

People are always hungry for the next great hope. It looks different, contingent on the aspirations of the individual. Even so, there is hope for all humanity: Jesus is the Answer! Now, I know the Bible doesn't mention technology or celebrating birthdays, but the Word was God does indeed contain the principles of life that can answer any question. God breathed His wisdom to human authors in order to manifest His Kingdom—His Royal Authority—on the Earth. As those who have accepted Jesus as Christ, we must manifest His Kingdom on the Earth as it is in the Heavens. We must teach people to: repent, confess, learn, grow, share, dwell together in unity, and maintain that peace until He returns!

1. Repent

- a. The Koiné Greek μετανοείτε [mě-tă-nō-ī-tě] is commonly translated as "Repent!" This is an accurate, but overused and poorly understood translation. The root (1st person singular present active indicative) form of this verb is μετανοέω [mě-tă-nō-ě-ō] can accurately be translated into contemporary English as "I repent," "I change my mind," "I feel remorse," or even "I am converted." Therefore, viable translations of "μετανοείτε" [mě-tă-nō-ī-tě] might include: "Change your minds!" or "Reexamine your lives!" or "Turn back from..." and any other such phrase.
 - i. μετα = with, among, against; after, behind
 - ii. νοέω = I perceive, understand, comprehend, consider, think
- b. So, the functionality is: after I think back over my life, I decide that I want better for me & my family!
- c. Many have said similar statements when disgusted with their life of failed relationships, drug abuse, or whatever....
- d. However, few (if any) automatically just know that "Jesus can show me how to obtain better!"
 - i. Romans 10: 14-17 "So, how might they call on Him who they do not believe? Well, how might they believe that which they did not hear? And, how might they hear without one who proclaims? But how can one proclaim if he is not sent? As it is written: 'beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim the good news.'^A
- e. Jesus said that we are a city set on hills which is unable to be hidden (Matthew 6: 14-16)
 - i. Let me tell you something else about a city set on hills: the elevation makes it easier to defend from attackers

2. Confess

- a. ὁμολογέω = I confess, promise, admit, declare, acknowledge, praise
 - i. ὁμο (prefix) = same; ὁμοῦ = together
 - ii. λέγω = I say, speak, tell, mean, ask, answer, declare, call, name
- b. So, another rendition of ὁμολογέω can be "say together (in unison)" so we should
- c. Confessing is agreeing with an immutable principle!
- d. It's true whether or not we want to admit it!
- e. But, please be advised: confessing Jesus as Son of God and LORD of your life is not an instantaneous cure all. It is not "happily ever after," yet!
- f. Here is where we enter the proving ground
 - i. Matthew 4: 1-17
 - ii. 2 Corinthians 4: 8-18
- g. There will be obstacles all around, but we must remember what a friend we have in Jesus!
 - i. John 10: 9-10 "I am the Door. If anyone enters through Me shall be delivered and he shall enter and exit and find pasture/spreading. The thief doesn't except that he might steal, kill as a sacrifice, and destroy! I came that you might have life; that you might have the advantage^B"
 - ii. John 16: 33 "I have spoken these things in order that y'all might have peace in Me. In this world y'all shall have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world."
- h. Speak those things which He has already stated for He is true to His Word!

3. Learn

- a. 2 Timothy 2
- b. Isaiah 30: 21
- c. Matthew 16: 13-20

^A cf. Isaiah 52: 7 and Nahum 2: 1, JPS

^B "More abundantly" is actually a valid, but less descriptive translation of περισσόν, in this context.

- d. James 1: 2 ff.
- 4. Grow – "You are what you eat."
 - a. Don't be unteachable
 - i. Naaman's stubbornness almost cost him
 - 1. 2 Kings 5: 1-14
 - ii. Gehazi's greed cost him
 - 1. 2 Kings 5: 15-27
 - b. Vision determines outlook, but what we ingest determines our performance
 - i. Support group
 - ii. Constructive criticism
 - iii. Compare athletes with healthy vs. junk food diet
 - iv. Matthew 6: 22-23 **The eye is the menorah of the body. So, if what you see is healthy^C, then your whole body shall be illuminated.^D But if what you see is evil, then your entire body shall be dark. Therefore, if the Light in you is darkness, then how deep is the darkness?**
 - v. "Garbage in, garbage out!"
 - vi. Hebrews 12
 - vii. Psalm 51: 10
 - viii. Malachi 3: 1-5
 - ix. There is much more, here, but I gotta move on!
- 5. Share
 - a. Don't become corrupt teachers (Matthew 23: 13-15)
 - b. There is a fine line between sharing and showing off, but it's all about motives
 - i. Matthew 6: 1-18 speaks volumes about worshipping with pure motives.
 - ii. Jesus reminds us in John 15: 9-16
 - iii. Matthew 24: 44-51
 - iv. Once you have grown to a certain point and have a certain realm of influence, you can begin to share what He has given you (promotion in John 15: 12-17)
 - c. After His resurrection, just before His ascension, Jesus commissions His friends to make pupils of their neighbors
 - i. Matthew 28: 16-20 But the 11 disciples^E are gone into the Galilee, into the mountain where Jesus directed them, and when they saw Him, they worshipped Him, but they doubted. And when Jesus approached, He spoke to them, as He says, **"All authority in the Heavens and on the Earth is given to Me. So, after you are gone,^F make disciples of all the nations, as you baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as you teach them to observe everything, as much as I commanded you. And listen! I AM^G with you, everyday, until the end of the age!**
 - 1. The Greek word for "make disciples" is **μαθητεύσατε!**
 - a. The church must improve concerning this!
 - b. Sure, some churches excel in this regard, but far too many fail!
 - 2. To make a disciple, we must know what it is
 - a. **μαθητής** = "disciple, learner, follower" according to Trenchard; I add "pupil, apprentice"
 - b. Life is an open book test
 - c. The Teacher is always available for additional tutoring
- 6. Dwell Together in Peace
 - a. Amos 3: 3 says, "Can two walk together unless they agree?"
 - b. Psalm 133: 1-5 talks how brothers dwelling in unity reminds God of the day Aaron was anointed. This was special because it was after the LORD delivered the Hebrews from bondage in Mitzrayim (Egypt).

^C 6: 22 The Koiné Greek nominative masculine singular adjective **ἀπλοῦς** [ā-ploos] also means "sincere."

^D 6: 22 The Koiné Greek nominative masculine singular adjective **φωτεινὸν** [phō-tī-nōn] also means "bright."

^E 28: 16 the Twelve from chapter 10, verses 2 through 4 minus Y^ehudah from the city.

^F 28: 19 cf. note on Matthew 2: 8

^G 28: 20 cf. According to Matthew 14: 27 and especially According to Matthew 1: 23.

This was an awesome day because, even though the Hebrews weren't in the Promised Land, God was establishing them as a nation so the order would already be set when they came into the land of promise.

- c. 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 talks about how God gives different individuals as He chooses.
 - d. This reminds us that we are His; we must operate in His gifting, as He sees fit.
 - e. Mark 9: 38-41 is an example of what Jesus might say to someone hindering someone else.
7. Maintain the Peace
- a. 1 Corinthians 6: 1-11 talks about how we should not be quick to sue one another
 - i. It seems to build on Jesus's words in Matthew 5: 25-26
 - b. John 14: 1-6
 - c. It seems to me that Jesus only had one prayer that seems unanswered
 - i. This is John 17.
 - ii. It's contingent on us.
 - iii. This is where He prays that we would be One as He and the Father are One.
 - 1. Clearly, They're aren't the same being or He's talking to Himself.
 - 2. What He means is unity.
 - 3. I think what He means is that, in spite of our differences in personality, temperament, location, age, or whatever, we would be unified in purpose: to advance His Kingdom!