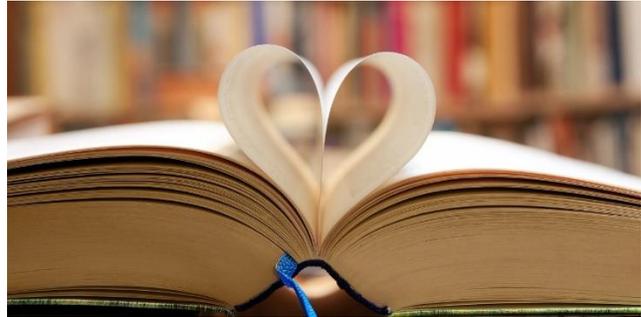


God's Love Displayed

(Pray that All would See Jesus through the Pages)

What is Your Life?

"Come now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)



According to that passage above, our life is like a vapor that appears for a moment, but then it's gone and faded away. You see, life goes by so quickly because we're here for such a short time. So, if that's the case, how should we be living our life? Should we follow after the majority and just live to "eat, drink, and be merry" with no regard to what's going to happen tomorrow? Or, should we be more concerned with how to live our life, being fully aware that there is a God who has a standard by which we are to live by? For the bible says: "*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). So, it makes more sense to know God's will, seeing that eternity is a lot longer than this temporal existence on earth. Therefore, let's be those who live our lives with heaven in mind. Amen.

- The voice of one saying, Cry. And one said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the breath of Jehovah bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever. (Isaiah 40:6-8)

How then should We live?

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29)

In that passage above, Jesus said our destiny is determined on how we live. However, we also read that even our best efforts will not get us right before God. For: "*We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind.*" (Isaiah 64:6 NET) But again in Ezekiel 18:20 it says: "the person who sins will die." So, if this is the case, what can we do to be saved? For no matter how hard we try to do good, we would still fall short of the requirements God has for us. "*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" (Romans 7:24-25)

So, we see that there is some good news, and that good news is found in one book, the bible. Therefore, I invite you to continue reading and discover that Jesus is our hope to get right before God.

Jesus is the Way

“Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me’.” (John 14:6)

According to that passage above, Jesus said that he is the only way to God. To go even further with this, we have John who was a disciple of Jesus affirming this by saying: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* (John 3:16-18)

Now, I do realize that there are some who may not fully know who Jesus is. So, let's first dive into some scriptures. First, we read: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* (John 1:1-3) Next, we read: *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14) So, this “Word” who was God and became flesh and blood is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Yes, Jesus Christ became flesh and blood just like us. This he did not only to show us the way to the Father, but to take upon himself the sins of the world. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* (Romans 8:3-4)

All of us have Sinned

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:23-24)

So, we see that believing in Jesus is essential for eternal life. However, the sad truth is that there are many heading down the wrong path. For Jesus said: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Matthew 7:13-14) So, according to that passage above, there is only a few that will take the right path. And as for me, I want to be among those few that embrace Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. And it's my hope and prayer that you'll feel the same way to. For any other way could lead you down that wrong road of destruction.

Now, just to let you know. I myself was one of those who was heading down that wrong path. For I wanted to live life my way and do the things I wanted to do. This I did, even though I knew what I was doing wrong and was affecting myself and others in a bad way. However, one day while I was wallowing in my sins and feeling so lost, God reveled his Son to me in a real way. You see, I heard about Jesus and even went to church when I was young. However, I never really had a relationship with him until the day God finally opened my eyes. And for the first time in my life, I understood who God was and realized that I can actually have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, I want to be totally in love with him because He loves me and reached out to me. Amen.

My Sins are Paid For

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

This relationship that I have with God is because Jesus suffered and died for my sins. This he did not only through beatings, whippings and being nailed to a cross, but he was afflicted for three days and nights in hell as well. Therefore, none of us can earn our forgiveness by doing good works. Jesus is our perfect sinless sacrifice who took the penalty for every bad thing that we ever committed. For the bible says: *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* (Isaiah 53:6) So, God paid a high price for our sins by giving his beloved Son for us all.

- “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (Romans 2:4)
- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Come to Repentance

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Now, we must realize that God loves us so much. For He desires that none should perish but that all would come to repentance. Therefore, He doesn’t want anyone to die in their sins and go to hell. For: *“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord Jehovah, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* (Ezekiel 33:11) So, God desires that all would receive Jesus Christ and spend eternity with him in paradise.

Therefore, *“We love him, because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19) This is true for all us who are in Christ Jesus. And for you who don’t know him, simply turn you heart over to God and you’ll feel the same way as well. And what else is true, there is no other religion that can give you a love relationship like this. That’s because other religions are based on man’s efforts and works that leads to self-righteousness and pride. However, faith in God’s mercy and grace apart from works is based on the finished works of Jesus Christ. *“But when the kindness of God our Saviour, and his love toward man, appeared, not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that, being justified by his grace, we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* (Titus 3:4-7)

- Then said they unto him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. (John 6:28-29)

- That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10:9) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16)
- I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)
- Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. (Romans 4:4-7)

The Fruit of the Spirit

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

So, do you want true love, joy and peace in your life? Well, you can. You see, this is the outcome of a true relationship with Jesus Christ. Any other way would only leave you feeling empty with no true peace. So, give your life over to Jesus Christ today. And once you do, you will see life in a whole new way, for it's like being “Born Again.” You see, God will fill you with his Holy Spirit and that is why you will experience this new life. And by walking after the Spirit, you can put to death that old life of sin and now live a life that's pleasing to God. And the beautiful thing is, you'll be so excited that you want everyone to know about this relationship that you have with God. Amen.

- But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. (Romans 8:11- 17)

*"It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around, can warm up to its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you have experienced it, you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love; once you've experienced it, you want to sing "It's fresh like spring"; you want to pass it on. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found. You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountain top – Praise God I want the world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on." **Pend by: Kurt Kaiser***

Putting away Sin

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ESV)

Now, I need to make one thing clear before moving on. Being saved is not a license to continue living in sin. For according to that passage above, those who live a sinful life will not be part of the Kingdom of God. Because as mention before, we must put away our past sins and live a new life by God’s Spirit. And by walking after the Spirit, we can live a new life that’s pleasing to God. For true repentance brings forth good fruit, and it’s this good fruit that shows we are truly “Born Again.” So, being sin free should be our goal in our life with Christ. However, though we desire to be perfect, we may make mistakes now and then. That’s why John the apostle said: *“My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father -- Jesus Christ the righteous one. He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world.”* (1 John 2:1-2 CSB)

Therefore, if we do sin we are to repent before God. For John again said: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9) So, it’s a learning and growing process. But again, our aim is to live a perfect sin free live. Therefore, *“Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. And every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. And ye know that he was manifested to take away sins; and in him is no sin.”* (1 John 3:2-5) May God help us all to be perfect for his glory and praise. Amen.

- He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah 6:8)
- What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:1-4)
- What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ... But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. (James 2:14-17, 25-26)

In Closing

There is a God who is real and desires that none should perish but that all would come to repentance. He'll bring true meaning and purpose into your life if you'll just give yourself over to him. For any other way would be empty and meaningless. So, give your life over to Jesus by asking him to be your Lord and Savior. Because believe me, you won't regret it. For Jesus said: *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* (John 6:37) He also said: *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30) So, please give your life over to Jesus today. Amen.

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." (Acts 17:24-31)

SCRIPTURES SHOWING HOW MUCH JESUS SUFFERED FOR US:

- Jewish leaders mistreat Jesus: "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?" (Matthew 26:67-68)
- Governor Pontius Pilate had Jesus whipped & the Roman soldiers mistreat Jesus: "Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. (Matthew 27:26-30)
- Jesus cry's out to God the Father: "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

- Jesus leaves himself in the hands of God the Father: “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:46)

SCRIPTURES PERTAINING TO JESUS IN HELL:

- Jesus said “as Jonah was – thus shall the Son of man be: “Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, Teacher, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet: for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:38-40)
- Jonah the prophet in the belly of the fish: “Then Jonah prayed unto Jehovah his God out of the fish’s belly. And he said, I called by reason of mine affliction unto Jehovah, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.” (Jonah 2:1-2)
- Jesus was freed from the “pains of death” in hell: “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. (Acts 2:23-24)
- Peter quotes Psalm 16:10 concerning Jesus not being left in hell: “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. (Acts 2:25-32)