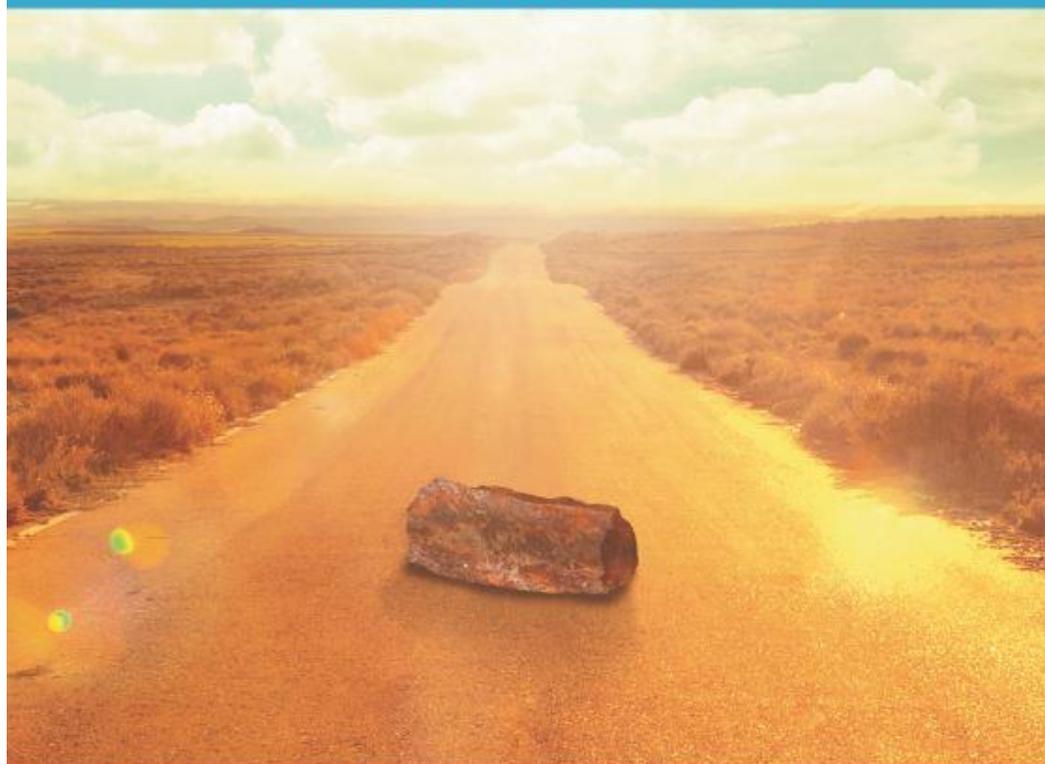


STUMBLING BLOCKS

A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

A Christian Guide With Modern Proverbs



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PREFACE

This is a guide for the modern Christian to understand what God is doing with mankind. For too long we have accepted the Christian principles as handed to us by the Catholic Church. The Catholics hijacked Christianity at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. under the Roman Empire, led by Emperor Constantine.

Later, Martin Luther realized that too many people just accepted traditional teachings of his age. He believed that everyone had the right and duty to read the scriptures for themselves; something that the Catholic priests did not allow. This was the start of Protestantism. Unfortunately, many Protestant churches carried on with much of the doctrines of Catholicism. Much of that I consider fable and misinformation.

It wasn't believed until 1844, during the Adventist movement, that Jesus Christ was going to literally and physically return to earth. It wasn't until about 1900, under the Pentecostal movement, that manifestations of the Holy Spirit were believed possible. We have come a long way from our early Christian days. I believe we are now in the end days right before Christ's return, and we should put a lot of our traditional beliefs to the test. Today, most people believe in a God pretty much without power; and trying but unable to save most of the world's people. God is not doing that. If He were doing that, it would be a done deal.

If you can possibly set aside what we were given by tradition, regarding the scriptures, you might learn quite a bit. If you think you already know what the Bible says, then this book is probably not for you. All Bible references throughout the book are the Authorized King James Version.

Be sure to read the "instructions to the Wise" in the back of this book. There are 365 of them; one to think and meditate on for each day of the year. It has a lot of repetition on most subjects, but these modern proverbs were given to me by the Holy Spirit just that way. Obviously, the more a subject is repeated, the more important it is.

CHAPTER ONE - COMPROMISED MORALS

Reasons for Moral Standards

Are there reasons for moral standards? Who should dictate these standards? Are morals absolute or relative? Before we address these questions, we must investigate our belief in God. If we have absolutely no belief in God, we will probably find very few answers. The further away we get from God the more we, in society, begin to resemble tribal barbaric pagans.

You are probably now asking: What about people that do not acknowledge God, but are seemingly good people? Granted, certain moral practices find their way into secular society as a matter of trial and error. The reason becomes obvious: Transgressions against other human beings often bring disastrous results. If we intend to stay alive, we eventually would have to acknowledge this. That seems the case, unless we just happen to hold a position of such power over others, that they are unable to restrain us. Two classic examples are people that hold powerful positions, in government, and certain employers.

At best this trial and error method, of establishing moral values, is a stumble. One look at any society, modern or

ancient, shows us this. We humans don't get along with each other for any extended period, without having a war or some other altercation. That is because our very natures are sinful and selfish.

Let's address sin. Sin is transgression against God's law. *"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: For sin is the transgression of the law"* (1 John 3:4). It is usually sin when we transgress others, but it is always sin when we transgress God. God wants us to be sinless mainly for our own sakes. God knows us and the society we live in; we will suffer greatly for sin's sake. God understands our spirits. He knows what gives us peace and happiness—even when we don't. This shows us God's goodness and love.

Those that count themselves among the faithful, should strive to remain sinless for God's sake, for ourselves, our families and our communities. Even our nation and the whole world can benefit from obedient Christians. The Lord called us the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" (see Matthew 5:13-16).

We can therefore answer the above questions as follows: Morals are important for peace of mind and happiness, also for peaceful coexistence with others. If we believe in God, He should be the absolute authority on how we practice moral uprightness. God's word claims that morals are absolute.

The writings of Solomon, throughout the book of Proverbs, show us practical applications of moral principles. We may not always agree with what is written in God's word, but it is absolute and must be discerned by faith. indeed, without faith we cannot please God. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: For he that cometh to God must believe that He*

is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

There seems to be a lot of differences of opinions as to what is morally good and what isn't. Often God's word seems to fly in the face of reason, such as “love your enemies” (see Matthew 5:44). Sometimes we should accept many of these values on faith. I started trying to apply some of these values on faith and later found amazing things happening; people all around me started changing their attitudes. They become more agreeable and peaceful. I guess it's hard to stay mad at someone trying to apply God's word to their life. God knows we can't always achieve these walks of faith by our power alone. He expects us to ask Him for help; indeed, He likes us to ask. Once we in faith start in the right direction, God makes sure our journey is successful. This shows how true the admonition is: *“And said, verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3).*

We will now take a closer look at some particular types of immorality (or sin). We will often refer to God's word to better refine our opinions, and hopefully keep us from the stumbling blocks of the world.

Lying and Cheating

Most would agree that lying and cheating are unacceptable behavior, but we should ask ourselves: Are our definitions of these fine-tuned enough to keep us from stumbling? Lying and cheating in business and friendships are addressed in detail in chapter 6: “The Greed Syndrome,” whereas adultery is addressed in the promiscuity paragraphs in chapter 2. Even with an attitude of truthfulness, there could come a very rare

occasion when it might be deemed necessary to lie for the proper cause.

We are given an example in the Bible in the book of "Joshua" chapter two. Joshua had sent spies to the walled city of Jericho. A certain harlot, named Rahab, had received these spies and hid them from the king of Jericho. She even lied about their whereabouts. This act later became noted as a good deed. *"Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?"* (James 2:25). Of course, we should be very careful not to think this could apply to everyday circumstances. The author believes Rahab's lie did not break the intent of the Ninth Commandment, to not "bear false witness." if your occupation has to do with spying or national security, lying would not be deemed a sinful act. Again, there is a fine line you can cross, so be careful.

Drunkness and Drugs

Getting high, or intoxicated, is an alluring crutch in dealing with stress and depression. it gives one a false sense of escaping these calamities. in reality, it only adds to the existing problems; and if continued unchecked, may eventually destroy your chances of a normal lifestyle. One recent report stated that alcoholism is the single most cause of absenteeism, from the work place, in the United States. Alcoholism and drug abuse, whether legal or illegal, are signs the person involved is not coping well with life's situations. Why is it so common for people to fall into this trap of escapism through intoxication? Partly because of our human nature (which is addressed later), and the fact that life takes a toll on us all.

Sometimes we wish to—or must—make decisions that we and others do not like so well. Intoxication dulls our inhibitions and senses, and thus it becomes easier to make these hard decisions. The Bible warns us of this dulling process: *"Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart"* (Hosea 4:11). The transition is not immediate; gradually your conscience will become hardened—even when sober. Ask any alcoholic: They will tell you the more they drank, the more they became able to do things contrary to their consciences. This also holds true for drug addicts; most of us know or has heard of one that eventually started stealing, to support a progressive drug habit. The use of any illegal drug should be shunned by a Bible believing Christian, always; we should be examples of obedience to the laws of the land.

Let's not incorrectly assume God's word prohibits any and all forms of alcoholic consumption. We are even advised to have a little wine occasionally: *"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities"* (1 Timothy 5:23). This, of course, does not pertain to a past or present alcoholic; or when someone is in the company of the same. They should always abstain from any drinking. The key is, have only a "little" wine: *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18). Many places in scripture we are warned against drunkenness (see 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 and Galatians 5:21). In my observations constant moderate to heavy drinking, or frequent drug use, has the same effect of hardening our consciences as drunkenness. This is true even when the user seemingly maintains sobriety. As spirit filled Christians, we must always be aware of the things that might beset our walk with Christ.

Disrespect

Respect is very important to God. God understands us and our outlook on interpersonal relationships. He knows we will not properly be able to respect Him, if we have not learned to respect others around us. It also pleases the Lord when people dwell in peace and harmony with each other. This attitude is best learned at home, while one is still a very young child. Honor and respect to our parents, which is our earliest form of authority, is so vital to God, it is expounded in the Fifth Commandment: *"Honour thy father and thy mother: That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"* (Exodus 20:12). God, in his wisdom, knows that type of respect will gain us the upper hand on the issues of life. He even included a promise of long life in this Commandment.

Another instruction also tells us how to deal with others in our community. *"Honour thy father and thy mother: And, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"* (Matthew 19:19). We are charged to honor everyone, including our leaders in government: *"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king"* (1 Peter 2:17).

I felt thieves would best be covered in this section on disrespect. What is stealing, other than disrespect for the property of others. If we had proper respect for the person, we would also have respect for their property. This brings us to the Eighth Commandment: *"Thou shalt not steal"* (Exodus 20:15). The Lord takes a very dim view on anyone that steals. God's law provides for a sevenfold restitution to be levied against thieves. Surely, this would be a strong deterrent if it were still practiced today. Can you imagine a car thief having to repay someone seven cars for the one they had stolen? It

would take a very long time for most thieves to recover from that.

Many of the ills of our society can be linked with disrespect, and the associated attitudes. Our prisons are overrun with people that do not—and will not—respect others. Likewise, our schools have become ineffective institutions of violence and chaos, instead of institutions of learning. Often the educators report the disrespectful youngsters to their parents, just to be chided by equally disrespectful parents. The problem becomes obvious: A person cannot be expected to possess a respectful attitude, unless they have been taught the same.

The long-term outlook, for such disrespectful young folks, is not very good. If their families have a lot of money, they can buy their way out of many of their troubles; otherwise, they are likely to wind up in prison someday. Once the seeds of disrespect are sowed in a family, each succeeding unrepentant generation seems to get far worse by contrast. Enough cannot be said about disrespect. Most forms of immorality can be linked to this disorder. Next, we will cover why immorality and the associated disrespect are so common.

Why is Immorality So Common?

The answer to this question has plagued mankind for millennia. Most people like to think of themselves as being basically "good." We like to think our hearts (or consciences) are inherently good, and they can be relied upon to guide us properly. God knows differently: *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Proverbs 16:25). An objective search, of the scriptures, will give us a proper perspective about our human

nature. in the Bible we are told that none of us are good, nor have we sought God by ourselves. *"As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one"* (Romans 3:10-12). Throughout the book of "Judges" we are shown some examples of human weaknesses. Judges were leaders of the people that had the Holy Spirit of God; or at the very least, God's guidance. While each judge lived and obeyed God, the people usually followed; once the judge died, idolatry prevailed. The weakness of our human nature (sometimes referred to as our flesh) predisposes us to want something, or someone, tangible to follow.

It is very hard for us to follow a God that will not show us His face. This coupled with certain evil spirits (the devil and his demons) continually seeking to deceive us, makes for some very ready traps to slip into. It takes diligence and God's help to keep our flesh suppressed and to walk in holiness.

In many instances, the Bible speaks of a spiritual warfare taking place in the lives of Christians. When Christians are first converted, their inexperience makes them easy prey. The evil spirits, that control the world system, have just become declared enemies. They immediately start hitting these spiritual "babies" with all their power. These spirits are able to transmit (something like telepathy) bad thoughts into their minds. The new Christians find themselves acting worse than ever. The things of the flesh, previously easy to control, are now spiritual traps. Usually, as they grow more experienced as Christians, they gain most of their self-control once more.

Those of the world, as unconverted, are no threat to the evil forces of this age; therefore they tend to do whatever is convenient for them. The evil spirits leave them alone, for the most part. This convenience, along with their self-oriented nature, causes these worldly people to carry out many acts of immorality. They will automatically give in to the thought transmissions of the evil spirits, being unable to differentiate these thoughts from their own. The demonic forces continually transmit such things as jealousy, greed, lust, hatefulness and selfishness: *"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others"* (Ephesians 2:2, 3). This "prince of the power of the air" (think of telepathic like thought airways) is none other than Satan, the devil, or one of his demons. Note: The word conversation in Ephesians 2 is a Greek word that means to abide, live or life.

Another common reason for immorality, occurs as a result of people becoming unable to cope with the stressful situations of life. They become mentally unbalanced and/or they resort to heavy alcohol or drug use. These things make them even more susceptible to the influence of demonic oppression. Often, we read of some heinous crime, perpetrated by someone that must have been mentally deranged. The abominations committed, seem impossible for anyone that has the least little bit of conscience. What usually has happened: demons have driven that person to commit the things that go against human nature. When someone's mentality takes a back seat because of mental illness, alcohol or drugs these demons drive that person to do things against

their will. Many alcoholics will attest to the fact they have committed something horrible, after drinking themselves into a stupor.

The presence of demonic forces is not a popular doctrine among people of the world and some professed Christians. That's because Satan and his demons, do not want their presence known. Christians, that want victory in their lives, must know of the spiritual stumbling blocks that get in the way of our receiving God's blessings. And, we must resist them. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7).

CHAPTER TWO - SEXUAL PERVERSIONS

I shall endeavor here to cover sexual perversions by their specific classifications. Each with their associated consequences.

Promiscuity

Promiscuity has become a predominate trait in modern Western society. It is currently so acceptable—it permeates most of our entertainment and advertisement media. Most young people are bombarded with sexual situations in television, movies, magazines, commercials, billboards, music videos, etc. Wherever young eyes are cast, the world usually has something with sexual overtones displayed. The message, our society is conveying to them, is they are expected to be morally loose when dealing with sex. Many of our community leaders have resolved themselves to the fact that our youth will have very shallow sexual moral standards. Everywhere we look, we find people counseling our youngsters with the presumption that nothing can be done about the sexual permissiveness they possess. The consequence is, when a young person does have absolute moral standards, they feel they are in an alien world and nobody understands them.

God's word is very clear about promiscuity (mostly called fornication in the King James Version of the Bible). *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without [Greek outside] the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body"* (1 Corinthians 6:18). Many other references clearly declare how God feels about this subject. In fact, it states: We will be excluded from God's kingdom, if we continually commit this sin. *"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not*

deceived: Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10). Then there is the Seventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Which is fornication outside of marriage, when you're married.

In recent times, many pastors and other spiritual leaders do not express to their congregations how hurtful these loose sexual values are, to the people who actively practice them. This is not just speaking of disease and unwanted pregnancies; the damage promiscuity does, to our sexual psyches, is seldom addressed. We find a whole generation of people trying to find happiness within a marriage. With their past sexual experiences and loose moral values they, and others around them, find themselves desiring something—or someone—different. This steals from them the true relationship that might have been, had their values been more in line with God. Most feed these illicit desires and still cannot seem to get any satisfaction. This often leads to sexual perversion, which usually is a product of open sexual permissiveness. In fact, promiscuity itself is defined as a perversion in God's word. This says something about our human nature when dealing with lust. *"Hell [Hebrew the grave] and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied" (Proverbs 27:20).*

Homosexuality

Sexual perversion results from promiscuity and sexual dissatisfaction. Besides promiscuity, the most likely common perversion is homosexuality. Most modern homosexuals claim that their condition is not a perversion, because they

were born with their sexuality intact. This is a teaching adamantly taught by such as Sigmund Freud (more on this in chapter 4 entitled "Psychological Deceptions"). On the contrary, our sexuality, normal or abnormal, is a learned trait. Common sense should dictate this to us, unless we are trying to justify an abnormal lifestyle. Ask yourself: If these people could not keep from this way of life, why then does God tell us not to tolerate homosexuality? We have some biblical references to establish a negative tolerance for homosexuality: *"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination"* (Leviticus 18:22). *"if a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: They shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them"* (Leviticus 20:13). *"There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel"* (Deuteronomy 23:17).

The Bible gives us two examples of whole societies becoming homosexual, and thus perverted. The first example is given in the book of "Genesis," starting in chapter 18 at verse sixteen; and continuing through chapter 19 and verse twenty-nine. This is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, and how they became evil. God finally decided to destroy these people; probably to keep their attitudes from spreading throughout the world too soon. Another example is in the book of "Judges" chapters 19 and 20. The ancient tribe of Benjamin had become either homosexual and/or promiscuous, or tolerant of these in their cities. God allowed ancient Israel to destroy them, except for a few to carry on their name and heritage.

Today, many people say the New Testament has no references to homosexuality. Let's look at that claim in more detail. in Romans 1:27 we find: *"And likewise also the men, leaving the*

natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet." Can that be anything but homosexuality? Another reference is in 1 Timothy 1:9, 10: *"Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."* Now what did Paul mean when he spoke of those that defile themselves with mankind? Paul was also speaking of homosexuals when he referred to "abusers of themselves with mankind" (see 1 Corinthians 6:9 last phrase). There are also two references of the (type of) sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (see 2 Peter 2:6 and Jude 1:7).

It does not take much time and digging to determine how God views the sin of homosexuality. Many, in today's society, feel they can mix Christianity with homosexuality; but God's word is clearly to the contrary. Should we not instead do as Paul had admonished the ancient Thessalonians? *"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good"* (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Other Sexual Perversions

There are, of course, other sexual perversions. Most everything covered in the above section, on homosexuality, also pertains to other sexual perversions. As pointed out earlier, these are related to promiscuity and sexual dissatisfaction. This is speaking in terms of initial, or first generation, perversions. As time goes on, the victims of these abnormal acts can become very much like their victimizers. It

is common for young people to experiment with sexual situations, but such things are not conducive to stable mental health. Sexual perversion results from an unhealthy mental condition. This message is not popular with people thus afflicted. The trend is to justify one's acts, rather than admit to wrongdoing. The people, trying to justify their particular perversion, can change public opinion in many ways.

Usually an older person, with his opinions already established, cannot be easily changed; but young impressionable minds can be convinced a perversion is an alternative, acceptable lifestyle. These values may be presented by a teacher or anyone that interacts with our youngsters; also, a child raised by a sexual pervert can be made to believe that their parent or guardian is normal, but different.

Child molesters are also common; probably because children are easily scared and confused. This makes them very good victims; either they do not talk or they are not believed. This unbelief, most likely, results from normal people wanting to believe that such things are so horrible that they cannot be possible. On the flip side: In certain liberal pockets, of our civilization, people go on "witch hunts" for child molesters. They sometimes generate what they call "evidence" where none really exists. They have been known to get therapists to work so long and hard on a child, to get an admission of molestation, the child finally tells them what they want to hear.

Another phenomenon, used in these witch hunts is hypnosis, used to recover "lost or forgotten" memories of past child molestations. It has been discovered, in controlled tests, that a hypnotist can suggest a memory known to be false that a

person, upon awakening, will believe that event. So strong is this suggestion that revealing the event as false will not convince the subject, even after video proof to the contrary is presented. As Christians, we should all strive to combat child molestation; but we should not construe another's behavior as bad, just because it is different from ours. Of course, God's word should be our guide on these issues. If we are broad minded enough to weigh motives and results, we will know when someone has crossed the line.

Child molestation is easily defined as a mental illness, and unacceptable to most in society. If the justification of promiscuity and homosexuality continue unchecked, we will surely see a time when this changes. God's word speaks of a time, right before Christ's return, when the molesting of children will be commonplace. *"And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for a harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink"* (Joel 3:3). This would happen if a condition of lawlessness should overtake our civilized world; we may already be near that time.

The Bible lists specific sexual perversions and God's response to them, but it is neither necessary nor expedient to go into them all. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we are exhorted to not speak of such things. *"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret"* (Ephesians 5:11,12).

More importantly, we have seen how such things come about; and that they should neither be tolerated, nor condoned. Even Christians are not immune from falling to the mental illnesses which precede sexual perversions. if you, or a loved one, have a mental disorder like this, you should seek help. If you find

secular psychologists ineffective, get spiritual counseling from someone living by—and teaching—the word of God.

Transvestism

I decided to cover transvestism last within sexual perversions, because most with this affliction claim that it is not sexually oriented. I admit, I have my doubts; but so as not to offend, it will be treated here as such. Whatever the cause, God's word must still be our authority when dealing with transvestism. *"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: For all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God"* (Deuteronomy 22:5). A word of caution is in order, concerning this scripture. Today, many condemn women for wearing pants, quoting this passage. This scripture should only be applied to someone trying to look like a member of the opposite sex, such as transvestism. We must look at a person's motives; and how society views their actions, before speaking against them. Is the Scottish Clansman trying to look like a woman when he wears a kilt? I think not. When dealing with God's ordinances, we must be careful not to instill our own ideals, instead of God's spiritual intent. We would then resemble the religious leaders of Jesus' day; they had gotten away from God's true law and substituted a counterfeit form (see Mark 7:6-13).

There is a new trend, in our Western society, for a unisex look for young people. Their clothes and jewelry look the same, regardless of gender. Girls have boyish haircuts and clothes, and boys have feminine haircuts and clothes. Their jewelry is also interchangeable. Although this is not transvestism, per se, I feel it violates the spiritual intent of the ban on transvestism. God made males and females different. He

wants us to be comfortable with that difference. We should not play it down, nor deny it; yea, we should celebrate it. We should not have to look at a young person and wonder what sex they are.

CHAPTER THREE - RELIGION VERSUS SCIENCE

The Conflict

Most people assume religion and science are—by nature—direct opposites. They believe the two supposedly having conflicting ideas are not compatible. At first glance, this appears to be the case; but upon closer inspection, a different consensus begins to emerge. As the author is not a scientist,

no attempt will be made to thoroughly cover scientific views. instead, some general observations will suffice, to make the intended points. If we wish to have a proper understanding of the subject at hand, we must first humbly admit we might not know quite as much as we think. Having done this, we open our minds up to vast new horizons of knowledge. It is very difficult to teach a person who thinks he knows everything, or even most things. Most scientists admit they do not know all the scientific aspects of their respective fields. Unfortunately, most theologians are not quite so humble; they believe they already know everything about God's word and/or His creation.

Probably the single most conflicting argument is the theological theory the earth was created only some 6000 years ago. To most scientists, this is absurd. Sedimentary rock and fossil remains point to a much, much older earth. Could this theory, of a 6000-year-old earth, be a misinterpretation? Could it be that we lost something in translating the scriptures from the original tongues? Let's investigate this with an open mind. Try to temporarily set aside your traditional understanding of the Bible's rendition of the creation and be objective about what you read. Do not believe what you read here—just because it is here. Instead, search the scriptures, ask God, then find the truth for yourselves. If God's word seems to contradict what we perceive of our world around us, it could be we have misinterpreted that word; or we could have misconstrued the facts.

God's word is true, with or without our approval. it is there for us to use, if we will just have faith enough to discern it. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect,*

thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

To better understand what the Bible really says about this subject, we must critically inspect the translation accuracy of our modern Bibles. The Hebrew word “*hâyâh*” translated to the first “was” in Genesis 1:2, can just as easily mean “became.” Now look at the first three verses of Genesis 1: “(1) *in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* (2) *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.* (3) *And God said, let there be light: And there was light.*” Verse one is a general statement that depicts the creation: A perfect, complete work at the very time it was done. In verse two, we could say that, somehow, the earth “became” without form and void. Translated from the Hebrew, are the words “without form” (*tôhûw*) and “void” (*bôhûw*). In their original tongue, both these words essentially mean the same thing: Empty or desolate. Enter the “gap theory,” which states: There could have been multiple thousands of years between the time “in the beginning,” when God did the creating in Genesis 1:1; and Genesis 1:2, when the earth was (or became) empty and desolate. In essence, the creation depicted in Genesis chapter 1, after verse 1, constitutes a re-creation. This is also called the “old earth” doctrine.

The author agrees with this gap theory, as it aligns with the true picture given us in other places in scripture. The scene, in the Garden of Eden, shows us an already fallen Satan rebelliously deceiving Eve, seemingly against God's wishes. *"Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, thus saith the Lord God; thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been*

in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: The workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: Therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: And I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee" (Ezekiel 28:12-17).

This "holy mountain of God" is a symbolic reference to God's kingdom, or governing body. The covering cherub, turned evil, can be none other than Satan. God was—and still is—casting Satan out of his government. God would not create an uneven, disorderly world. The earth became this way through gross mismanagement. God had obviously given Satan charge over all the earth, but the devil's rebellious ways brought about a major catastrophe that made an absolute mess of the planet. God then re-created the world and removed Satan from his rulership, and placed man in his stead. The devil still rules the world system; but he now does it in an indirect way—by influencing man. God had given us the history of the world, as recorded in Genesis, only from the time that man entered the picture. What had taken place on the earth, before this time, is not fully revealed nor relevant to what God is doing with mankind.

Scientific Misinformation

Do not assume the author is siding with the scientists. On the contrary, most scientific views are taken with the presumption there is no intelligent overseer for our universe. They would have you believe the wonders of nature just happened by some accidental process. There are, of course, major exceptions to every rule. Some scientists are causing a revolution in the godless concept of science; one example being the physicist Paul Davies' book "God and the New Physics." Many scientists, down through the ages, have believed in God. Albert Einstein once said "I want to know His [God's] thoughts, the rest are details." We must remember though; science is built upon by collective input from many donors. Like any other field, the small bursts of faith will be countered by worldly satanically influenced opinions.

Science can get off course and stay off for very long periods. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) gave us an early example of this. His geocentric theory, of the universe, was accepted by most people for more than 1800 years. This theory was based on the belief that the entire universe revolved around the Earth. Contrary to popular opinion, similar errors exist in modern scientific observations. In 1859, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published a work: "The Origin of Species" that expounded the theory of evolution. He claims that all higher animal forms were, at one time, lower life forms. They were single celled amoeba that somehow changed into dogs, cows and even people. This was not a completely new theory; it had surfaced many times before in published works. Aristotle had wondered if nature had a specific reason for certain actions (Physics, Book II, ch.8). In applying this to the developmental stages of parts of the body, Darwin deduced they came about by accident (spontaneous organization). The more favorable

changes were preserved, and the less desirable ones abandoned. An example was given referring to improperly shaped teeth. Other scientists wrote about, or taught, the observed changes that naturally took place in certain species. The historical sketch of "The Origin of Species" makes reference to some 34 authors Darwin had drawn from for his work. The significance of Darwin's work lies in its completeness, and its acceptance by many modern scientific scholars.

The Bible refutes this assumption. *"And God said, let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. And God said, let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: And it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: And God saw that it was good"* (Genesis 1:20-25).

Notice that the Bible states every animal was made "after his kind." The natural order of things will not allow the intermixing of species of different types, even through artificial insemination. Just try crossing a dog with a cat—it just will not work. Some might say the mule and the beefalo are different "kinds," but they are related in their main groupings. The donkey and horse are both equine, while the ox/cow and the bison/buffalo are all bovine. The offspring of

these unions are always infertile. Maybe God didn't want things to get too confusing.

This is not to say that Darwin didn't notice something going on, in nature, that one could call evolution. Many have observed smaller changes within groups they call micro-evolution; I prefer to call it adaption. We have observed cave fish losing their eyes after being in darkness for generations. Animals have radically changed their diets after being separated from their normal food supply; certain grazing bovines (cattle) would starve on the same fodder that other bovines (longhorns and bison) do quite well on. We need to reinvestigate some of Darwin's classifications of species, such as classifying apes with man as primates. There are similarities, but the differences are even greater. The mental differences, between man and ape, are far more necessary to be considered than the physical differences. indeed, mentally we were created in God's own image. *"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them"* (Genesis 1:27). Could it be that many of our social ills are the result of academia telling many generations, of our children, that they are mere animals.

The main point to remember when dealing with science is this: We must use the common sense God gave us, when assimilating any and all information. As with other topics, God's word must be first and foremost in our lives; and used as the basis to interpret all forms of knowledge. We should also consider there may be some points about God's word that we, by tradition, have misinterpreted. It takes humility to enter into God's kingdom. *"Though the Lord be high, yet hath He respect unto the lowly: But the proud He knoweth afar off"* (Psalms 138:6).

CHAPTER FOUR - PSYCHOLOGICAL DECEPTIONS

Modern psychology

Modern psychology has been one of Satan's more clever tools to deceive mankind. The introduction of modern psychoanalysis, as most practice it, started with Sigmund Freud (1856-1939). He was a psychiatric doctor that revolutionized many perceptions of how our sexuality came about. Not having been trained as a psychoanalyst, my statements will be as most laymen understand them. Freud claimed a person's sexuality was less a developed trait, than an inherent trait. He had obviously observed some characteristics in infants that do, indeed, resemble sexuality. Some examples would be: A tomboyish girl or an effeminate boy. I have observed this; and noticed that generally they have gone on to be quite normal, despite their early differences. Thinking like this, inherent sexuality, has led a great army of

therapists to "try to understand" someone that has a sexual perversion, rather than to treat them for an abnormality.

It also gives the people, with these afflictions, an excuse to not hold themselves accountable for their own actions. They would have you believe that, somehow, God had made a mistake in their case; they were born with the inability to be normal. The Lord would not allow us to condemn these people, were that the case; instead, He not only allows it—He insists on it. As covered in chapter two, God instructs us not to tolerate such aberrant behavior. We Christians do not have to openly condemn such a person. We should condemn the actions that are contrary to the word of God and moral uprightness; let those that do such things apply the condemnation to themselves. To judge people instead of actions, we would be elevating ourselves to a job reserved for God alone. The exception to this would be when we were policing our own ranks, such as dealing with those within our own congregations. We should also stand against any efforts to legalize or grant privileged status to sexual deviants in our communities, states or the nation.

Many places in the Bible we, as God's people, are urged not to dwell with the wicked inhabitants. One example is in the book of "Judges," chapters one and two. in the first chapter, we are told of how the ancient Israelites had allowed certain of the pagan inhabitants to live among them. In chapter two, there is a strong rebuke from God for allowing this. *"And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: But ye have not obeyed my voice: Why have ye done*

this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. And it came to pass, when the angel of the Lord spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim [Heb. weepers]: And they sacrificed there unto the Lord.” (Judges 2:1-5). When one ponders the reasons God might have for this, we can most assuredly determine that God wanted us to realize that their attitudes and practices will influence us, our children or some following generation. If the wicked are allowed to dwell among us with impunity, this will happen.

Granted, we are given an example where true believers just happen to be in full control of the government. Often that is not the case in today's real world; nevertheless, we should make an effort to spend most of our time with people possessing values and ideals similar to ours. We are even exhorted by God's word to watch the company we keep. *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?"* (2 Corinthians 6:14).

If we live in a government where we have the freedom to speak against these acts of darkness, we surely must do so. How else can God refer to His believers as the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (see Matthew 5:13, 14). The mistaken notion that more of our psychological makeup is inherent, instead of learned, affects our society in far more ways than simply justifying sexual perversion. Our prisons are overrun with people that have looked hard enough for an excuse for their actions, they found a society willing to hand them that excuse.

Ultimately, when a person becomes capable of committing extremely unacceptable crimes, they must be removed from society for the sake of society. Because of our weaknesses and strong demonic influences, it is a very dangerous thing to dismiss any inappropriate actions. So do we imprison lawbreakers for punishment, or for society's safety? The Old Testament Bible addresses a society that has control of the government. Many of the provisions provided there are only applicable from a governmental position. Thieves are put under the restitution system. There are provisions for imprisonment, but far less than we practice today. The prison (cities of refuge) and restitution systems are covered in chapter ten: "Perverted Justice."

Freudian psychoanalysis has caused many to believe that there is no reason to try to change us by using punishment. Many analysts believe punishment to be harmful and counterproductive to children and adults. In addressing children, this may sometimes be the case as raising children is not an easy task. The punishment that works for one child, may not work as well on another. We need to know we will not do the job perfectly, but also know children are resilient and will weather some bad parenting. The important thing is to teach them respect and show them they are loved.

Most of us do not understand our own human nature; we try to find some answers explaining the underlying rebellious ways that pop up, in our minds, from time to time. Satan influences many young minds with things that are counter to their long-term well-being; although he would not be very effective unless they found the temptations desirable. The

Bible tells us we are only tempted because we find the temptation appeals to us, or to something in our psyches. *"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed"* (James 1:13, 14).

Without the need to fully correlate just what—or whom— influences us when we do wrong, it would be far better for us to understand that God holds us accountable for our actions—and so must we. Paul explained it best in his epistle to the Romans: *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* (Romans 6:16). Willing slavery, or subjection, to righteousness is the attitude we should have to please God.

New Age Psychology

To better dwell in peaceful coexistence with the myriad of religious beliefs, the intelligentsia have introduced “New Age” thinking. The higher education institutions have, for ages, been teaching that all religions are myth. Religion is billed as something the people need for cultural reasons; often called “the opium of the masses.” Therefore, in the interest of peace, they teach tolerance for all religions. This is not necessarily a bad thing, except it was disingenuously introduced by those who tolerate no religion at all, in their spheres of influence. The author does not claim this is what drives New Age religions today, as the many followers of these doctrines are obviously true believers. Not all New Age practices are based Eastern religions; some have reintroduced old pagan

religions. All this will be more thoroughly covered in chapter seven: “New Age or Old Tricks.”

Another provision of New Age psychology is related to Freudian, or modern psychology. It states: We are all basically good people; and, if we follow our consciences, we will have the right attitudes in life. Also, if we teach children to discern right from wrong and then leave them alone, they will be alright. Let’s see what God’s word reveals to us in the book of Proverbs: *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”* (14:12). *“Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (22:6). *Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him”* (22:15). *“Withhold not correction from the child: For if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die”* (23:13). *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: But a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”* (29:15). Anyone can readily see that the word of God tells us quite a different story. Evil and our sinful ways, act as a partition between God and us.

In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he gave an admonition to a better way. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”* (Galatians 6:7-9).

CHAPTER FIVE - THE CAPTIVITY OF INSECURITY

Types of Security

Since the dawning of man, no other quest has absorbed so much of our time as our search for security. Security has preoccupied our minds to the point of overshadowing all else. Security, for most, is to gain wealth and/or acceptance. These two have a strong bond to each other. Even people not considered greedy, seek enough wealth so as not to be deemed a failure—for acceptance sake. People seek great wealth to be more desirable, and thus accepted. I will have more on acceptance a little later.

Wealth, as security, is prevalent in all cultures. Once enough wealth is achieved to guarantee security, wealth itself can become its own driving force. We have all noticed some of the very rich have kept seeking more wealth, despite the fact they or their heirs will ever want for anything. Most of us, not ever achieving this state, do not fully understand their condition. Surely, acquiring wealth is as addictive as gambling and drugs. It can drive people to become oppressive and downright evil. *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: Which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6:10).

The wealthy become so enslaved to their money, it literally becomes their god. They always trust it to provide for them. In history, food has become so scarce that no amount of money

could buy it. Like when a walled city was under siege, and the people couldn't get to their fields. At times like that, it would be better if God—rather than our money—were our supplier.

God knows how our psyches will automatically associate wealth with security. He therefore left us instruction on how to deal with it. *“Therefore a say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: For they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?”* (Matthew 7:25, 26). One must take care not to take this out of context. By saying “take no thought,” God is exhorting us to not worry. There is a difference between worrying and being a good steward—sometimes only by a fine line. We are expected to provide for our families and take the necessary actions. God promises us a solution for every need and sets it before us; we must take hold of it or be no better than bums. Therefore it is acceptable for us to plan, but not to worry.

Christians are allowed to be prosperous but must be careful when amassing wealth. It will become a trap to ensnare us into trusting in it as our provider. We must use the examples in the Bible to guide us during prosperity. How can we amass wealth without being concerned about the poor and needy among us? If we read and obey the scriptures, we will automatically become liberal givers. *“The desire of the righteous is only good: But the expectation of the wicked is wrath. There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: And he that watereth shall be watered also himself. He that withholdeth corn, the people*

shall curse him: But blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it" (Proverbs 11:23-26). The withholding of corn (grain) is given as an example of one holding back, or storing, the grain to run up prices; and selling during the off season.

Even in our business practices we are to be liberal and just. "*A just weight and balance are the Lord's: All the weights of the bag are His work*" (Proverbs 16:11). Of course, this refers to the scales used by merchants. Have you ever bragged about getting the better of someone in barter? "*It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: But when he is gone his way, then he boasteth*" (Proverbs 20:14). Maybe you should repent. God is in favor of paying a reasonable price for a product or service—so should we.

Getting back to acceptance, I prefer to stress the fact that acceptance is an expression of love. As pointed out earlier, the motivation to acquire wealth is usually driven by the desire to be accepted. Even hermits frequently have pets, to satisfy their needs for acceptance. Whether we admit it or not, we want to be loved and accepted. There are exceptions, but they usually represent individuals that are disillusioned or depressed. Sometimes people must work to be accepted by themselves; often we criticize ourselves to the point of lowering our self-esteem. As people mature, they usually rationalize that they will not be accepted by all, so they tighten their target group. Seeking to create a circle of friends and loved ones is within our human nature—it just comes naturally. This type of thinking often results in sinful behavior. One might oppress a person or group to find favor with another.

Let's look at what God's word has to say about it: "*To have respect of persons is not good: For, for a piece of bread that man will transgress*" (Proverbs 28:21). Need something from

the New Testament? *“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors”* (James 2:1, 9). To be true to God’s word, requires setting aside of some of our inherent personality traits. We are not allowed to love only those who love us or are like us.

Once we have tried this true God-like love, we begin to see how well it works in life. We are called upon to even love those who call us enemies. *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: For He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:43-48).

The Faith Plane of Security

At times, the Bible gives examples that seem difficult—or even impossible—to follow considering our human nature. This is just as it is supposed to be. Where God wants us to be, we can’t get there on our own power. Consider the following: *“Jesus said unto him, if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: And come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: For he had great*

possessions. Then said Jesus unto His disciples, verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:21-26).

This is faith: Know you have to change to please God; and if God is truly God—start that direction. The weakness of our flesh will have us on our knees asking God for help. God expects this and wants us to ask for help. If we quit lying to ourselves and realistically discern God’s word, then we are seeking God. God will not ignore us, while we are truly seeking Him. *“And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you” (2 Chronicles 15:2).*

Now, you just might be saying that this promise was to Asa, Judah and Benjamin. But consider the following: *“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: But holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:20, 21).* Basically, this means if God promised anyone access to Him for fellowship and salvation, He promises everyone the same; if they would just likewise believe it.

Is that good news? You bet it is. Now for the bad news: You can’t muster up this kind of faith. *“As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that*

understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:10-12). To whom do you think these verses are addressed? Every human on this planet, or just some very bad people? Consider this: *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: And I will raise him up at the last day”* (John 6:44).

The Bible clearly shows that God chooses us, and then equips us to serve Him and bear spiritual fruit. We may not understand this or even like it, but that is the way it is. So, what does this say about evangelism and recruiting for the church? I believe that if one’s life bears the fruits of the Spirit (love, peace, joy, etc.), God will use us to draw others.

He will use us for His work, because those in the world will see another way to overcome the prison of sin. Yes, I said prison. All unbelievers are in the worldly prison of sin. *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness”* (Romans 6:16-19). I included the 19th verse, “I speak after the manner of men” to point out how converted Christians are to view their duty. Because our flesh is weak, we must think of ourselves as willing prisoners or servants of righteousness; if we don’t, we will automatically serve the worldly sinful ways.

CHAPTER SIX - THE GREED SYNDROME

Worldly Perceptions

Our human nature leads us to the mindset of being self-sufficient. This mindset can lead to greed and many related evils. Being self-sufficient is good and should be strived for, but evil enters when fear takes over. Fear of lack drives us to try to achieve future self-sufficiency, for us and our heirs. This has been the case throughout recorded history. The people, of the world, look at our efforts and approve because they have the same mindset and similar works. The problem, with

thinking like this, is it fails to acknowledge God as our ultimate provider.

In the gospel according to Luke we are given a related story: *“And He spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, thou fool, this night thy soul [Greek breath-life] shall be required of thee: Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. And He said unto His disciples, therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: For they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: How much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: They toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will He clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: And your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things”* (Luke 12:16-30).

As you can clearly see, our so called “modern” views of providing for ourselves have been around a long time. Just look at our need for rain, which God alone controls. If we were to have a worldwide drought lasting for years, all your wealth could not buy you one morsel of food. And yet the world will not fault you for your drive for wealth; it is a tangible asset, especially for those who do not live by faith. People that strive to live by faith, will often fall back into this worldly mindset; supposing they left it in the first place.

The definition of the “successful” modern man is this: Save for your retirement and leave a legacy for your heirs. In other words, be prosperous and wealthy. This is an ideal goal; and it’s not sinful to strive for such, unless you must resort to evil to achieve it. The author believes there are cursed fortunes; fortunes amassed amid the atmosphere of sinful greed. *“He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: But he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse”* (Proverbs 28:27). Sometimes the poor can be the very heirs you intend to leave your fortunes to. People can become so addicted to gaining and retaining wealth, that it goes beyond reason. Once you have attained enough wealth to comfortably live the rest of your life; and still leave a respectable inheritance for your children, anything more becomes habitual moneymaking. Few people can avoid this pitfall.

Most tycoons continue to make and hoard money right to their dying day. Consider the following verses: *“He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him”* (Proverbs 28:22). *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: Which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6:10).

That brings us to gambling. Gambling is nothing more than haste to become rich, and therefore is the result of an evil eye and the love of money. Can one gamble and win enough to become satisfied and gamble no more? *“Hell [Heb. the grave] and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied”* (Proverbs 27:20). Get the picture? You will never win enough to satisfy the desire for more. The gambling systems are designed to take your money; and sooner or later, they will. They take advantage of your insatiable desire for more money. The states that use gambling money for their budgets are using cursed money—and it will show eventually.

Celebrity worship is common and plays well to our human psyches. The idea of doing good to ourselves and achieving wealth and fame, appeals to most of us. When good things happen to someone we know, we feel good about it. We think we know actors and other performers because they look familiar to us. We really don't know them, and objective people realize this. What most of us find appealing is that we would like to be like them, or so we think. In reality, it's difficult to always be your best while being carefully watched by the world. A bad day simply is not allowed, hence celebrities tendency to abuse drugs and alcohol. It gives them the illusion of having an edge. We somehow think they work to benefit us, when they really are only working to please themselves.

Lying and Cheating

When referring to lying and cheating, I will cover only the type committed in business practices, friendship or ownership; as adultery was covered in the promiscuity paragraphs in chapter 2. I included cheating in with lying because they go hand in hand wherever perpetrated—one generates the other.

It is very hard to cheat someone without having to, sooner or later, lie about it. When we lie, we are cheating somebody; even if only from the truth.

Concerning lying, we are given exact instructions in the Ninth Commandment: *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor”* (Exodus 20:16). God wants us to have a general attitude of truthfulness. There are many scriptures that point to this. A couple of examples are as follows: *“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: For we are members one of another”* (Ephesians 4:25). *“These are the things that ye shall do; speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates”* (Zechariah 8:16). As Christians, we should be known for our truthfulness. Worldly people make a light thing of lying. Christians, that believe in always telling the truth, will sometimes find themselves at odds with these worldly people on their jobs, in social circles and other places. Try getting a job selling used cars with your truthful attitude, you will probably find you are expected to frequently lie. Often, the situation will become unworkable. This same problem will come up in many occupations. Just make telling the truth very important to you—even to your hurt if necessary—and you will see how commonplace lying is. If you belong to a social circle with worldly people, you probably will be eventually asked to lie for a friend. We should have such a reputation, for truthfulness, that when asked for such a favor, our denial will not be a surprise to anyone.

Cheating is something some people will always be found doing, when it benefits them. Most likely, this has always been true to a point. Many, in the world, look up to a person that has attained great wealth, no matter how they got it. We Christians cannot succumb to this attitude. We should

become like our Lord, when viewing the things of the world. How does God perceive these cheaters? Let's go to the scriptures to find out: *"Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbor, neither rob him: The wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning"* (Leviticus 19:13). The wages, referred to here, are like what today would be that of temporary laborers, without a contract for weekly or monthly pay. Also note the following: *"And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts"* (Malachi 3:5). Do you get the picture? We are not to oppress, nor hold back what is due to anyone.

Also cheating in small quantities, such as tampering with a sales scale, is forbidden. *"A false balance is abomination to the Lord: But a just weight is his delight"* (Proverbs 11:1). How about talking someone down on the price of something when the original price is acceptable? *"It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: But when he is gone his way, then he boasteth"* (Proverbs 20:14).

Regarding politics, where public perception is everything, lying is the norm rather than the exception. Should a Christian gain and hold a public office? It would be hard, indeed, to balance the giving and withholding of information. There is always lying by omission, or the perception of the same. In a perfect world none of this would be necessary. It shows us how swayed by Satan is our world system. God is not smiling at even our smallest practices of cheating. The world might accept—even expect—us to cheat a little; but we Christians must answer to a higher authority than those of the world.

CHAPTER SEVEN - NEW AGE OR OLD TRICKS

New Age defined

We covered New Age psychology in chapter 4, but now we shall take a more detailed look at how it affects modern religious practices. It shall become obvious here that New Age is not really new. Many are, after becoming highly educated, turning to the Eastern religions for a variety of reasons. Some such seekers are genuine, and some are probably not. Most are obviously attracted by the idea of reincarnation as a means of achieving immortality. Immortality being the primary reason for the practice of most religions in the first place. The author is not an authority on Eastern religions but will address the issues as known to most. This reincarnation belief is prevalent in Buddhism and Hinduism.

Hinduism is responsible for its caste social system. One is not to try and rise above the place, or caste, which he was born into. This results in a segregated society that offers no opportunity for advancement. So much for one trying to better oneself. Webster's Dictionary calls Hinduism a syncretistic religion, meaning a combining of beliefs. They have many gods and probably had to combine them at some point in time, to gain a world class identity. Hinduism so firmly believes we are reincarnated that they think animals have been or will be humans at some point. That is why many refuse to kill any living thing. One village allows rats to come and prey upon their much-needed grain stores with impunity. In another village monkeys come into their houses and raid their food stores. They say they worship these animals.

Now for Buddhism. Buddhists believe that their "Buddha" high priest is reborn each generation. Buddhism emphasizes

suffering to purity. With the unpopularity of suffering, no wonder China and some surrounding countries have turned to communism to solve their social ills. In China, they had to outlaw more than one child, in order to check their population growth. This has had the result of Chinese parents killing their newborn girls, so they would be assured a male heir. Although these Asian countries and civilizations are far older than any in the West, they are progressively backward. If you take a hard, objectionable look at these countries that the intelligentsia call “enlightened,” ask yourself: has God blessed them or Western civilization more? I acknowledge that most of these Asian countries are catching up in industrialism and technology, but they still have rampant poverty. Mind you, we have poverty in Western civilization also; but on a much smaller scale. Most poverty can be attributed to “The Greed Syndrome” addressed in chapter 6.

Not all New Age practices are based on Eastern religions; some have reintroduced old pagan religions. Greek and Roman mythology are gaining in popularity; so are Celtic and Norse religions. Many try to mix these pagan practices with Christianity. Our young people are finding video games, cartoons and movies based on these. More successful in this endeavor are the voodoo cultures in the Caribbean islands, and the American Indian religion cultures throughout the Americas. The voodoo practices have followed the Caribbean islanders wherever they immigrated. In many cases they mix this with Christianity. An example of the American Indian religious culture in Mexico, resulted in Christians erecting alters to dead loved ones; and a national holiday honoring the same (translated the day of the dead). These things are common to man wanting to look to his roots. We begin to understand why God had the ancient Israelites, under Joshua, to destroy the women and children of certain pagan tribes they

overthrew. Sooner or later, they would turn to their old ways; maybe even generations later.

Divination and astrology also have gained in popularity; these are based in paganism and should be avoided. Even the science of astronomy has been influenced by astrology; the planets named after pagan gods. Astrology, with the birth signs, seems to have some validity on the surface; but so do false religions. Farmers and ranchers have, for ages, relied on astrology for planting and neutering. As Christians, we should not acknowledge that stars and constellations are guiding us. We should rely on God for guidance.

Modern Christians, under the guise of New Age, are beginning to embrace other religions as acceptable for inclusion. Especially other faiths based on the God of Abraham, such as Judaism and Islam. Claiming they are seeking the same God in their own way. What they are ignoring is that denying Jesus Christ as the Messiah and the Son of God, they err. *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, and they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me”* (John 6:44, 45). Should we, as Christians, fellowship with people of Islamic or Judaic persuasion? Judaism denies Jesus Christ outright. Islam considers Him merely a prophet, denying His part in the Godhead. This would result in having to dismiss many of the things Jesus taught. We must regard them as unbelievers. As of fellowship, consider the following: *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”* (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Many New Agers are attracted to the concept that God is inside of us, or the self-god concept. While this appears to correlate to Christians having the Holy Spirit, it does not apply in the same way. Most learned Christians realize there is a struggle of two natures co-existing when we receive the Holy Spirit. The New Age philosophy is: If we trust our own consciences, we cannot go wrong. Quite the contrary, we must learn the ways of God and not trust our inner goodness, which will let us down. Let's see what the Word of God says about this: *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death."* (Proverbs 16:25).

We have a characteristic in us called the "flesh," that wants no part of God, nor His word. Also consider: *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not"* (Romans 7:18). Many New Agers embrace those other religions in the name of peace. The practitioners of those other religions have not been peaceful, by historical account.

Another concept catching on lately is to refer to ancient masters and/or prophets. Nostradamus' prophecies are brought up by many lately. Anyone claiming to prophesy, that does not give God the credit for such, comes from the dark side of the spirit world (the devil). They probably have many accuracies, but they will also contain just enough lies to trip us up. Some people will try to conjure the spirits of long gone prophets or loved ones. The practice of Shintoism, of Japan, looks to these spirits as gods. If a person calls himself a psychic and gives not the glory to God, he are getting some spiritual help from the dark side.

The same pertains to anyone performing a seance (see Deuteronomy 18:9-14). A particular instance is shown as follows: *"So Saul died for his transgression which he*

committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; and inquired not of the Lord; therefore the Lord slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse” (1 Chronicles 10:13, 14).

Why would God have such a dismal outlook of such practices? I believe the devil and his demons are the spirits that pretend to be our lost loved ones. This brings us to the state of the dead. I will probably lose many Christians at this point, but this book is about knowledge to keep us from stumbling. Are our dead forefathers and other loved ones dwelling in “heaven” currently? Jesus said: *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven” (John 3:13).* But many say that Christ opened the graves after the crucifixion. I refer you to the faith chapter of Hebrews 11. it talks of how the patriarchs of old, have not ascended to heaven. It ends with *“that they without us should not be made perfect” (Hebrews 11:40b).* Mind you, this was written after the crucifixion.

I urge you to also read the whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 15, but note especially verse 23: *“But every man in his own order; Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming.”* Also consider the following: *“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).* So yes, I believe our lost loved ones are asleep, they have no awareness of time. Somehow God preserves our spirits for a future resurrection. We don’t know

exactly how He does this, but there are many things we don't know.

Some believe that if we meet the Lord in the air, that we will ever be in the air or heaven. The Bible doesn't say that, it says we will ever be with the Lord. Remember that heaven is wherever God is; once we meet the Lord we shall return to the earth. *“And they sung a new song, saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth”* (Revelation 5:9, 10). Even though we are on the earth, we will be in the heavenly realm; we will be spirits just as God is.

Regarding the state of the dead, many Christians pray to Mary and the other dead saints; but if they are asleep as scripture points out—they err. Many Christians talk about their loved ones looking down on them from heaven. I don't have a problem with that. If we look at God's mind, we will have to realize that God is not limited like us when it comes to time. God knew each and every one of us and our works, from before the foundation of the world. Whenever our lost loved ones become spirits and are at one with God, He will probably share with them what transpired after their deaths. So, they will be looking down on us through God's eyes from a future time.

Many misunderstandings to scripture—some call errors—have to do with God not being limited to the here and now. Even Abraham understood this: *“Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us*

all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before Him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth [Gr. makes alive] the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were” (Romans 4:16, 17). Our God transcends time.

Separation

I have already pointed out many areas where separation is needed. Consider this section a summation, stressing the importance of separation. First, a biblical reference for separation: *“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:16-18).*

I can't say enough about why Christians should be on guard against all this New Age stuff. Perhaps it is easier for we mature grownups to keep away from these New Age influences, but we must warn our children and younger adults. They have pagan gods coming at them in movies, cartoons, comics and books—they even have action figure toys. Who knows what long term consequences these will have on our society? Remember, that Satan rules this world system by influencing man without his knowledge. This was covered in Chapter 1 under: “Why is immorality so Common?” A lot of these New Age ideas are popular in higher learning establishments, so we need to realize that some of our school teachers might be pushing them at our children. We parents realize we will not be popular by taking such a hard stance—

we might even be unsuccessful. We should at least express our concern and equip our youngsters to have a healthy understanding; that these things can harm them, if they put too much importance on them.

CHAPTER EIGHT - THE RELIGION OF ECOLOGY

Ancient Religions

Probably the most prevalent practice among all ancient religions is sun worship. Most pagan religions have some type of sun worship. This is understandable, because of the importance the sun has on all our food systems. Without sunshine, we simply do not eat. Apart from Buddhism and

Confucianism, as the names of religions containing their gods, I have decided not to name any pagan gods; so I will just name some origins. Most of us know Egypt had a sun god, which was its supreme deity. The Hindus, the Shinto of Japan and many others had, or does have, sun gods.

Hinduism's highest state for humans is the Forest Dweller or Ascetic Stage. In essence, the worshiper is living homeless in the forest to separate himself from earthly concerns. Hindus' claim that the original Buddha was Hindu, because he was in the Forest Dweller Stage and practicing Raja-Yoga, when he started Buddhism. Confucianism is all over the map, as to how many versions of worship exists; but one aspect of their worship is Humanism, which states that nature is supreme. I have not found much research about Shinto sun worship, but they have a major sun god and their flag and war logos contained images of the sun. One such war logo was found on Japanese fighter planes as a red circle, thus the Allies called them zeros. Wouldn't it be more appropriate to worship the One who created the sun, rather than the sun itself.

Many pagan religions, such as the nomadic Huns of Europe, had spirits of the forest. So did American Indians, which we know a little more about. American Indian warriors would have an animal of some kind reveal itself to the warrior during a trance dream, and that animal will be significant throughout his life. American Indians also say the forest spirits will communicate with them, as the spirit of a tree or an animal. I am sure that Satan and his fallen demons will speak to us, if we decide there must be a spirit someplace. As Christians, we must avoid these unholy encounters. There is but one spirit we need concern ourselves with, and that is God's Holy Spirit.

I could delve deeper into pagan and tribal religions, but there is no need. If mankind wants eternal life or just to be closer to God, the Creator, there is but one way: *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in Himself: He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”* (1 John 5:10-13).

Ecological Concerns

Should mankind be concerned about the environmental status of the earth? Certainly, we should. With such things as global warming and the extinction of species, we must pay close attention. Granted, these things have happened way before man came onto the scene; but our presence has added greatly to these problems. I feel that mankind should only be answerable for his time on earth. There are two scientific schools of thought, on how to address these issues. One is since these things have always happened, we shouldn't concern ourselves. Then there is the consensus that we must be very careful about mankind's footprint upon the earth.

I believe the second one is the more viable. As covered in a previous chapter since the “re-creation” of earth and mankind, God has held us (mankind) accountable; for He has given us dominion over His works. This is given to us in the following: *“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon*

the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: And have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26-28).

For those of you who need a New Testament reference for this, consider the following: *“For unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Hebrews 2:5-9).* This reference, in Hebrews, implies that mankind has failed in his task of subduing the earth.

Indeed, we have failed in all areas upon falling from grace when Adam first sinned. With God being all knowing, including knowing the future, He knew of all these failings long before they happened. God also made provisions for our redemption. *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: But sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's*

transgression, who is the figure of Him that was to come. But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: For the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ)" (Romans 5:12-17).

This was very clever of God, otherwise He would have to have someone die for each and every one of us. God knew about our human nature and sin; He knew we all would have sinned eventually—thus grace by faith.

Back to environmental concerns, some carry this to extremes so it even resembles worship. “Tree huggers” are one example. The resources on earth were placed here for our use. Why would God instruct man to use certain types of wood for His temple, unless He intended for us to use the same for ourselves. Apart from old growth type woods, we have wood management systems in place that do quite well. Paper companies use mostly fast-growing pine; and they plant more than they use, so they do not run short in the future. Pine is also very common in building wood. In limited use, even old growth woods can be used without using up all such resources. There are many practices such as jungle clearing and some clear cutting, that are damaging the earth's ecosystem; and should be stopped. The best governments can do is legislate against such things and enforce those laws. If the country is too poor to enforce such laws, we can just hope people obey the laws.

Now about extremist animal views. Some people believe in the sanctity of animals, and they should never be killed. Why would God instruct ancient Israel to kill animals for sacrifices? Some sacrifices were not optional (see below). Many people, like some vegetarians and vegans, claim that man was not supposed to eat animal meat. I don't think God intended this for us. The first reference to clean meat, was given to us in the account of Noah preparing animals for the ark (see Genesis 7:2). This clean meat ordinance was already established, and was taken for granted. Obviously, God gave these instructions to Adam while in Eden.

Even Abel gave God a sacrifice of a lamb. Why would God instruct the ancient Israelites to eat the Passover lamb and other sacrifices? Eating the Passover lamb was not optional—they had to eat it. *“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, saying, if any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the Lord. The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: According to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it. But the man that is clean, and is not in a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: Because he brought not the offering of the Lord in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin. And if a stranger shall sojourn among you, and will keep the passover unto the Lord; according to the ordinance of the passover, and according to the manner thereof, so shall he do: Ye shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger, and for him that was born in the land”* (Numbers 9:9-14). So, if God instructs us to be sure to eat meat, it must be okay for us.

Granted, we Americans eat too much meat and should cut down; but it is an excellent source of protein. Also plant protein is harder to break down in our systems to be usable. Anyone going haphazardly into vegetarianism, without studying amino acids and complementary proteins, will probably be undernourished. Many children believe they can just stop eating meat and become vegetarian—they are making a serious error.

Much to the dismay of many extreme environmental proponents, mankind's footprint on the earth is acceptable with God. We are part of the ecosystem. Managing the earth and its resources should be very important to Christians, as well as all mankind. We will not do it perfectly and some things, such as use of fossil fuels, will be hard to reverse. Thank God that Christ's return will correct these failures and save us from ourselves.

CHAPTER NINE - NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY DUTY

Biblical Views on National Duty

National duty—should we participate or separate ourselves? Let's look at a couple of scriptures: *“And Jesus answering said unto them, render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at Him”* (Mark 12:17). *“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: The powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: And they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: For he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also: For they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: Tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour”* (Romans 13:1-7). It looks like we are supposed to participate. Especially in Romans when we are admonished to pay tribute, custom, fear and honor to the higher governmental powers above us.

Now how about voting? Being realistic, we will not find anyone running for any office that have our very same values. Some Christians say they will not vote for someone that might decide against their values. One might take this as an excuse to not vote at all, but surely the evildoers will take over all the faster as a result. The people, that don't vote at all, seem to be

the ones complaining the most. I believe we should find the candidate that shares, as close as possible, our values. The role of national or state government, is to maintain a civilized state based on a set of laws. Satan is hard at work trying to pervert any and all civil societies. Let's face it, he is not called the god of the world for nothing. Though the kingdom of God is not of this world system, we still must live here until Jesus comes. We should try to make a difference with our beliefs and presence. Ultimately, we will not do this perfectly; but that shouldn't keep us from making the endeavor. God won't hold us accountable if our candidate votes against our beliefs—neither should we.

I shall probably alienate many Christians as I delve deeper into this chapter, dealing with life and death issues. God speaking to ancient Israel, covers what He expects from government claiming belief in Him. Consider the following: *“If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of the Lord thy God, in transgressing His covenant, and hath gone and served other gods, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; and it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die. At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you”*

(Deuteronomy 17:2-7). Does God believe in the death penalty? It appears so.

When Christ came with the New Testament, He was addressing us on a personal level; that is what the New Testament is about. It was the Word of God, pre-Christ, that was delivering the statutes and laws to the ancient Israelites. When the apostle Steven was about to be martyred, he was telling the Pharisees about Christ. *“This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear. This is He, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai [aka Horeb], and with our fathers: Who received the lively oracles to give unto us”* (Acts 7:37, 38). Notice that the pre-incarnate Christ was the One interacting with ancient Israel. Read also John 1:1-10. If you think Jesus is thinking differently now, consider: *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever”* (Hebrews 13:8).

What about military service? Most Christians would say don't serve; or if you do enlist, do so as a conscientious objector so as not to serve in battle. I also thought that would be my case, as I could easily give my life for my beliefs. Then the Lord asked me to think of certain scenarios. Yes, God will talk to you if you are into meditation and prayer. When He got to the one about self-defense of my household, He said my house was taken over by terrorists; and they were sure to tie up the males to watch as the females (wives and daughters) were raped and killed. Then the males would be killed. If I knew this beforehand, would I do something? I told the Lord that He would have to forgive me; but I would try to stop it from happening—even if it meant deadly force. Then the Lord told me that it would be okay, but I was being a hypocrite. If I could

defend my family, I could also defend my country and/or community.

I deducted that God looks at this life as more temporal, and life and death being less important than most of us believe. We know that David, in ancient Judah, was close to God and knew His laws and statutes. Do you think that one of David's soldiers could have claimed conscientious objector? I think not! Remember, David was dealing with the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, just as all the ancient patriarchs were.

Jesus also instructed the ancient Israelites to kill off all the inhabitants of the land they were to possess. Don't misunderstand me, war is awful and gruesome and should be completely outlawed. In a perfect world, war would be unnecessary—this isn't a perfect world. I believe if a soldier is acting on orders that he carries out in a humane fashion, he can stand before God blameless. All war will cause some innocent civilians to be killed. God does not smile on this, but it is a fact of life. Thankfully, when God establishes the kingdom of God here on earth, this will all be over and done.

Concerning war, what is this saying to a nation founded mostly on Christian principles, like the United States of America? It means that we hold ourselves to a higher standard than most nations. As pointed out earlier, Satan and his demons will have a big part in how we conduct business; but we Christians will be a major counter balance holding off these evil influences. We must have realistic expectations though. As more people are represented in any given area, evil will find its way in. Remember, this world system is not ours. It was prophesied that the world, in the last days, would become more and more evil. We Americans have a lot of pride to deal with. I have searched the scriptures to see if they had anything

good to say about pride—they do not. We think God would approve of national, school or familial pride. Think about it. Pride requires us comparing or putting down someone—or something—else. We should embrace honor rather than pride. Do your best in everything you do—that is honorable.

Community Coexistence

As pointed our earlier, we need laws to exist side by side in a community. In the interest of local peace, we need to embrace this. As Christians, we should boldly not tolerate and report any crimes we witness. Having spent many years in ghettos, I have noticed a certain mistrust of police officers. Granted, many officers go bad in these places; but I think a lot of that is because of that mistrust. In the United States, the people have a lot of power over the politicians. We need to hold the mayors of our cities accountable. They in turn can bring the police departments into accountability.

This can't be done perfectly, but the citizens do not stand a chance against the dangerous armed criminals alone. What about neighborhood watch groups? I think Christians should play a big part in this. Think about it, most unbelievers are in a constant state of the fear of death. We Christians should not fear death in the same way. What should the believer do when someone, or something, evil comes against him? Consider the following: *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting [lacking] nothing”* (James 1:2-4). God knows about everything that happens to us—while it is happening. He can keep the evil away from us; but if He chooses not to, it means He has allowed it. We should consider every such encounter as a test.

Many believers might be asking yourselves: How can I pull this off? Consider the next two scriptures: *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Philippians 4:13). *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”* (Romans 8:28). We Christians should make a difference while sojourning here on earth. Now, knowing we can do all things, suppose we make the endeavor and it turns ugly. We could consider it a failure, but I would rather consider it a learning experience. Remember Romans 8:28, and our failures can even be considered good. We learn from them.

Jesus Christ gave us the New Testament as individuals. As a nation proclaiming to know God, we should look more to the Old Testament for guidance. After all, Jesus was addressing a believing nation in these scriptures. Like it or not, we are judged as a community, state or nation by how we conduct ourselves. While addressing ancient Israel, God admonished the following: *“Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: For the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away* (Hosea 4:1-3).

Does this sound like the United States of America today? With all the casinos, assaults, murders, thefts, lying and adulteries, I think I know how God views our nation. By claiming ourselves one nation under God, we are bringing ruin down on ourselves. As believers, Christians are guaranteed

salvation; but we will most likely suffer physically when our communities and nation are judged. Think about it—and pray.

CHAPTER TEN - PERVERTED JUSTICE

Modern Justice Systems

Many things covered in this chapter have been lightly touched upon, in previous chapters. I shall endeavor to cover them here in more detail. What does God say about a nation or community that takes its justice system lightly? Consider the following: *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward,*

and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him” (Isaiah 5:20-23). Does this sound like some of our justice systems of today?

Granted, we Americans probably have one of the best justice systems in the world; but it is far from perfect. Winston Churchill said: “Democracy is bad form of government, but it is the least bad we know of.” No government will fill God’s requirements completely. Again, we must adjust our expectations. Any government is comprised of mankind. Men and women, even with good intentions, will be influenced by Satan and his army of demons. We often read in the papers of corruption uncovered in a police department or a prosecutor’s office. This comes, most likely, from politics or political favoritism. Occasionally, we hear police have planted evidence because of lazy police work; or they were sure the suspect was guilty. Uncovering the truth, in a crime, can involve a lot of hard work and attention to detail. Many people are averse to this hard work or are just plain lazy.

Because justice is not carried out swiftly, it seems to be a non-deterrent to crime. Often, we hear of trials for major felonies taking place a year, or later, from the time the crime occurred. *“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil”* (Ecclesiastes 8:11). Death penalties have automatic appeals built in. This is probably just as well, as sometimes suspects are railroaded by police, just to solve the crime quickly. Along with inept court appointed defenders, we no doubt have executed innocent people.

In the United States, we are excessive in guaranteeing a suspect’s rights; even if we violate the victim’s rights in so doing. A street wise criminal can—and often does—trade

information on other crimes, so he can get out of jail and avoid prosecution. Law abiding citizens can't take advantage of this and are usually fully prosecuted. They are often given excessive sentences to set an example. Equality under the law should be the norm. Any person, serving in any justice system, should ponder just how serious their decisions are. They must realize that God is looking at our hearts and minds; we all will be accountable for our actions. *“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: But the Lord pondereth the hearts. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin”* (Proverbs 21:2-4).

Biblical Views on Justice

As covered earlier, God does believe in capital punishment. We also covered that this will not be done perfectly, and some innocent people will be put to death. Jesus Christ was innocently put to death; the rest of us are no better—or even as good. One person testifying against someone, accused of a capital crime, cannot condemn him. *“At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you”* (Deuteronomy 17:6, 7). This prevents someone condemning another, just because of a grudge. God's law requires capital punishment on far more things than we do today, but many of these deal with religious laws. The track record for including religious laws into our secular governments is not good, and today should be avoided.

Does the Bible cover things like manslaughter? Consider the following: *“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, when ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan; then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment. And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge. Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge. These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: That every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither. And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: The murderer shall surely be put to death. And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: The murderer shall surely be put to death. Or if he smite him with an hand weapon of wood, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: The murderer shall surely be put to death. The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: When he meeteth him, he shall slay him. But if he thrust him of hatred, or hurl at him by laying of wait, that he die; or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: He that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: The revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him. But if he thrust him suddenly without enmity, or have cast upon him any thing without laying of wait, or with any stone, wherewith a man may die, seeing him not, and cast it upon him, that he die, and was not his enemy, neither sought his harm: Then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the revenger of blood according to these judgments: And the congregation shall deliver the slayer out of the hand of the*

revenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to the city of his refuge, whither he was fled: And he shall abide in it unto the death of the high priest, which was anointed with the holy oil. But if the slayer shall at any time come without the border of the city of his refuge until the death of the high priest: But after the death of the high priest the slayer shall return into the land of his possession. So these things shall be for a statute of judgment unto you throughout your generations in all your dwellings. Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: But one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die. Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: But he shall be surely put to death. And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: For blood it defileth the land: And the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it. Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: For I the Lord dwell among the children of Israel” (Numbers 35:9-34). I know that is a lot of scripture, but this is important. Notice that the man that kills another without malice or lying in wait, is not held completely unaccountable. We could attribute the death, in most of these cases, as carelessness on the part of the slayer. We need not concern ourselves with the avengers of blood in our modern societies, but our laws should somewhat resemble these biblical views.

The cities of refuge covered here should be our only form of a prison system. It would simply be a city based on the honor system. If we look at our modern prisons, we will see they are full of thieves, assaulters and drug offenders.

Let's first cover thieves. *"Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house"* (Proverbs 6:30, 31). That's it—restitution. Some laws on restitution are covered in Exodus: *"If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. If a thief be found breaking up [burglary], and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him. If the sun be risen upon him, there shall be blood shed for him; for he should make full restitution; if he have nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double. If a man shall cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall put in his beast, and shall feed in another man's field; of the best of his own field, and of the best of his own vineyard, shall he make restitution. If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the stacks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field, be consumed therewith; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution"* (Exodus 22:1-6). This covers when a thief is killed during a robbery, but if time has transpired (sun risen) then he falls under restitution laws.

Some thieves today will not—or even try not—to find a job to make restitution. I say, place them in a city of refuge and give them a job that they pay back for what they stole. This scripture also covers having a man sold into slavery, but that would not be possible today. Again, I stress that there is no perfect solution; but this would help our dependence on our draining prison systems.

What about those in prison for assault or rape (another form of assault)? Consider this: *"And if men strive together, and one smite another with a stone, or with his fist, and he die not, but keepeth his bed: If he rise again, and walk abroad*

upon his staff, then shall he that smote him be quit: Only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed. And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished. Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: For he is his money. If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: He shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe” (Exodus 21:18-25). The fruit here is the fetus; if the baby dies, the man can be charged whatever the husband see fit. If the mother dies, he should be put to death. If any other “mischief” happens (bodily harm) the same should be done unto him. For assault, we could find somebody to avenge us for the assault. If the assaulter is big and bad, we could have more than one person carry this out.

Personally, in the New Testament, we could rather just forgive them for the assault. *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But i say unto you, that ye resist not evil: But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:38, 39).* In such a case, we would just be putting the punishment into God’s hands. If we have done everything right, God’s punishment will be far worse than we could inflict.

Now we will cover rape. For heinous rape, the perpetrator was usually put to death. In such cases the crime is not about sex, it’s about violence. Other cases, it becomes less definitive. We must then go to the scriptures. *“If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them*

die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: So shalt thou put away evil from Israel. If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: So thou shalt put away evil from among you. But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: Then the man only that lay with her shall die: But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; there is in the damsel no sin worthy of death: For as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so is this matter: For he found her in the field, and the betrothed damsel cried, and there was none to save her. If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days” (Deuteronomy 22:22-29). There you have it. Death to adulterers, including the betrothed (engaged) which is like being married. If not married or engaged, fine the perpetrator and make him marry the victim. Again, we cannot apply all this perfectly; but it was laid out for us to consider.

Now, we address those in prison for drug possession or other drug crimes. The drug problem has started off all wrong and has continued down the wrong path all along. There might be a better way, but I'm sure we can't get there from here. So, let us address this as though we have never let it get as complicated as it is today. For the less dangerous drugs, I feel possession alone should not be punished. The very dangerous drugs should never have come into existence; I'm not sure just how we could have enforced that.

It is the crime, that accompany the dealing of drugs, that should be dealt with on each individual basis. Maybe we could treat illegal drugs like that other drug, alcohol. We could tax them and regulate them. This will not only add to our tax coffers but will also eliminate the quality control and the black markets we now suffer. Just like alcohol, the people that want to kill themselves with drugs—just let them. Just keep them off the streets while they do it. We tried to take alcohol away, during prohibition, and that did not work. If people are determined to use drugs, they will. I always say: **You can't rule and unruly people.**

There are a lot of people in prison that do not belong there; those that are not a threat to society. None of this would be perfect in its execution and, giving our present circumstances, might be unworkable. One thing that this biblical application, of our justice systems, is it will alleviate us of our crowded and expensive prisons. When Christ comes back, we will get an idea how to work this out in our modern society. Until then, we will probably just have to limp along with what we have.

CHAPTER ELEVEN - MEDIA PROPAGANDA

Reasons for Propaganda

I have given a lot of thought, about why our modern media elites have included their agenda into their various platforms. Probably the biggest factor is the same as with school teachers and professors, they are overly educated. As pointed out in an earlier chapter, our higher learning institutions are rife with wild ideas. Colleges and universities are the birth places of secularism, homosexuality and Darwinism. The highly educated have become wise in their own eyes.

They cannot prove that God exists, so they reject Him. God would not allow us to find proof of His existence, because whoever saw this proof could believe without faith. Consider

this: *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). To diligently seek something we cannot see, is the foundation of faith. It runs somewhat counter to our natural intuition. What causes a man to seek God is to first realize his wretched state, and then to look for something better. Most believe that they are “pretty good” people just the way they are. As pointed out earlier, that is far from the case. When tragedy strikes us, we know just how fragile this life is.

Poverty and sickness sometimes make a man look for something better. This is when the average person will seek God. Newscasters are different, they are in the “show business” of news. They are paid very well, and thus are very self-sufficient. They seldom need God. They are treated as celebrities by many others, including government officials.

Slanted Opinions

The political elitists also use the media to set their own agendas. One such example is the issue of gun control. Americans have grown up with guns; it’s part of our culture. These elitist politicians use double talk and outright lies, to sway public opinion in their favor. As of this writing, President Obama has just been reelected for his second term. America has just experienced rampant gunmen unleash mass murder at a theater in Aurora, Colorado; and at a grade school in Newtown, Conn. The gunmen were apparently mentally deranged. The problem extends from our background checks; they do not now include mental illness, other than a question on a form asking about mental competence. They could lie on this form, and due to medical privacy, there is no way to check this.

Right now, President Obama claims that he isn't against the Second Amendment; but his record on appointments and his previous statements point to the contrary. He and other political elites now have fuel to attack our Second Amendment rights in America. President Obama and his cronies have recently bid for a new expanded background check system, which the NRA and other pro-gun groups claim will result in creating a gun owner database. These pro-gun groups say this is the first step in gun confiscation. The anti-gun political elites, along with some of the media, have claimed that the recent trend of Americans arming themselves will result in a "Wild West" scenario. The exact opposite has proven to be true; crime has gone down in states where concealed carry has been implemented and used.

No new law or laws will disarm criminals; they don't even obey existing laws. Do we think that we could pass a new law that will be popular with, and thus obeyed by criminals? I think not! Short of outright confiscation, will eliminate the entrenched guns we Americans own. That would result in the elimination of all our shooting sports; and destroy the firearms industry, with resulting job loss. Most Americans enjoy their guns, and many are family heirlooms passed down from their forefathers. The emphasis should be placed on the enforcement of violent gun crimes, and not on law abiding gun owners. We need to be careful here; all dictators have first disarmed the public before they took over. Other rights were usually attacked later.

About this media agenda, let's now cover the ones that are common to most all media outlets. Left leaning liberalism is the state of most television stations, newspapers and magazines. This simply means that they favor change. Change

from what? If our communities have godly values, that is a starting place. Remember, Satan owns this world system. He knows people are resistant to change; he does not try to get us to make giant changes all at once. He slips change in little by little, and he uses the media to do it.

One example of this is commercials. Product vendors realize that sex sells. They push the limits of what is acceptable, if they can get away with it. Each successful attempt is met with even more provocative efforts. The political establishment is less likely to regulate people trying to sell their products. Satan takes full advantage of that. The media leftists, being wise in their own sight, push their ideas on how to cure the world's ills.

This is the case even when religion is covered in the media. *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent [margin: without self-control], fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: From such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (2 Timothy 3:1-7). Also consider: *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”* (2 Timothy 4:3,4).

I don't doubt that many of the media elite have good intentions, but many others are just greedy of gain (money and/or power). Satan is also in the business of religion. He has many false churches that deny God's power; but have just enough truths, among the many lies, to trip us up. The Bible tells us he comes as an angel of light. *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works"* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

When it comes to politics, the leftist media elites have a field day. Nothing like a dirty politician to make a juicy story. Tragically some politicians, that have some very helpful ideas, are destroyed when some dirt has turned up about them. Sometimes when a politician is leftist, like the media, they get a free ride when they turn dirty. Such is the game. There are, of course, exceptions to media leftists. Many smaller city television stations and newspapers are conservative, right leaning or against change. As the mainstream media proliferates, most of the public are desensitized and therefore eventually changed. This desensitizing may not be immediate but is still effective over many generations. One such example is homosexuality.

The media have convinced our children that homosexuals are born that way and can't be otherwise. This leads these children to question their own sexuality, usually at a far too early age. The outcome of this is that homosexuals add to their ranks, and ultimately gain even more acceptance. It's odd that many homosexuals do not "discover" their sexual orientation until their college days. Just the very thought of their actions

is perverse to most of us today. The larger any population grows; the more Satan has his way with them.

Another juicy story scenario, for the leftist media, is a dirty or corrupt policeman or police department. They play this up big, and so they should. In a look from the other side, many cases are tried in the media such as the O. J. Simpson and the Rodney King cases. There were some police mis-doings in these cases, but most believe that the suspects got a free ride as a result. There are many stories about corrupt police; such as during the prohibition era. Most people had in mind they were going to drink alcohol, legal or not. This created a black market that brought with it more crime than we can tolerate. Organized crime, such as the Mafia, also got a boost at this time. Our nation broke out with booze smugglers and speakeasies all over. The crimes associated with the black markets of drugs continue to this day and are organized by gangs.

Casinos opening all over our nation and the gambling industry, with the associated gambling debts, also attribute to more crime around our country. How does God view the way our nation is headed? Consider: *“Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: For the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away”* (Hosea 4:1-3).

This nation, of the United States of America, is headed for a judgement day with God! Don't get me wrong, all of us will

suffer the results of this judgement—the godly with the ungodly.

CHAPTER TWELVE - LET US GET IT RIGHT

Biblical Rules for Self and Family

I have stressed in previous chapters the importance of a Christian's separation from the world system. Realize that we Christians have the Holy Spirit; that make us different from those of the secular world. I pointed out that the worldly man or woman will automatically follow the will of Satan. Satan makes his ideas appeal to their specific psyches. Being the god of this world, Satan basically has his way with mankind. But get this, Satan is just a tool that God allows to have his way with the world. God reigns everywhere. When God created man, as recorded in Genesis 1, He also put the world and its resources under man, as I pointed out in chapter 8. When God cast Satan out of heaven, He imprisoned him to the earth. When Satan was in heaven he was called Lucifer. Remember, Satan is a spirit like God and the other angels. God could have had him imprisoned on Mars, Venus or anywhere other than the Earth. He doesn't need oxygen to breath. Why do you think God placed him here, where He was beginning a new work with man?

Why does God allow evil to exist along side of us? Simply put, Satan (the adversary) is a tool that we must overcome. Consider this: *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness,*

and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” (Isaiah 14:12-17).

Satan does not have that much power. When everything is said and done, we will understand why God has done all things; but until then, we will have to accept it all on faith.

I've covered national duty and duty to our rulers. As Christians, we not only have that duty; but we must strive to live peacefully among our neighbors, friends, coworkers and families. Sometimes Satan makes this very hard. He usually makes this very hard, if we have the Holy Spirit. We must use God's word to figure out how to do this. Prayer is a powerful thing. God wants to answer our prayers, but He first looks at our hearts. Consider this: *“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: That your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:23-26).* We might just call fire down from heaven on our enemies, if our hearts had any blackness (hostility) within.

Having the powerful tool of prayer, we must have Christ-like minds. This means we will be thinking of others more than of ourselves. We would also not be wanting to heap riches upon ourselves. We should always obey the laws of the land, unless they run counter to God's laws. This was the case when Daniel was held captive in Babylon. Daniel (see Daniel chapter 6) along with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (see Daniel

chapter 3) were all sentenced to death. The Babylonians tried to execute them, but God intervened and saved them. Laws like these will seldom come up in our modern world. If they do—where would you stand?

We individually must seek God's ways in our lives, but we also must include our children and/or others of our households. *"Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth"* (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

This means we can be humble and agreeable, but we cannot be weak. Many worldly people will equate humility with weakness; not God's word. It takes strength and fortitude to live in the way of faith. We strive with the works of Satan every day. Don't let it get you down, we will persevere in the end. If you have trouble with your household, get stronger and teach your youngsters to at least respect your beliefs.

God's Coming Judgements

We will be judged individually, based on our faith; and how we apply God's word to our lives. As pointed out in an earlier chapter, we must accept Jesus Christ to have salvation. We must also have the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Once this has taken place, our judgements come daily. If evil comes against us, we must consider it a test. As pointed out in chapter 9, we should count it all joy (James 1:2-4) when we are being tested.

Yes, God even uses the bad things of life for our own good. Remember Romans 8:28, all things work together for our good. We Christians should have this verse memorized and use it every day.

I know it is hard to be joyful while the bad things are happening but ultimately, we need to see God's hand in all our affairs. Most people of the earth are not going to be judged individually, at this time. We can be very good people but still not be allowed into God's kingdom. Without the Holy Spirit, God is not working with the individual on spiritual matters.

Now, God does judge us as a community. As earlier stated, these communities might consist of believers and unbelievers. We believers will suffer the same fate as the unbelievers, but it will be for our overall spiritual good. We Christians belong in our communities, and we should make a difference because of it. When bad things are happening all around us, we need to express our disapproval. In a democracy we should be able to input our values, into our communities, to some degree. The more evil this world becomes, the more we will have to fight for our right to have our say.

Ultimately, as the end of the age draws to a close, we will be less and less effective. Yes, I did say the end of the age and not the end of the world as commonly taught. Let's take a closer look. When Jesus Christ was talking to His disciples, He spoke of the end times. *"And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"* (Matthew 24:3). The Greek word for world here is *alon* (phonetically pronounced ahee-ohn') which should be translated as age.

Also consider this: *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years”* (Revelation 20:4-6). As I pointed out earlier, this thousand year reign will take place on earth (see Revelation 5:10).

Nations and the whole world will also suffer God’s judgement at the end of this age. The United States of America along with Britain will, I believe, suffer judgement before the rest of the world. Why is that? We have called ourselves followers of Jesus from the start. This has serious ramifications. Our countries were founded mostly on Christian principles; we have recently strayed from those foundations. We lately have served the world by acting as a worldwide police force; countering evil dictators that perpetrate human suffering on their people. This obviously pleases God.

I believe our national pride and our sinful ways, will be shortly dealt with by God. I believe the rest of the world will not mourn our demise, like they should. With the exception of most Israelis, almost all of the world despise Americans. I’m sure this does not please God. Many of we Americans act like the world should bow to our presence, while traveling abroad. We surely have been blessed, but our pride will be our undoing. Like it or not, the whole world is in trouble with God.

For the first time in history, with nuclear weapons, we now have the capacity to completely destroy all life on earth. No weapon devised by man has not eventually been used.

Prophecy describes what looks like what we know as a nuclear winter. *“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: For the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: A great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: The land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them”* (Joel 2:1-3). This is the same time described in Revelation. *“And I beheld when He [the Lamb] had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind”* (Revelation 6:12, 13).

Christ’s second coming will stop the nations, of the earth, from destroying each other. *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: But for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened* (Matthew 24:21, 22). God will intervene before this world’s governments destroy themselves. Nevertheless, most will be killed off before this happens (see Mark 13:14-20).

Now let's speak of those that believe that there will be a secret "rapture" of God's believers. They believe this "taking up" will take place at the beginning of a 7-year tribulation. This was all deduced from Revelation's somewhat figurative language. The word rapture appears nowhere in the Bible. From my understanding, the secret rapture was taken from Revelation chapter 12. Here it states that the woman, symbolically the church, will be hid "in the wilderness" for three and a half years. Satan then sends waters, symbolically people, after her in the wilderness; then God causes the earth to open and swallow the waters.

I can't see where this "wilderness" could be construed as heaven. For this rapture to take place, Christ would have to come a third time. The Bible clearly calls it a second coming. What actually happens is Christ will encircle the earth showing His power and glory; then He will finally touch down on the Mount of Olives from where He left. Consider: *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey"* (Acts 1:8-12).

When Christ touches down on earth, at the mount of Olives, we saints will be with Him. Those that were dead in Christ will be resurrected while He circles the earth. At the same time,

those alive in Christ will be changed into spirits. When this happens, the whole world will know that God exists and will be very afraid of that fact. *“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”* (Revelation 6:14-17). At this time, they will see and feel God’s power and glory.

Also notice Jesus’ account of this time: *“Then if any man shall say unto you, lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: Behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: And then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect*

from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”
(Matthew 24:23-31).

Christ’s second coming will not be a quiet, unnoticed event. Let’s pray and hope we will be ready. Notice the carcasses are being consumed by vultures (eagles). God’s people will not be raptured to heaven before this tribulation. In fact, probably many will be killed during this time; but no matter, that won’t hurt a spiritual hair on our heads. Whether we are dead or alive and changed at Christ’s coming, we are still His people. *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years”* (Revelation 20:6).

Many professing Christians believe that God is trying to save as many people as He can, before all this happens. I don’t think God ever tries anything! God either does, or He does not. Is He that knew all of us, and our works, from before the foundation of the world, trying something? I think not! Did Jesus say He wanted the gospel preached to all the nations for the purpose of salvation? Consider the following: *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: See that ye be not troubled: For all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers [different] places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: And ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of*

many shall wax [Gr. grow] cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matthew 24:4-14). You see that? The gospel preached for a witness. A witness can be for you or against you.

I think most people that will be saved, will be during a coming judgement period at the very end. Let's paint a picture. In Revelation 20 versus 1-3. Satan is bound and thrown into the bottomless pit for a thousand years; in verse 4, God's saints rule the earth for this time. Now notice: *“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection”* (Revelation 20:5). After this 1000-year reign, God will resurrect the rest of the people of the world. All the people that had not received the Holy Spirit and overcame Satan. Many of these people are today's professing Christians that thought they had salvation. How will Jesus address these people once they are resurrected after the thousand years? *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: Depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matthew 7:21-23).

Now notice Revelation 20 verses 7 and 8: *“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: The number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”* Why do you suppose God would let this happen, if He were not using it for His purposes? This is a period, when God will fill the earth with all the people that have lived down through history. He will give them all the Holy Spirit and let them overcome Satan for themselves.

We will have a historical account of the world, under Satan, for 6000 years; and 1000 years doing it God's way. The difference will be astounding. But it says Satan will still raise an army, during this time, to go against the saints. I guess some people will never learn. I believe this time period will last 100 years. *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: For, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: And the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: For the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: For as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: And dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord"* (Isaiah 65:17-25). This will be a period, the "little season," that Satan will be released.

This is not a popular doctrine among today's Christians. They would rather think that the God of love will condemn everyone that couldn't quite cut it with Him. Not everyone will have the same chance to serve God during this judgement period. *"And he said unto them, in what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye*

depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Mark 6:10, 11). I’m not sure how these differences will manifest themselves—but there will be differences.

It seems that when we live a good life this time around, it will be easier for us in the judgement. We must be careful though, because if we have seen and heard much and still were evil, we will be handicapped in the judgement. How much have you seen and heard? Another point I would now like to make is the fate of the sinner. Remember, God defines Himself as a God of love. What does scripture tell us will happen to sinners? *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).

Most Christians believe that death means everlasting life in the lake of fire. I believe that death means death! We cease to be, all our consciousness will be gone. What happens when a living person is tossed into a lake of fire? They die! Would a God of love want people to be tortured forever? Satan will be also tossed into the lake of fire; he might be tortured forever, but I believe he will die too. What happens to Satan, an immortal spirit, is not relevant to the fate of the people of earth. We are now living in the last days, when many prophecies will be unlocked. God wants His elect to put away the traditional fables handed them about Christianity. God would not have us be ignorant about what He is doing with mankind. I have pointed out that God is all powerful and loving. If this book has touched you in some way, start seeking this God of love. If He does not choose you to serve Him at this time, you will have a chance sometime. Do not serve Him just because you are afraid of hell fire. By the way—don’t be evil—it just might hurt your chances come judgement.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WISE

PART ONE

1. Love is established by caring minds; caring minds are perfected by finding a need, and fulfilling.
2. Lost and darkened lives need illumination; enlightenment is illusive; share your wealth.
3. Life is freedom from death; light is freedom from darkness; freedom is willing captivity, to the source of light.
4. To set one's heart on wealth is to deny the Giver of prosperity; give to obtain.
5. Peace is far from those that fail to discern right from wrong, and choose accordingly.
6. One who is truly wise brings healing and joy to many lives; wisdom is not self centered.

7. Patience and diligence makes one an example to the inexperienced; many eyes are opened.
8. A sound mind and unburdened conscience are available to all who seek with perseverance.
9. Hope and joy are irrevocably linked; through them the wise become confident, thus strong.
10. True wealth comes not by deceitfulness and greed; a sharing soul is rich indeed.
11. Vain speech and immature behavior will strip the prudent of their honor.
12. One's ideals are established by patterns of thought and speech; one becomes these ideals.
13. Security and safety are not tangible; what the eyes see is not always true.
14. There is no pleasure in vengeance; one who holds to anger and hostility will be consumed by the same.
15. Emptiness and despair befall all that think only of self; every being is a part of society.
16. The needs of strangers, orphans and widows are the responsibility of the collective community; this practiced brings prosperity.

17. To wholly trust in the conscience of self is an exercise in self destruction; prudence is not inherent in mankind.
18. Wisdom and the ability to walk therein are refined by time, experience and trials.
19. By the strength of hand one does not dwell safely, but by good judgement and honesty.
20. Truth and fairness are married to peace and prosperity; dwell inequality and live happily.
21. For the want of hope and unfulfilled expectation, one becomes wasted; the spirit is desolate.
22. The oppressing and belittling of friends and neighbors renders unhappiness to the doer.
23. Several attempts will shun failure; perseverance and experience will eventually succeed.
24. Love and sharing are inseparable; if you care for others, care for them when they are in need.
25. All the wealth of the world cannot be compared to the joy of a child raised properly; such is wealth of spirit.
26. Pride is self-exaltation at the expense of others; honor lifts one at the cost of no one.

27. One who is easily offended is often begrudged by many; release your hostility to the wind.
28. Those that work hard shall have plenty; one that is lazy will many times suffer lack.
29. Perverted and wicked people will bring a nation to its ruin; kind and caring people will exalt the land.
30. In a marriage, trust is better than mistrust; fidelity in a relationship is of more value than wealth.
31. Avoid hasty solutions to complex decisions; much advice and study will profit the outcome.
32. To recklessly pursue gain is the folly of the unwise; deal justly with all, and you will be established in prosperity.
33. It is foolish to always seek pleasure and entertainment; seek knowledge and understanding to live long.
34. One who searches for love in a strange bed does not have an adequate definition of love.
35. A pleasant word and a humble spirit will turn people from their anger and wrath.
36. One who is truly prudent in his ways, cannot amass wealth to self while the poor suffer lack.

37. During a time of anger refuse to speak a word, for one is condemned or established by one's words.
38. With the aged lies true knowledge; experience mixed with respect makes a fitting teacher.
39. Patience is truly a sustainer of those possessing it; hastiness is counted as a loss to the exerciser.
40. The young person perceives attained knowledge sufficient; the wise will always hunger after knowledge with understanding.
41. Vain are the thoughts of one who looks at beauty as an all important trait; true beauty encompasses the total being.
42. Cheating is never prosperous; one who deals fairly with all, lives in safety with contentment.
43. Do not despise correction; instruction is received of those that look at criticism in a positive manner.
44. Prudence is justified by those that walk therein; the wise are those that uphold society.
45. Youthful pride is a trap for the one who harbors the same; always listen and learn.
46. One who keeps control over the tongue is a peacemaker; a careless tongue subverts peace.

47. Justice and equitable judgement are far from the people that look not to God for knowledge and understanding.
48. Wisdom will show the way to life for all that possess it; real wisdom comes from the Lord.
49. The love of money is a trap that ensnares all mankind, except for those who wholly trust in God.
50. Those that point the finger and scoff at others, will be rejected by the Giver of peace and prosperity.
51. One that walks in truth and integrity, will stand strong in the day of adversity.
52. Those that withhold a share from the poor, will cut off their descendants from a bountiful inheritance.
53. If one believes his knowledge is irreproachable and his understanding will never fail, he thinks foolishly.
54. Young minds think physical attraction completes a relationship; one should establish standards before physical attraction takes hold.
55. All work is profitable to some degree; even failed attempts have value as instruction.
56. Acknowledge the Lord as the Sustainer of the earth, the Giver of prosperity and health; and you will be fulfilled.

57. Those that withhold a fair wage and overcharge on interest shall be repaid for their evil ways.
58. A job done in haste usually must be redone; a well planned endeavor is more frequently successful.
59. A rebellious attitude will rob even the strong of their life; their hope shall dry up and become as nothing.
60. Both the innocent and the guilty will suffer in a society where evildoers dwell with impunity.
61. To be given prosperity from the Lord, one must not lie for gain, nor oppress others for profit.
62. Those, that perceive the power of the Most High; and walk accordingly, will be confident when trials or affliction confronts them.
63. Do not establish yourself as judge of another; if they are trying to walk uprightly, encourage them, otherwise avoid them.
64. As young people support each other in rebellion, so will they help each other pave the road to destruction.
65. A true friend not only rejoices with you in your prosperity, but will also support you in your time of need.
66. The young person not deceived by physical attraction, will choose a mate wisely; one who is swept away at the first glance will suffer.

67. The diligent will be rewarded for their efforts; but those that are lazy and prone to quit, will bring shame to themselves.
68. Do not despair at life's disappointments, do your best in each of your daily circumstances and you will walk approved of the Most High.
69. One who gets angry quickly and frequently, has a troubled spirit; this one's health will suffer also.
70. Those that look to the needs of the poor will receive a blessing from the Lord, the Provider and Protector of all.
71. When young people band together in great quantities, pride and lack of good judgement will often prevail.
72. The one with a lying tongue, will bring trouble upon their own head; and eventually, will be scorned by all.
73. Those that perceive all knowledge has its foundation established by the Creator, will be wise.
74. Be wary of those that flatter with the mouth, in order to gain your trust, lest they often take advantage of you.
75. Young person, if you remain diligent and do not despair or grow discouraged, you will accomplish much.

76. Those that seek peace and do not insist on having their own way, will be blessed in every area of life.
77. Seek not after fancy clothes and hairdos, for beauty involves far more than the outward appearance.
78. Depression and despair will overcome you only if you allow it; instead grow more determined.
79. Only the simpleminded seek the luxurious and elaborate; these things bring no happiness nor peace of mind.
80. Seek not after riches and fame; it is better to seek life and health which come from God.
81. The young person that seeks new horizons to escape troubles and worries, lacks understanding.
82. A child is a great treasure and well worth the time and effort to raise properly, and impart correction when necessary.
83. Acknowledge the Creator in all that you think and do, and you will dwell in prosperity and be delivered from those that seek your hurt.
84. One who strives to keep peace with all, will be looked on favorably by the Almighty.
85. A good wife knows her place in the family unit; she is compassionate and always looking to the needs of others.

86. If you are increased with substance, remember the poor and needy in their time of lack.
87. A child that is respectful is of more value than much money, and should be desired more than wealth.
88. One who holds fast to wisdom, will obey the laws of the land and strive to live at peace with all.
89. Remember the blind, the lame, the poor and needy before you squander your increase on pleasure and entertainment.
90. The perception most have of their attractiveness is distorted; try to make yourself presentable then think no more about it.
91. People that often accuse others of wrongdoing should first take a long, hard look at themselves.
92. A rebellious nature belongs to the foolhardy; one who will have life and peace will seek a repentant spirit.
93. Say not to yourself: "I have much money, I am secure"; for only God can supply all your needs in any circumstance.
94. Those that glory in self pride will bring harm to their families; even to their descendants.
95. Weigh everything you do by its effect on the whole of society; refrain if it is harmful.

96. Show the Lord your thankfulness by sharing your increase with those less fortunate than yourself.
97. It is expedient for the young person to carefully consider the advice of those more experienced.
98. Avoid procrastination; do not put off what must be done; there is great reward in a job well done.
99. If you find yourself often saying degrading things to others, inspect your heart for your motives.
100. All worldly wisdom will come to nought; one who looks to the Creator and trusts Him with all his heart, he shall have life.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WISE

PART TWO

1. Consider how plants and animals reproduce themselves; who can fully understand these processes, but God.
2. All green plants grow by the hand of the Lord; they feed every living creature, either directly or indirectly.
3. The environment is balanced most delicately; all must consider how their actions affect the world as a whole.
4. The one that wastes resources will be a trouble to everyone; neighbors should always consider one another.
5. The human brain is a miracle indeed; being physical and spiritual, it is capable of storing more information than one can determine.
6. Before doing anything that affects the environment, ask yourself if the wildlife will suffer as a result.
7. Solitude and silence are great treasures, when one needs to plan or meditate.

8. Honor is to be strived for at all times, but pride should be shunned and rejected always.
9. Speak a kind word to someone in distress; when it's your turn to endure an affliction, maybe someone will return it.
10. Acknowledge God when you are in prosperity; so shall your increase continue proportionately.
11. Insisting on your own ways and comforts will bring you into conflict with many; love is fore bearing.
12. Those that constantly bombard you with flatteries are not sincere; true praise comes with much thought.
13. When people say to themselves: "With wealth, I will find happiness, "they walk in the way of vanity indeed.
14. It is more pleasant to one's spirit to be helpful and friendly, rather than discourteous and hateful.
15. Laziness leads to poverty and lack, but diligence will take you in the paths of prosperity.
16. Honor the leaders of your nation as much as is possible while obeying the Lord, for this is good in the eyes of God.
17. There is much to be gained living by the word of God; yes, more than all the wealth of the world.

18. Respect and trust God with all your being; then you shall become wiser than all your contemporaries.
19. Correct your children while they are young, lest they grow too rebellious to live.
20. A society that fails to care for their poor and needy, is destined to crumble into obscurity.
21. Subverting justice to extort bribes, will bring destruction upon the doer and his descendants.
22. Neither by a strong army nor superior weapons will a nation be delivered from its enemies, but by the Lord.
23. Those that speak harsh words to others, will cause the bad they wish for others to return to themselves.
24. One that decides a matter before fully hearing both sides, does so to his own shame.
25. Parents, instruct your children in the ways of righteousness; that they may have health and prosperity from God.
26. Speak no evil against your neighbor, for the evil that you put forth shall turn and visit you again.
27. They that are wise in their own eyes are not likely to grow in wisdom; the truly wise will continually seek understanding.

28. They that run to and fro worrying about their livelihood, realize not that God is the Supplier of everyone and everything.
29. Children are a blessing from God; be sober and vigilant in raising them properly.
30. So vain are the thoughts of mankind that after having achieved enough wealth to sustain, all continue seeking gain.
31. Honor your parents and the aged; within their minds are treasures of knowledge, ready to be passed along.
32. A foolish person is also a person of many words; prudent people are also listening people.
33. Children taught to respect and obey their elders and their communities will grow into responsible and productive adults.
34. Honor your rulers while they seek equity and good judgement; support and encourage them.
35. The ways people seek to find happiness are ill defined and unobtainable; only God can give us true happiness.
36. Give some of your time and substance to those in need; then you will be blessed by the Giver of all things.
37. Bring punishment upon evildoers swiftly, lest they set their minds to multiply their deeds.

38. Upon all that trust in the Lord are blessings; these blessings are spiritually discerned and can truly be claimed.
39. Disrespect hurts not only individuals; but makes for unfit communities, cities and nations.
40. The human spirit becomes depressed with idleness; keep busy to stay vigorous and fully functional.
41. Moral indiscretion hurts not only the doer, but the whole society in which the perpetrator lives.
42. Young person, do not keep company with evildoers, lest their punishment fall on you.
43. The elderly, in need of care, are the responsibility of their families; with this lacking, let those that would please God take this burden.
44. They that exalt themselves against their rulers and leaders, shall be scorned and made ashamed in the end.
45. Teach your young ones to respect authority and to be patient with their friends, lest they grow up with hostility.
46. A respectful child will bring much honor to a family, while a disrespectful child will bring nothing but shame.
47. When people treat you wrongfully, release your anguish and frustration to the wind; hostility will destroy you.

48. When making difficult decisions, seek trusted opinions, for through much advice your choice will prosper.
49. Those that think they have all of life's answers, will stumble often because they lack understanding.
50. Time and chance take their toll on all our lives; it is best for us to trust in God, so will we live in spiritual peace.
51. Perseverance and hard work will reap prosperity as sure as laziness will reap lack.
52. Those that deal falsely with their neighbor, avert justice and heap punishment to themselves.
53. Remember the poor and needy when you are dwelling in prosperity, for one day you may be in their stead.
54. The Lord will not hold back the good things you desire in life, if you commit your ways wholly to Him.
55. To leave behind an honorable name is better than leaving much wealth, riches alone will not establish the heirs.
56. A kind word will dispel anger and suppress an argument from the most hostile of adversaries.
57. Those that have the knowledge to walk uprightly and yet refuse, will be utterly cut off from life.

58. A few choice words fitly spoken are always far better than the constant running of the mouth.

59. One who toils day and night to gain security, makes their livelihood a self-imposed prison.

60. One is better off with a bowl of beans in the company of loved ones, than to have the finest delicacies with depression.

61. Children exhibit much foolishness while growing; concerned parents will correct their children often.

62. Charm and good looks will only make you hard to bear; humility will make you pleasant natured.

63. Those that try to please and trust in God, will have healthier, happier, more prosperous lives.

64. Be not dismayed and confused when evil strikes, stand firm and trust in God for deliverance.

65. The wicked think their punishment won't come because it is not executed swiftly; the Lord will punish them in due time.

66. The way of peace does not come naturally to humankind; only God shows the way to true peace.

67. Fair weather friends are everywhere, but who can find a faithful friend that will back you through life's storms.

68. One shall surely prosper in all ways, if one keeps sound judgement and oppresses no one in their cause.
69. Being disrespectful by polluting and littering a community is dishonoring the inhabitants therein.
70. Those that slander and belittle others with their mouths, heap to themselves a cursing from the Lord.
71. Love is not found in the arms of a stranger; like a tree, true love grows when given nurturing and time.
72. Do not quickly get angry; give yourself time to think and, if possible, turn away from wrath.
73. A young woman without discretion makes her life as useless as a bucket without a bottom.
74. Treat your neighbors with respect, kindness and helpfulness; and you will always have a friend near you.
75. Invest in helping some poor or needy people; seize a chance at pleasing the One that watches over them.
76. Those that are kind to their pets and animals, are also kind to God; for He created them all.
77. Deep within the human mind hate and hostility dwell without our knowledge; carefully inspect your attitudes.

78. Do not compare the mind of God to the human mind; not one person was needed to advise Him when He formed the universe.

79. Anyone carefully pondering the Lord's word, can perceive the very character of God contained therein.

80. Just as there is competition without the degradation of the opponent, so is honor without pride.

81. Most will speculate and make plans for the future; nevertheless, it is God alone that determines tomorrow.

82. The way of love is not always the most peaceful way of life, but it is the most beneficial.

83. Repay kindness for evil, and often you will see the strongest of enemies turn friendly.

84. It is easier to separate the salt from sea water than to remove from fools their multitude of words.

85. Those with confidence in their abilities and the perseverance to overcome their failures, will truly excel in life.

86. Children that grow up rebelliously bring shame to their fathers and mothers; they dishonor their families.

87. Youthful desires are full of vanity and foolishness; a youth would do better to draw from a more mature perspective.
88. Those that trust in God will have peace of mind, because they shall be delivered from all their oppressors.
89. A young woman without discretion, can be compared to a fawn tied to a lion's den.
90. People make plans, take precautions and systematically prepare for battle; not realizing the outcome is determined by the Lord.
91. Always help the strangers coming into your community; grow not weary in kindness, and God will surely remember you.
92. The person that refuses to take part in popular opinions and sets out to understand matters, will realize their goals.
93. A society is headed for extinction once its members let their morals grow lax, and deal falsely with one another.
94. Setbacks and failures should be considered temporary; grow and learn from these maladies so common to all.
95. In the house that dwells in love and knowledge, evil cannot take root and hostility will not last.

96. People are misguided when they expect their dreams to be realized instantly; good things are usually slow in coming.

97. Foolishness and mischief are in the minds of youngsters, but swift and painful punishment will remove it from them.

98. Good deeds give prosperity and long life to those who are respectful and humble.

99. Many are there in need of an ear to listen; those that walk in love, will provide such.

100. Seek God with all your heart, mind and soul; and He will be found of you; forsake Him and He will forsake you.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WISE

PART THREE

1. Those that live their lives respecting the Lord, will achieve the successes they desire.
2. Peace is achieved by everyone involved while striving, with diligence, to settle an issue.
3. The person, wise in their own perception, will often stumble on the pathway through life.
4. Those that overindulge in wine and liquor, only detract from their creditability with their peers.
5. Time and chance happens to everyone in the earth, but a blessing comes from the Lord.
6. The days are vain and full of worldly distractions; we must strive to keep God's kingdom our first priority.
7. If someone deals unfairly with you, stand firm and state your case peacefully; if that fails, leave it with the Lord.
8. It is better to live in a small shack where there is love, than in an elaborate mansion with continual strife.
9. Trust God to supply all your necessities and acknowledge Him in all things; then you will have peace of mind and prosperity.

10. To express your love for God: show love to those about you, made in His image.
11. If left to follow their consciousness and their greedy ideas, no people will live in complete harmony with others.
12. The elaborate schemes and dreams of people are often shaded with the greedy, self centered human nature.
13. Praise and honor belong to the Creator and Sustainer of all; give God the glory due His greatness.
14. Those that seek to live in peace and harmony with everyone, will be looked on favorably by the Lord.
15. The youthful mind is proud, arrogant and hard to tame; wisdom comes with experience.
16. Labor is good; whether dexterity with the hands or creativity with the mind, it is profitable.
17. People will not live at peace with one another if left to their own ways; the true path to peace is known only by God.
18. One who carries about rumors and gossip will be cut off with an abrupt end; give no heed these talebearers.
19. Fair business practices and keeping control over self greed will establish one's business in solvency.
20. Those that slander and belittle others, slay themselves by the words of their own mouths.

21. People that sneak, cheat and lie will be revealed before all; they will be brought to shame and dishonor.
22. Youngsters will grow foolish and disrespectful if they are not corrected for their scornful ways.
23. When facing opposition, take care not to be degrading or hurtful with your words, lest you reap the iniquity of your own mouth.
24. The one that walks with a respectful mind and a repentant heart, the Creator in no way will despise.
25. It is wise indeed for one to shun trends and fads that lead to extravagance and waste.
26. In vain does a person work extra-long hours without rest just to secure a proper living; a trust in God as Provider is more expedient.
27. Woe to the community that turns a deaf ear to the needy; eventually their ways will bring about their own ruin.
28. Do not abuse your livestock nor your pets; the Lord will not hold the abuser of animals blameless.
29. Those that are friendly, helpful and do good to their neighbors, will seldom lack a helping hand when needed.
30. When your enemies come against you and you are making your counter plans, remember victory comes only from the Lord.

31. A loose woman is much like a quicksand pit; a death trap for those not guarding their ways.
32. Quick wealth and instant prosperity are soon squandered; wealth gathered with time and patience, will be blessed.
33. Entertainment and exercise are good; but unless they are kept in their proper perspective, and limited, they could dominate your life.
34. The ways of greedy people lead only to want; all they heap to themselves will be given to the charitable.
35. Many are the friends of the rich; few are they a poor person can turn to in a time of need.
36. A fool is harder to separate from his many words, than a tortoise is from its shell.
37. It is good for one not to speak anything when angry; that is when the worst of your nature shows.
38. Young person, forsake your youthful pride and lustful ways; then your life will be a shining beacon, that will draw many.
39. Respect for other people and their property is the first provision for establishing a sound community.
40. Evil people seek to slay the upright; in the end the Lord will repay their evil with evil.

41. To obtain understanding is to obtain life; one must perceive its relativity to everyone and everything.
42. Even if mankind accumulates wisdom so as to measure as a high mountain; as the stars are higher than the mountains, so is the Lord's wisdom than ours.
43. A meek and caring spirit will withstand hard trials, while the proud and arrogant will fall again and again.
44. A diligent and hard working society will reap prosperity and happiness; a slothful society will have poverty and despair.
45. A child raised to walk with respect and uprightness, will be a wellspring of life to all they meet.
46. Making the problems of another your problems, without seeking any kind of gain, is the true way of love.
47. Those that give their help and substance to others in need, will never lack anything; those that hold back what is good, will suffer lack.
48. Always respect your parents and listen to their instructions, otherwise your life will be cut short.
49. The person that insists on increasing their wealth while knowingly oppressing the poor, will be repaid in like manner from God.
50. They that fight and argue with their neighbors for no valid reason, will heap destruction to themselves and their families.

51. Those that tell lies about their friends and neighbors, set a trap that they themselves will fall into.
52. To obey the Creator and help someone in their time of need, are the only things spiritually profitable.
53. Hope, expressed in dreams and goals, will lift one's spirit from depression and despair.
54. Through affliction are great minds and characters built; an easy going life is unprofitable to the spirit.
55. Hope, in achieved goals, keeps a person's spirit lifted; depression sets in when hope is forsaken.
56. When in prosperity, do not forget those in need of their basic necessities, lest your prosperity gets cut short.
57. Lessons learned through much trial and tribulation, are the most understood and the least forgotten.
58. The human intellect is strange indeed; while seemingly desiring fairness and equity, it perverts the path to achieve the same.
59. Hard work and diligence will eventually bring about prosperity; laziness brings only lack and poverty.
60. Beware of the instant friends that are excessively nice and always giving compliments, for their intentions are dishonest and evil.

61. The person that lacks understanding is known by his multitude of words; when quiet, even the simple minded seem wise.
62. All things are made by, and are sustained by things that cannot be perceived with the five senses.
63. A society is brought low, and often destroyed, by the wickedness that is allowed to continue therein.
64. When your children act out their rebellion, correct them while they are young enough to heed.
65. Do not turn away strangers and the poor in their time of need; God Almighty will plead their cause in due time.
66. Honor your senior family members and take care of them in their old age; let not a stranger have to care for your own.
67. Take into consideration the feelings of those near you, before you act or speak; sensitivity makes one easy to deal with.
68. Youth and pride are not easily separated; a rebellious spirit will chase one all the way to the grave.
69. Those that condemn their neighbor without justification, will bring destruction to their household and to their children's.
70. Happy are they that trust in God and look to Him in their time of need; they shall not be rejected.

71. When a city or country continues in its evil ways, the inhabitants thereof will be perplexed and troubled on all sides.
72. One's life consists of more than what one eats, and a person's body is more than what they wear on that body.
73. Riches gained quickly are taken for granted, and seldom do they last long enough to make one prosperous.
74. Those that seek to walk in their integrity, with honesty and honor, will be looked upon favorably by God Almighty.
75. They that toil day and night to acquire security and an inheritance for their children, do so in vain; for it is God that increases your wealth.
76. Reproving fools can be compared to kicking sleeping dogs; the more you do it, the more trouble you stir up.
77. He that obtains a good wife has gained that wife by the favor of the Lord; that man should show his thankfulness continually.
78. Everyone's lifestyle seems justified according to their own understanding; that same lifestyle causes nothing but death.
79. Do not envy the fine things the wealthy people devour; for the poor, these delicacies are but worldly traps.
80. Everyone's mind and life are unique from all others; yet every attitude and idea has had prior manifestations.

81. If your parents and overseers honor and acknowledge the Lord, take their advise and instruction and learn the way to life.
82. Rebellious children must be often punished before they will take hold of instruction, and walk in the way of life.
83. Only those that work hard, are steadfast and consistent, will achieve lasting prosperity.
84. Pushing your attitudes and ideas at others will only bring division; it is better to patiently set an example.
85. Those that are unfaithful to their marriage partners, continually destroy their chance at happiness.
86. All society is responsible for those that cannot provide for themselves; help the poor lest you bring about your downfall.
87. God's truth abides for us to take a hold of, if we will; He will guide and direct us to the way of life.
88. Do not judge a matter until you have objectively heard both sides; everyone's story sounds right at first.
89. The earth, with all its wealth and bounty, belongs to the Lord; let us always partake with thanksgiving.
90. Give God the glory and honor due to His name; for man and all his works are vain compared to the Almighty.
91. The hearts of young people are filled with rebellion and mischief; the prudent parent will be swift to correct them.

92. Wicked people will make any neighborhood intolerable to live in; righteous people make communities pleasant.
93. Put God first in your life, and the whole world will stand in awe at His mighty works done in you.
94. For one to really succeed, one must learn from failures; perseverance is seldom conquered.
95. The proud and arrogant, God will cast down; the meek and lowly, God will raise up at the time appointed.
96. Be respectful and learn from your elders; the youthful mind will betray you during a tumultuous trial.
97. When in prosperity, remember those in need and give a helping hand; for this is pleasing to the Lord.
98. Everyone's way seem right in his own eyes, but those same ways lead to destruction.
99. To mock and sneer at the poor and needy, is to do the same to God Almighty.
100. Guard your tongue when you get angry; that is when your transgressions will multiply.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE WISE

PART FOUR

1. Loose women and high living are snares for a man's life; all who succumb will surely die.
2. All who trust in material wealth deny God as the Provider to everyone, good and evil.

3. The hard working and diligent will be rewarded with good, but the lazy will be given poverty.
4. Young people continually seek pleasure and entertainment; they must be taught to limit their self will.
5. The rich have many friends; but poor people are despised of all, even their families.
6. A great evil in the land is a mouth full of gossip; neither give nor partake of this evil.
7. Arrogance and pride will lead the best of people astray; walk with integrity and honor instead.
8. Never trust wealth, family nor friends for providing your needs; but acknowledge your Creator as your Provider and you shall not lack.
9. Do not meddle in an argument that is not yours; let the foolish bury themselves with their own words.
10. If everyone in the land sought the well being of others, there would be none that did not have their needs met.
11. Haste is wasteful; when very rushed, all work and planning will suffer a lack in quality.
12. For one to rise to greatness, one must look beyond self interest and reach out to others.

13. The diligent shall be rewarded if they continually seek the good things of life; do not lust after vain and foolish thoughts.
14. Everyone hasty to draw conclusions, will be left with the ill fated results of their decisions.
15. Blessed are they that look to God for deliverance; when they are distressed, they will surely be delivered.
16. A rebellious child will disgrace parents and family; they that are respectful will honor all their kinsmen.
17. Remember the poor and downtrodden when you have plenty; your prosperity may flee someday and leave you in like manner.
18. Seek not for riches nor settle for poverty; for the Lord has allotted all their part, and no more.
19. Without hope and dreams, the human spirit will wither and become depressed.
20. Those that are charitable and remember that the poor need help, will also be remembered by the Most High God.
21. Steady use of alcohol and/or drugs dulls one's sensitivity; continued overuse robs one of compassion.
22. Those that seek to harm others, bring double the same harm upon themselves.

23. A satisfied mind will bring healing to ones body, but envy will break down your health.
24. Seldom impose upon your neighbor, lest he tire of you and so despise you.
25. He that holds fast to mercy and truth, will find favor with others and with God.
26. A good wife and mother will shun idleness, and her good works will be reflected by those of her household.
27. The upright man will leave behind a pleasant name, but an evil man's memory will be but bitterness.
28. A wise man will guard well his tongue, but the fool's mouth will destroy him.
29. Young person, do not run with those that seek to shed blood; for you will pay with your own.
30. If you hide your sinful ways you will perish, but if you confess and forsake them you will live.
31. A word of encouragement, spoken at the right time, will be pleasantness to those in need of the same.
32. A youngster, that rebels not against his parents, will find favor with his fellows and the Lord.
33. Those that oppress the poor and needy, will be greatly punished by their Redeemer.

34. If you become surety for a friend or family member; and they default, make sure the account to protect your name.
35. A rich man's strength lies in his conceit, a wise man will consider this and act accordingly.
36. It is a death trap when a man speaks evil to his friend or neighbor, and then says: "I was kidding."
37. A wise man sees evil ahead and averts his path; the simpleminded passes on and is trapped.
38. A man that is cruel to others, will be trouble to all that associate with him.
39. The words of the truthful shall be established forever, but the liar's words will be cut short.
40. The wicked will live in constant fear of being discovered, but the upright will live boldly.
41. Those that are physically wealthy are the more poor spiritually; the physically poor are spiritually rich.
42. If you have angered another, a gift in secrecy may well pacify him.
43. If two are bound together, they will stand strong; a threefold bond will be even stronger.
44. They that brag about false gifts, are like clouds without rain; their infamy will be revealed.

45. Don't fret over evildoers that are seemingly prosperous, God will make their prosperity bitter.
46. When you ponder the "good old days," you only remember the pleasant things; try to acknowledge also the bad.
47. Fret not over the "what ifs" of the days gone by; God has ordained all past decisions.
48. Shut not your ears to the pleading of the poor, lest one day your cries for help go unanswered.
49. Cast your bread upon the waters and they shall return unto you; when you give liberally to others, you get back spiritually more.
50. When a good man rejoices, others join in; but an evil man's glee is scorned.
51. Go ahead and plan for the future, but realize only God knows what tomorrow will bring.
52. Guard the thoughts of your mind; if evil slips in, don't own it; but purge it instead.
53. The wise receive instruction, but the fool already knows everything.
54. Defer your anger when offended; an upright man will pass over a transgression.

55. He that is always fighting with others, has anger and blackness stored in his heart.
56. Even if bound together, the wicked will not go unpunished; their evil will turn and bite them.
57. An upright man will be delivered from the perverse, that seek his harm.
58. He that seeks trouble, shall find it; he that placates trouble, shall find favor.
59. If you discover dirt about someone, keep your mouth shut; you will find favor with God.
60. A man shall find favor for his kindness, but a cruel man will be despised.
61. A hardened heart and stubbornness will bring a man's downfall, but life will favor him that is humble and contrite.
62. Stand by your friends and family when trouble comes their way, for this is pleasing to God.
63. If you have a hard decision to make, seek plenty of advice before settling the matter.
64. When angered or oppressed, hold your tongue lest it become a snare for your life.

65. Never are the eyes satisfied, the ears full, nor the heart content; this is the vanity that lies in man's way and separates him from God.

This book is a Christian guide on how we should set up our governing body as God would have us. Just imagine God instructing us on all interpersonal relationships. Well, we have an example in the Old Testament. God was giving ancient Israel the ideal example on how we should govern ourselves. Too many people dismiss these instructions as outmoded. Jesus would do it differently they say. It was Christ that established the law. It was the pre-incarnate Jesus that was with Israel in the wilderness (see 1 Corinthians 10:4). Christ talked to Abraham from the burning bush (see John 8:58) calling himself "I Am." Jesus refers himself as the Word of God (Greek logos). The gospel of John, chapter 1, tells us that Christ was speaking for God at creation. Some say; if Jesus were the lawgiver, he must have changed. But Hebrews 13:8 tells us that he does not change. Think about it and read this book.

The modern Proverbs, in the back of the book, are called "Instructions to the Wise." The old Proverbs tell us that the wise will hear instructions and seek council (see Proverbs 1:2-5). The Holy Spirit gave me these instructions while I was working in the mission field. These modern Proverbs should help us get over the language barriers. Hopefully, they will give you a more modern perspective of God's mind.

