sometime the following is true about a person:

*I heard it. I tried it. But I decided against it.*

## Chapter 10

### The Centre of the hub

We are still discovering ways of handling the different types of groups we encounter on Earth. Speaking of *we, who are we?*

Let us compare ourselves with the centre of the hub of a wheel. The spokes of the wheel may represent the different groups we encounter. We form the hub because we are to decide how to treat groups we encounter, groups that are necessary for our functioning in this world. Without enough groups, the hub would be useless and would fall apart. If the spokes going out from the hub are well placed in the right place, well positioned and balanced there is a good chance that the living organism will move forward towards a worthwhile goal. The question still remains:

#### ***1. Who are we?***

For our purpose *we* will be a Christian or a Christian group. We are the sheep, the specially blessed. We are those Jesus spoke about in John 10:27:

*My sheep recognize my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one shall snatch them away from Me, for My Father has given them to Me and He is more powerful than anyone else.....*

The *Hub* trust in Jesus as their Messiah, the Son of God. They believe that Jesus paid the full price for their redemption from all their sins. They believe Jesus not only died for their sins but was also resurrected from the grave on the third day and that he ascended to heaven where He intervenes for the sins of his people. They also believe Jesus will one day return to earth to come and fetch His bride, His redeemed ones.

**2. What is the Hub's name?**

Holy person, Child of God, Born again, Christian, Believer. Saved, Spirit-filled, Redeemed, Sinner, Sheep, the Called.

**3. What parts constitute the rest of the wagon wheel?**

The hub is connected to the outer part of the wheel by spokes. The wooden part the spokes are connected to is the felloe. The whole construction of the wheel is kept in position by an iron band.

The felloe is joining the spokes to the outer part of the wheel. In our comparison the felloe will be the soft part, between the hub and the outer harder part of the wheel, the steel band. In our comparison, it equals the love a Christian displays towards those not being part of the Christian faith. The iron band separates the soft wood from the stones on the road. In our case the hard iron band is our protection against Satan's efforts to dismantle the wheel by trouble, problems and sickness; that is the love of God, His protection, care and forgiveness.

**4. What are the hub people thinking?**

Phil. 4: 8 gives us an indication of what this group`s thoughts are about:

*Fix your thoughts on what is truly good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and dwell on the fine, good things in others. think all you can praise God for and be glad about.*

## **5. The emotions of the Hub people**

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is evident in their lives. They are full of love for other people, they are glad and experience peace. They are not worried but thank God for everything. The peace of God gives them the faith to carry on when they are in doubt about anything (Col. 1:12).

## **6. The lifestyle of the hub people**

In Phil. 4: 9 Paul told the Philippians to do what he taught them, what he did while he was with them, and what they heard and saw him doing and saying while he was staying with them. He urged them to follow his example.

To get a better idea about this lifestyle we also have to follow the many examples he left us in the epistles.

In the next chapter, we are going to take a closer look at the ideal way to treat fellow Christians.

## Chapter 11

### Treating a fellow Christian

The way a Christian treats another Christian will be determined by the willingness of the Christian to give his life over to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When fully committed to the leading of the Holy Spirit the fruit of the Holy Spirit will be evident in his actions. The following fruit will guide his actions: (Gal. 5:22)

*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

Every Christian is on his or her way to full sanctification. None attains that state this side of heaven. Most mature Christians can attain a high level of sanctification but will always lack something regarding certain aspects of sanctification. The old nature of a person is seldom not active somewhere in a person's life. In his relationship with another Christian, it can also surface. Therefore even a Christian must be willing to confess bad behaviour towards another Christian.

A Christian brother is in the same position. He also is not perfect and sometimes is irritable, sick, lonely, hurting, struggling with disappointments, unsuccessfully trying to forgive someone, doubting and trying to give over to the Holy Spirit's leading.

Sometimes a Christian must be willing to point out to another Christian ways he went off the track and even disclose his weaknesses

for which he will be asking for forgiveness. The way you help your brother is very important. Do not be jealous of him, do not hate him, forgive him, show love and compassion. If your brother does not react favourably 1 Cor.5:11 indicates the way you must respond to him; treat him as an unconverted sinner. God has the privilege to judge the people outside of your group, the unconverted sinners.

In Mat. 25: 31-36 Jesus shows us the way we will be treated when we come before his judgement throne. He will divide the people into two groups; the sheep at His right hand and the goats at his left hand. To the people on his right hand, He will say the following:

*Come blessed of My Father, into the Kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world. For I was hungry and you fed Me, I was thirsty and you gave Me water; I was a stranger and you invited Me into your homes; naked and you clothed Me, sick and in prison and you visited Me.*

*Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Sir, when did we ever see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You anything to drink? Or a stranger and help You? Or naked and clothe You? When did we ever see You sick or in prison, and visit You?*

Then Jesus replied:

*When you did it to these My brothers you were doing it to Me.*

Pray that you will not be part of the second group. Jesus will say to them:

*Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry and you wouldn't feed Me; thirsty and you wouldn't give me anything to drink; a stranger and you refused Me hospitality; naked and you wouldn't clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.*

Then they will ask when they omitted to treat Him that way and He will reply:

*When you refused to help the least of these My brothers, you were refusing help to Me.*

And these people will go away to eternal punishment.

Jesus repeated this message 4 times. It must be a very serious message.

Few people have a concept of hell. In this part, we learn that hell was created for the devil and the demons. Many people will be joining them. Satan is not a nice fellow and he and the demons will reign in hell. The last group of people will be subjected to satan and the demons. Because of the terrible suffering in hell, all those in hell will shout, curse, blame and injure other inmates. It is not a nice place.

While you have a chance grab with all you have the chance to be with Jesus in heaven forever. Very important in this part is that no one will

inherit the Kingdom of God on the grounds of good deeds. Only those whose sins are forgiven because they trusted in the Redeemer and accepted His offering on the cross as full payment for their sins will be saved. Their good deeds will be a result of the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives; the prompting of the love of Jesus who saved them.



## Chapter 12

### The Goats

How do you treat the goat people, those on God`s left side?

In this group, you will find the whole spectrum of people destined to spend eternity in hell. This group comprises the very bad up to the not-so-bad.

The Christian must handle these people every day of his life. They are in the majority and usually exert a lot of influence on society. You will find in this group the superrich, the very influential, the policymakers, the governing bodies, the tramp, the loafers, the hard workers and the down and outs. Some will live very respectable lives and will have commendable ideals. They all share the one destiny; everlasting damnation. In this group, we find the people with rock-hard hearts like a road where the seed of God will not find any penetration. Some of these people have on the surface softer hearts and the Good News sometimes penetrates but because of the hard rock under the ground surface, the Word of God seldom lasts long and has no lasting influence. We will also find in this group people with soft and accepting hearts who expectantly embrace God`s redemption. They are people not hot or cold. They are looking for a balanced life; a little of God and a little of satan. God said in Revelation He will spew them out of His mouth. They welcome the Good News but also the

longing after earthly possessions. The faith in God is not their leading life principle. Most of the time the love of the world and worries overtake their trust in Jesus.

A very special group amongst the goats is the demon-possessed group.

Who are they?

Sometimes they are hard to discern and sometimes it is hard not to miss them. Most of the time the following will manifest with the demon-possessed:

1. Many times they are unable to talk and they are blind. (Mat.12:22)
2. They speak indirectly through other people. (Mark 1:23)
3. Demons might manifest as different personalities in the same person. (Matt. 8: 29)
4. The voice of the demon-possessed person changes. (Mark5:9)
5. A demon might give supernatural knowledge to a person (Mark 1:23)
6. Demons sometimes display the ability to discern Jesus as the Son of God. (Mark 5:4-5)
7. Demon-possessed persons might be drawn to suicide
8. They lose self-control.
9. They tend to swear at God
10. None might be brought to the forward when the demon feels threatened.

Sometimes a person is not wholly demon-possessed but opens himself up to demonic influences. Lies, misleading, tempting and sanctimony are the playfield of the possessed person. People are often misled by what they see, hear and experience, these influences might be an introduction to occultism. The Christian has a special task to safeguard his brother and sister when he becomes aware of the demonic influences in their lives. People easily become fascinated by the supernatural which might become the opening the devil is waiting for. Natural curiosity might become a trap when a person becomes interested in occultism. Anything longing for something that gives you the feeling you are in control of others can become dangerous. Watch out for hypnotism in this regard.

Demon possession can easily be misdiagnosed. Identification and handling of demons are specialised activities. Mental illness is not the same as demon possession.

In the handling of the goat people by the sheep people the character of the sheep people will have more influence than the character of the goat people. Sheep people will be directed by the strength of the Holy Spirit residing in them while the goat people will be guided by the lies and misleading of satan. Jesus already conquered satan on the cross at Calvary when He died for our sins. As long as the Sheep stay in the fold of the Shepherd they have nothing to fear from satan.

Playing on satan`s playground is dangerous and might lead to a position where the Holy Spirit will be inhibited and the sheep lose his protection. An example might be wilful exposure to pornography.

## Part 2

### Chapter 13

#### Jesus; is the perfect example

We carry on with the theme of this book; *how to treat the different groups of people you encounter on this earth?*

We shift our focus to the perfect example of Jesus. Who else can we copy as a perfect example of how to treat fellow Christians, the antichrist and our enemies?

In Luke 6:27-38 we find one of the many examples of the way Jesus wants us to treat other people. We are going to use the Amplified Bible:

*But I say to you who are listening now to Me: (in order to heed, make it a practice to) love your enemies, treat well (do good to, act nobly toward) those that detest you and pursue you with hatred.*

*Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you, and implore God's blessing (Favour) upon those who abuse you (who revile, reproach disparage and high-handedly misuse you.*

*To the one who strikes you on the yaw or cheek, offer the other yaw or cheek also; and from him who takes away your outer garment, do not withhold your inner garment as well.*

*Give away to everyone who begs of you (who is in want of necessities), and of him who takes away from you your goods, do not demand or require them back again.*

*And as you would like and desire that men would do to you, do exactly to them.*

*If you merely love those who love you, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? For even the (very) sinners love their lovers (those who love them.*

*And if you are kind and good and do favours to and benefit those who are kind and good and do favours to and benefit you, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? For even the pre-eminently sinful do the same.*

*And if you lend money at interest to those from whom you hope to receive, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? Even notorious sinners lend money at interest to sinners so as to recover as much again.*

*But love your enemies and do good (doing favours so that someone derives benefit from them) and lend, expecting and hoping for nothing in return but considering as lost and despairing of no one; and then your recompense (your reward) will be great (rich, strong, intense and abundant), and you will be sons of the Most High for He is kind and charitable and good to the ungrateful and the selfish and the wicked.*

*So be merciful (sympathetic, tender, responsive and compassionate) even as your Father is (all these).*

*Judge not (neither pronouncing judgment nor subjecting to censure) and you will not be judged; so not condemn and pronounce guilty; acquit and forgive and release (give up resentment, let it drop) and you will be acquitted and forgiven and released.*

*Give and (gifts) will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will they pour into the pouch (formed by) the bosom (of your robe and used as a bag). For with the measure you deal out (with the measure you use when you confer benefits to others) it will be measured back to you.*

Almost no differentiation is made by Jesus towards the different handling of different groups. What is important is the specific mention of your enemies and the way they are to be treated. Jesus covered almost exclusively the behaviour of his children as if He was confirming that He would judge those outside as we are to look after our brothers and sisters on the inside of our group.

## Chapter 14

### My Enemy

Jesus tells us to love our enemies. But who is my enemy? What does he say and do to make him my enemy? What about the enemies of Jesus?

In this chapter, we are going to try and answer some of these questions.

In the previous chapter, we got an idea of how to treat our enemies (Luke 6:27)

Everyone is responsible for the choices he or she makes. It means I am not to respond to his behaviour according to his choices. That is his responsibility. But I am responsible for my words and actions. In Luke 6 we find some things we may expect our enemies to do and the way to respond:

1. They will despise (hate) you,  
they will exclude you,  
they will excommunicate you,  
they will revile and denounce you,  
they will cast out and spurn your name as evil.

When your enemies treat you in this way:

*Rejoice, and be glad at such a time and exult and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is rich and great and strong and intense and abundant in heaven. (Luke 6:23)*



2. They will detest you, pursue you with hatred and curse you.

Treat these enemies in the following way:

*Invoke blessings upon them,*

*Pray for their happiness.*

3. They will strike you on the jaw or cheek

*Turn the other cheek*

4. Many times your enemies will beg of you when they are in want of necessities.

*Give away to everyone who begs of you*

5. They will borrow money from you without any intention to give it back.

*Do not expect them to give the money back.*

Experience they will be ungrateful, selfish and wicked.

*Be merciful and compassionate and do not judge other people*

I am sure you as a Christian experience most of the above-mentioned actions.

To get your memories going I will help you with examples from my own life:

When in grade eight we had a math teacher who enjoyed hurting children. I was so afraid of this teacher that I had goose bumps experiences when going to school on the days he would be teaching us. I first did his homework assignments for fear of perhaps skipping it. I believe God knew 70 years ago I would need an example out of my own life to illustrate a point and therefore He

arranged the mistake I made. I forgot to do the homework for this teacher.

When I discovered my mistake it was too late to rectify it. Those days there was only one punishment and that was public corporal punishment in front of the whole class. To satisfy his sadistic appetites the teacher prolonged the punishment up till the last few moments before the bell would be going. By that time I was one bundle of nerves. Luckily I did not cry out, not audibly but in my heart, I was shouting and those words were not loving forgiving words of compassion for the teacher's well-being. At that moment I was not the Christian but the enemy. When the teacher later committed suicide I was glad and did not shed any tears.

God taught me lessons which was not always easy to learn. Some of the enemies I had to forgive tested my Christianity to the utmost. As long as I did not learn my lessons God brought new lessons into my life. As I was in love with money and tried to accumulate as much as possible to give me security God honed in on this one aspect of my life; everything I valued dearly he arranged as a test to teach me how to handle my enemies. As much as I held on to my securities the harder the tests became. The only way I was to learn was to be without that I valued so dearly. So He took it away. Let me tell you what the enemy took away from me:

1. During school holidays I worked at different places to earn money to buy a special bicycle; a Raleigh with hand brakes. Eventually I had enough

money and I bought my prized possession. After a month my bicycle and our garden worker vanished.

2. When in matric my parents gave me an Omega watch. It was stolen.
3. I again worked during University holidays and eventually could buy a motorbike. It was stolen
4. The first year I worked I borrowed the full price of a new car from an uncle. To pay him back as soon as possible I cancelled the insurance on the new car. Soon afterwards it was stolen and I had to pay my uncle back for a car I did not possess.
5. Two years after starting to work I lived on a farm as it was cheaper than staying in town, all my clothes were stolen and I had to borrow clothes to go to work.
6. After that they broke into my house numerous times.
7. Eventually we got wise when I and my wife lost almost all our securities. At that stage, God convinced us to start to tithe. That which we loved so dearly became our enemy and when we gave it away we got back more than what we needed. Even up to this day, we are abundantly blessed.

Enemies come in different forms. Take for instance the enemies coming in the disguise of preachers, teaching prosperity theology. Even worse are preachers who willfully mislead the congregation by taking parts out of the Bible and even changing parts to suit their distorted theologies. We find this in many

mainstream churches where homosexuals are welcomed even onto the pulpit and the idea of marriage between one man and one woman is discarded. Very seldom do we hear the Good News being preached. This is the worst enemy and they border on the antichrist who does not believe in Jesus as the Son of God our Redeemer. To my mind, it is best to avoid these teachers and these churches. These people have the spirit of the anti-Christ and if they do not repent they are better left alone as Jesus told His disciples.

Jesus always remains the perfect example. Even when He was hanging on the cross, disfigured and bleeding with nails driven through his hands and feet he felt compassion for those who were the main cause of his pain and suffering when He uttered these holy words;

*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*

In the end, you may be your own biggest enemy. Even he or she must be forgiven because you are precious in His sight and He paid for all your sins, yes, all of them

**“May you, Holy Spirit, grant us the love to pray in a likewise manner for all those who transgress against us, Yes, our enemies.**

## Chapter 15

### Bible Commentary on

on Luke 6: 27 and Mat.5:44:

### Love your enemies.

The context of these verses is also included as it leads to a better understanding of the verses. The following commentaries were used: The commentaries were found at Bible Hub on the internet. The following were selected:

1. Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers.
2. Barne's notes on the Bible.
3. Jamieson-Fauset-Brown Bible commentary.
4. Matthew Poole's commentary.
5. Gilles Exposition of the entire Bible.
6. Geneva Study Bible.
7. Cambridge Bible for schools and Colleges.
8. Expository English Bible.
9. Matthew Henry's concise commentary.
10. Pulpit Commentary.

Let's see what we can learn from these commentaries:

1. *The gospels focus on love and kind-heartedness even towards bad and ungrateful people.*

2. *In Mat, 5:43 Jesus said: There is a saying 'Love your friends and hate your enemies. But I say: Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!*

*If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even scoundrels do that much*

3. **Matthew Henry** says the following in this regard:

*These are hard lessons to flesh and blood. But if we are thoroughly grounded in the faith of God`s love, this will make His command easy to us. Everyone who comes to Him for washing in His blood, and knows the greatness of the mercy and the love that there is in Him, can say in truth and sincerity: Lord what wilt thou have me do?*

4. *Christian grace usually differs from worldly grace. It does not revenge painful experiences but is extended to include our worst enemies. This is what God wants from us when we discard our own needs for revenge.*

5. *In Exodus23: 4 we find elements of love for the enemy like the following:*

*"If you come upon an enemy`s ox or donkey that has strayed away, you must take it back to its owner.*

*If you see your enemy trying to get his donkey to his feet beneath a heavy load, you must not go on by, but must help him."*

6. *One of the most appreciated sermons of Jesus was the cross he ingrained in the donkey's DNA to produce a discernible cross on the donkey's back. It will always remind us of our humble Jesus and the cross He carried for our salvation as a donkey carried him into Jerusalem. It teaches us that we not only love our enemy but also his humble possession when it gets lost and must suffer under a heavy burden.*

7. *In Rom.12: 14 we find a commandment that will test your love for the enemy.*

*“If someone ill-treats you because you are a Christian, don't curse him, pray that God will bless him.”*

*And in verse 17:*

*“Never pay back evil for evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honest through and through. Don't quarrel with anyone so far as it depends on you.*

*Dear friends never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for He has said that He will repay those who deserve it.”*

8. *Rom. 12: 20*

*Instead feed your enemy if he is hungry,*

*If he is thirsty give him something to drink.*

*Don't let evil get the upper hand*

*But conquer evil by doing well.*

9. *Another 2 examples from the Old Testament on how to handle other persons are found in Lev. 19: 17 and 18*

*Don't hate your brother. Rebuke anyone who sins; don't let him get away with it, or you will be equally guilty. Don't seek vengeance. Don't bear a grudge; but love your neighbour as yourself, for I am Jehovah.*

10. **Ellicott's** commentary on this kind of love:

*The extension of the command to love our neighbour includes even those whose natural impulse prompts us to hate; the stress laid on prayer is the high-test utterance of that love. In such circumstances may preclude.*

*(Make it impossible or impractical) acts that would be rejected, and words that would be met with scorn. But the prayer that they too may be delivered from the evil which has been their curse, is always in our power, and in so doing we are drawing near to the mind of God and asking that our wills may be as his,*

11. According to **Barnes** there are 2 kinds of love originating out of the same fountain of caring for all people. But they are different;

*The first love is the feeling you experience when you approve of a person's actions. We call it complacency. The second kind of love is when you wish a person well but do not agree with his actions. We call it benevolence. Last mentioned is the love I experience towards my enemies.*



*However, it is impossible to approve of a person`s actions and to love him when that person curses you and calls you names, when that person is destroying your property or is harming and injuring you while he is transgressing God`s wishes. While we might hate and suffer because of his wrong deeds we still need to wish him well. We might even pity him because of his unwise conduct. Because we are Christians we will still treat him with respect and will not gossip behind his back. We will treat him well although he is treating us in an opposing way. We will even help him when he is in trouble and will try to save his soul.*

***Barnes uses Rom.12: 17-20 to summarise this love:***

***“This seems to be what is meant by loving your enemies, and this is the special love of Christianity and the highest possible test of piety, and probably the most difficult of all duties to be performed.”***

Only the love of Jesus, the knowledge of that love and the acceptance of his love for you will enable you to forgive and to act as Jesus did.

*12.How do you bless someone who curses you?*

*Blessing someone in this context means to speak well of and towards a person who curses you. It means you will not retaliate by cursing back or speaking badly about the person behind his back. To be able to do this you will have to dig deep and look for something you can admire about that person. If you in all sincerity cannot find anything good then it is better to keep quiet.*

13. **Jamieson** places love for your enemy on the same footing as moral love.

*The opposite of moral love will be a personal attraction to that person.*

*Usually, moral love is an indication of contentment with the character of the person. Jesus gives a deeper meaning to this love when He qualifies it as friendliness in an expression of soft-heartedness and a wish for that person`s well-being. This leaves no place for misunderstanding when we look at 1 Peter 2: 21-24, Rom 12:20, 1 Cor. 4: 12 and 1 Peter 3: 9. But although such precepts were never before expressed- perhaps not even conceived – with such breadth, and sharpness as here, our Lord is here only the incomparable Interpreter of the entire strain of the discourse.*

14. **Gill** approves of these thoughts when he declares that you must love all people, even your enemies with a natural love because they are humans created by God while you cannot embrace them lovingly as brothers.

15. *To bless your enemies does not mean that you will recommend and praise them because in doing so you will identify and approve their conduct.*

***Blessing your enemies also does not mean that you must pray for blessings on them when they despise Jesus by rejecting Him and hating Him. This is in stark contrast to the loving blessing you save for your spiritual brothers and sisters.***

16. *Jesus recommended praying for our enemies as He demonstrated it on the cross at Calvary when he prayed:*

*“Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”*

*Stephen also prayed in the same way when his enemies stoned him to death.*

*This must be the ultimate example we aspire to.*

*17. Love for your enemy as described in Mat., 5:44 encompasses attitude, words, actions and praying for others.*

*In Greek, it includes handling a person with dignity in contrast to the Greek “amare” which has to do with emotions as to love.*

*Your moral willingness will help you discern between a person’s attitude of harming you and his personality.*

*Only the Christian who experienced the love of the Father and accepted it will be able to respond in loving care. This attitude is described in Efes.*

*4: 31-32*

*“Stop being mean, bad-tempered and angry. Quarrelling, harsh words and dislike of others should have no place in your lives. Instead be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.*

*18. He who can rejoice when he suffers for the sake of Jesus will be able to love his enemy and to pray for his enemy.*

19. *The contrast between hate and love goes through 4 phases of development. The contrast between the 2 concepts increases as it moves from one phase to the other. The hate will deepen as the love increases.*

*Phase 1*

*When you **love feel** when a person takes the stand of an enemy.*

*Phase 2*

*When you **speak loving words** toward an enemy who curses you.*

*Phase 3*

*To **act lovingly** towards a person displaying hate towards you*

*Phase 4*

*To show the highest love towards a person when **you pray for that person** when he shows his hate by persecuting you.*

20. *We conclude this part with the commentary of **Pulpit Commentary**:*

*They who can pray for their enemies can accomplish the rest.*

*Thus to pray is to come near the Spirit of Christ.*

Burkit, says the following in this regard:

*“Some persons had never had a particular place in my prayers,*

*But for the injuries they had done to me”*

## ***Summary***

*You must love your enemies. This a special kind of love, not brotherly love as for a Christian brother. It is more like respect and care for his soul facing everlasting damnation.*

*Loving your enemy does not mean you will pray and bless him when he despises, hates and rejects Jesus. If you do you condone his conduct and will be judged accordingly.*

*God judges those on the outside of His church. Look after your brother in church. Judge him lovingly. Lovingly corrects his bad behaviour.*

*Do not greet, eat or associate with those on the outside, those willingly rejecting Jesus. God will judge those.*

## **Part 3**

### **Chapter 16**

#### **Bringing everything together**

The theme of this book revolves around the ideal way a Christian ought to treat the different groups of people he encounters every day.

Our story started with a true story about a Christian's encounters with a person, called in the Bible, an anti-Christ. Names were for obvious reasons omitted. The true story tells us about the injustice done to the Christian by his family who openly supported the ideas and conducts of the anti-Christ. The anti-Christ rejected Jesus as the Son of God. He did not believe in Jesus and put him in the category of Muhammed, Confucius and Buddha. To him, these religions, including Christianity, are culture-orientated. He believes there might be a Higher Power but does not believe in God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit. The Bible calls persons with these believe systems the anti-Christ, persons with the spirit of the anti-Christ.

The Christian, being rejected by his family suffered a lot but found consolation in Bible directions on handling people with these orientations. For a while it worked for him but later he encountered a problem when he became aware of

the fact that Jesus required His followers to love their enemies. Actually the enemies were the enemies of God.

Love for the enemy implied regular:

1. prayer for the enemy,
2. to treat him well,
3. to distinguish the person`s actions from the value God places on every one of his creations,
4. to treat a person with respect,
5. To love the enemy (taking into account that love may have different meanings.

We must also take into account the different ways God told us to treat the anti-Christ. We made mention of these in Chapter 2. To refresh the memory:

1. Be unmerciful, without pity towards the anti-Christ, without mercy when he tries to influence you to accept his satanic viewpoints.
2. Discard any contact with the self-declared anti-Christ. Any wilful association with the anti-Christ makes you part of his demonic activities.
3. Avoid, and shun any person who endeavours to divide Christians.
4. Any person who denies that Jesus is the Son of God is the anti-Christ and has the spirit of the anti-Christ.
5. Marriage is an institution coming from God. People discarding marriage are to be avoided.

6. As a follower of Jesus you will suffer and many persons will hate you.
7. God is your highest aim. Anything placed above him is an idol.
8. Families will be divided when some of them accept Jesus as Redeemer and others don't.
9. To give up a relationship with a brother who disagrees with you about Jesus being the Son of God is a small price when you compare it with the many brothers and sisters awaiting in heaven.
10. The world and people of the world will undervalue you and make fun of you.
11. Avoid the anti-Christ, as well as any contact with such a person; do not greet him, do not welcome him into your home, remove him from your company.
12. There is no common ground between the Christian and the anti-Christ.
13. Shun all hypocrites.

Today, in 2024, we live in the end times, of which Jesus warned us to be on the lookout for those people who will try to mislead us. To prepare for the world dominion of satan, globalism is in the order of the day. Unity is very important and seldom preachers are prepared to highlight the dangers of unity at all costs, even superseding the Christian unity. The world is moving into the direction of one world government, one world Church, centralising power, dismantling Christian values, relative



moralism and more deification of satan and what man can do to save himself.

Satan is the father of the lie and he perfected it to such an extent that many Christians are comfortable with humanism or the deification of man. Modern man finds it hard to accept that satan has a hidden agenda by which he endeavours to take as many humans as possible with him to hell.

Prosperity teaching, love and mercy are more of the false teachings satan employs today to mislead the world. Unity between the Christian and the anti-Christ is one of satan`s main aims of misleading. For this, he employs the idea that love, mercy, forgiveness and togetherness for all people, even the anti-Christ and all who hate Jesus and curse Him will supersede anything Jesus told us. Nowhere, or very seldom, we hear the words of Jesus:

*“Be holy because I am holy.” (Holy means to keep yourself apart from the filthiness of this world, fully dedicated to Jesus alone)*

Remember satan rebelled against God by placing himself on an equal footing to God and believing he can be God himself. Since being thrown out of heaven he still aspires after the same. During the present end times he prepares for his kingdom on this earth where the unholy trinity, satan, the anti-Christ and the false prophet will rule.

To find guidelines on how to treat non-Christian groups we will concentrate on the following groups:

The Pharisees

The Scribes

Heads of Families

The Sanctimonious

The anti-Christ

The heathen, those who did not hear the Good News

Some people will fit into more than one group.

In choosing the way to handle persons we will look at the best example namely Jesus.

Before we proceed let us first look at the dangers of categorizing people into groups:

## Chapter 17

### Problems with placing people into groups.

Jesus is the perfect example of how to treat your enemies. But Jesus also warned us about associating with the Scribes, those who discard marriage, the homosexuals, those who mislead the Christians, the false prophets, and the anti-Christ (those who do not believe in Christ as Redeemer and being the Son of God). Regarding the anti-Christ Jesus indicated the following:

1. *Separate yourself from them.*
2. *Do not greet them.*
3. *Do not share a meal with them.*
4. *Stay away from them.*
5. *Beware of them because they Go out amongst them.*
6. *will try and mislead you.*
7. *Beware of ventures with them. You are not to pull under the same yoke of any kind with them. You have nothing in common with them.*

Jesus is more interested in His relationship with the individual person than with the group. The following are examples:

1. We, you and I, my brother, were both part of the heathen group. His grace saved us individually and made us part of his family.

2. Money Scribes are leaders of churches in our times. Amongst theologians we find today most of the Doctorates of Learning in Philosophy, psychology etc. Most of them prefer the title of doctor to pastor. But even amongst this group, you will find individuals with a personal relationship with Jesus.
3. There exist groups of people whom Jesus identified as of great danger to his family. Amongst them, the anti-Christ is the most prevalent. How can you as an individual be so arrogant as to reject Jesus, to say the Bible is not true, that Jesus is not a real person, and is the creation of man`s imagery and is nothing more than a cultural figure like Buddha?
4. A more dangerous person is the sanctimonious person; the person pretending to be a Christian but in essence, is an anti-Christ.
5. The anti-Christ is someone who heard the Good News, considered it and decided it was not for him. Thus making Jesus a liar. Jesus gave us a direct example of handling such a person when the young man chose his riches above being a follower of Jesus. Jesus turned his back on him and did not run after him to beg him to come and follow Him.
6. The Pharisees is a group of people supporting Judaism and belonging to a political party. They were as a group enemies of Jesus but individually some came to trust in Jesus as Saviour like Nicodemus.

## Chapter 18

### Jesus and his enemies

Beware, do not misuse God's word. It is easy to be comfortable with an idea and then try to find some justification for it in God's word. Make sure you understand God's word in the context it is written. Do not hate your enemies and then look for justification for the hate in His word. If you do not find peace it is better to look again at your interpretation. Jesus is the perfect example of how our lives ought to be. Let's have a closer look at His life:

1. What moved God to give His most precious possession, his only Son to mankind to save them, when He fully knew His son would be rejected, mistreated, ridiculed, beaten, spit on and eventually crucified by the very people He gave His life for?

Only when you move into the dimension of the Holy Spirit out of the dimension of human logic it becomes possible.

It is only possible to grasp something of God's love for mankind when you accept God's love for you as demonstrated by Him. By accepting the offer of Jesus on the cross for your sins your old selfish life can be buried, drowned under the water of baptism and can you rise into a new life, to take a deep breath of Ruach, the wind of everlasting life, given to man by God's Holy Spirit. Part of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit would be the fruit of love. Then man will begin to understand God's love for him.

The humbleness of Jesus is for the natural person almost incomprehensible. Jesus came to suffer for the sins of mankind. The sin above all sins was man`s need and efforts to surpass God and to become God himself. It was the same sin that led to satan`s downfall and expulsion from heaven. The first command of God was that man must love Him above all else. There was no place for man`s self-god. Jesus came to humble Himself to suffer for man`s sin to exalt himself. A more humble entrance into this world for the Highest Creature Who created all is unthinkable. To make His entrance even more remarkable is the fact that his mother was an unwed young girl with no status whatsoever. His earthly parents were poor, and Jesus was born in a stable and laid down in a manger.

2. The first people the Saviour of the World were introduced to be shepherds, most probably shepherds who looked after the offer lambs for rituals at the temple in Jerusalem. Shepherds were reckoned to be the most humble profession in the time of Jesus. The humbleness of Jesus was the offering for the self-exaltation of mankind in their efforts to be important, to be their own gods.
3. Soon after His birth satan tried to kill Him when Herod killed all the male babies hoping that the King of the Jews would be included in the massacre.

4. Jesus was a model child. He submitted to His parents even when He as the Son of God was all-knowing and at an early age reasoned with the Pharisees and the Priests. Jesus was trained by His earthly father to be a carpenter or a handyman. He learned to work with wood and to shape it into forms. In His all-knowing mind he had to be reminded that somewhere a cross maker might also be working with wood to create His cross. What a virtue of God to be so submissive and humble. No wonder He was so loved by God and all who knew Him. (Luke 2:52)
5. Even the town Jesus grew up in confirmed His modesty. Nathaniel asked:  
*“Is it possible that something good can come out of Nazareth?”*  
Jesus always favoured the downtrodden, the dependent, the helpless, and the poor, those who did not think much of themselves. He showed an aversion, a dislike for those with an inflated self-image.
6. During the life of Jesus His most prominent enemy was satan. Satan copied God’s Trinity when he is portrayed as the dragon and with the anti-Christ and the False prophet formed the unholy trinity. When dealing with His worst enemy Jesus also displays a hard side. We see this in His encounter with satan as described in Luke 4: 33:  
*Once as He was teaching in the synagogue, a man possessed by a demon began shouting at Jesus:*  
*“Go away! We want nothing to do with you, Jesus from Nazareth. You have come to destroy us. I know who you are – the Holy Son of God”*

*Jesus cut him short. "Be silent!" He told the demon. "Come out!"*

The difference between God and the demon is noticeable; the demon is arrogant and challenging. He shouts and tries to intimidate Jesus. Jesus on the other hand is calm and speaks in a non-challenging way but with such authority that the devil immediately obeys Him. One can say He even treated the demon with respect and in doing so retained His self-respect. Satan needed 28 words but Jesus showed His authority with 4 words.

7. Because Jesus knows everything He is also a realist. When in Luke 9:5 He sent His disciples out to proclaim the Good News He also gave them directions on how to treat those people who reject Him:

*If the people of a town won't listen to you when you enter it, turn around and leave, demonstrating God's anger against it by shaking its dust from your feet as you go.*

In this regard Jesus warned His disciples about those people who would reject the Good News because it is like casting pearls into a pig's pen and to expect the pigs to honour it and be grateful for it.

8. The practical love and loving kindness of Jesus are well demonstrated in Luke 9: 10-17 where He fed 5000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. About 20,000 persons ate and 12 baskets of leftovers were recovered; one basket for each disciple who distributed the food.



9. Although the Jews were Jesus's first responsibility He also extended a helping hand to other ethnic groups. A special group posed a big problem to the Jews namely the Samaritans, as they were part Jew and part Assyrian. The loving way Jesus treated the Samaritan woman at the well is so well recorded that it is safe to say that Jesus wanted to bring His attitude to our attention. (John 4:9). A Jew did not speak to a Samaritan and it was unthinkable that a male Jew would speak to a Samaritan woman. Therefore the way Jesus treated this woman is remarkable. The preciousness of this lost soul stirred the loving heart of Jesus. The insight of Jesus into this woman's thinking is remarkable; He makes himself dependent on the woman by asking her for water. Which she refused. Then He baited her with the promise of everlasting water. She misunderstood his offer but was drawn into the conversation which gave Jesus the opening to her heart. He revealed something of his all-knowing power when He told her something about her secret life and sins. This opened her heart and led to her becoming a witness for Jesus and bringing her whole town to Jesus with whom He eventually spent some time.

**(Jesus, how can we, the heathens, not love You dearly?)**

10. To follow Jesus is not easy. He promised us, who chose to follow him, that we would find it hard and that we would be persecuted for our willingness to follow Him. In Luke. 9:62 Jesus made the following statement in this regard:

*Anyone who lets himself be distracted from the work I plan for him is not fit for the Kingdom of God.*

11. Jesus also made hard comments like the following when speaking to His disciples: (Luke 10:16)

*.....those who reject you are rejecting Me. And those who reject Me are rejecting God who sent Me.*

We know those who reject Jesus and the Father are anti-Christ and have the spirit of anti-Christ in them. We must go out from among them and not associate with them.

12. The Human intellect is the battleground where satan usually prefers to fight. He fought with great success on this battle ground when he seduced Eve. Numerous accounts are recorded for us to help us avoid falling into the trap of trying to reason with satan. Satan usually launches his attack by his opening tactics of asking:

*Is it true that God said.....? (Gen.3:1)*

The only way we can resist the devil is by staying in Christ and letting His Holy Spirit guide us.

13. Jesus fought for the honour of His Father. We also are entitled to fight for the honour of Jesus and our Heavenly Father. This incident is recorded in Mark 11:15:

*When they arrived back in Jerusalem He went to the temple and began to **drive out** the merchants and their customers, **knocked over the tables of***

*the moneychangers and the stalls of those selling doves and stopped everyone from bringing in loads of merchandise. **He told them,** “It is written in the Scriptures, ‘My Temple is to be a place of prayer for all nations, but you have turned it into a den of robbers.’*

This is not the winsome, loving, gentle, always forgiving, Jesus, preachers are so fond of presenting to us.

This is the strong Jesus fighting for the honour of His Father.

14. Jesus demonstrated during the last hours of his life on earth the perfect way to treat your enemies. No one was ever tested to such an extreme as Jesus was. Let us look in conclusion how Jesus handled his enemies during his crucifixion:

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was confronted by the imminence of His suffering. He knew exactly what was about to happen. How is it possible that one person, even if He is the Son of God, can willingly take on all the punishment for all the sins of all the people that ever lived and will live on this earth? The meaning of anti-Christ takes on a new hellish urgency if one thinks that a person can say:

*No Jesus, I do not believe that You suffered for all my sins. I reject you and I do not believe that Your offering will be able to redeem me. I wish to work out my salvation by being good and I don't need you. Go away from me, you are the same as Buddha and Mohammed.*

Angus Buchan says the biggest insult to God is not believing in Him.

In the full knowledge of what was waiting for Him Jesus even pleaded with God to let this cup of suffering be taken away from Him. In his wonderful submission to His Father, he also prayed that God's will be done. The best token of his utmost suffering is his bleeding of Blood. *(It is called Hematohidroses, a rare clinical condition of sweating blood)*

One of Jesus' trusted friends, one of His disciples betrayed him by accepting 30 silver pieces to identify Jesus to his enemies. Not only Judas but even Peter betrayed Jesus when he declared 3 times that he did not know Jesus.

The love of Jesus was clearly shown when he healed the ear of the slave of the High Priest which Peter dismembered with his sword. What love is this to heal your enemy, the same that came to catch you, to crucify you? At a certain point, Jesus did not respond verbally anymore. It was as if He gave up. All the fight seeped out of Him. Even Herod the king could not get anything out of Him. Only the Son of God could handle the following treatment without protesting: (Luke 22: 63)

*Now the guards in charge of Jesus began mocking Him. They blindfolded Him and hit Him with their fists and asked, "Who hit you that time, prophet?" "And they threw all sorts of other insults at Him.*

At this point, the Bible remained silent with no indication of what Jesus response was.

Some other humiliations Jesus suffered are:

*1. The Pharisees tried to trap Him into saying something they could use against Him while he read their thoughts and could see through their evil plans.*

*2. Judas kisses Him to identify Him to the enemies.*

*3. Pilate tried to give Jesus a fair trial but the Jews wanted nothing of it and preferred the murderer Barnabas to be released in the place of Jesus.*

*In that action, Jesus was fulfilling His mission to pay for the sin of sinners while He was the sinless offer lamb.*

*4. In Luke 23: 31-34 we find Jesus praying for His enemies: Two other criminals, were led out to be executed with Him at a place called the*

*“Skull” There all three were crucified- Jesus on the centre cross, and the two criminals on either side.*

***“Father, forgive these people, “Jesus said,***

***“For they don` t know what they are doing,”***

If only we could learn from these liberating words of Jesus and thus set our enemies free we would also be set free.

## Chapter 19

### Conclusion and Summary

This book was written during a traumatic time in the writer's life. He had a severe loss when he lost his one and only brother. The story is an actual happening, not fiction. The reason for writing about this bad experience was to help other people living through similar pain. It is not easy to part with a close and only family member. It is even more difficult to separate when that person is still alive. It is not easy to cut that person out of your life when you occasionally are about him like seeing a photo of him in happier times. To make the pain more complex is the mental anguish caused by the rejection of the other person especially if you can know for certain that the other person made a wrong decision. When your age passes 80 you are classified among the "very strong". Many things then fall into place like knowing that you had your chance to live your life on earth and that stepping over into eternity is near. Your value system change from the horizontal, that what you pursued your whole life, to the vertical, that what awaits you for eternity; your relationship with God. Like Abraham the writer went through the anguish of having to choose between a relationship with an only brother, as Abraham had to choose between an only son, and his relationship with God, his only true God. His family placed him in a position where he had to choose. He could not have both; either God or brother. God placed a lot of Word to his disposal

and he concluded that there is only one answer: **God!- God above all!** In rationalizing his choice he went through different emotions; at first, it was hate, hate against the person who was causing all the problems. As he went through different ways people treated their enemies he eventually came to a perfect example of Jesus. He had no way out there was only one way to handle his dilemma and that was **to forgive, to pray, to love, to handle with respect those who ill-treated and rejected you.** God showed the author that there were different kinds of love and that the anti-Christ cannot be loved in the same way you love a Christian brother or sister. By praying for the culprit most of the negativity evaporated. Eventually, a calmness returned and pity for the person of the anti-Christ, the one who rejected Jesus and believed God was an imposter and a liar, the one who was to suffer for all eternity in hell with satan. God`s word did not go away and the practical handling of the anti-Christ remained part of God`s will, which included:

- 1. Be holy. Do not associate with the outspoken anti-Christ; he who rejects Jesus as the Son of God, He who redeemed sinful mankind.*
- 2. Do not greet the anti-Christ.*
- 3. Do not share a meal with the anti-Christ.*
- 4. You have nothing in common with the anti-Christ. Do not seek common ground with him.*
- 5. Do not welcome him into your home.*

6. *Someone who prefers brother or child above God is not worthy to be a follower of God.*

7. *And many more (See Chapter 2)*

***In conclusion Jesus remains the example. He that could pray when He was hanging on a cross while His lifeblood was seeping out of his body:***

***“Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing.”***

***May our last breath also whisper these words!***



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18. 366 Name van die Here
19. Gered vanuit die Hel
20. Jesus se stories
21. Hoe nou gemaak, Here? (Ahia! - Jesus is my broer.)
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