

## EXAMINING OUR FAITH, part 2 quotes

**1** "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." 2 Corinthians 13:5.

(Picture #7 - with 7 pillars)

**2** What are these 7 special major supporting pillars of truth?

#1 - The First Angel's Message

#2 - The Second Angel's Message

#3 - The Temple of God in Heaven, or the Heavenly Sanctuary

#4 - The High Priest's Ministration in the Cleansing of this Heavenly Sanctuary

#5 - The Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment of the Decalogue

#6 - The Third Angel's Message

#7 - The Non-Immortality of the Wicked or of the Soul

**3** (Picture #8 - 1<sup>st</sup> Angel's Message)

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**" Revelation 14:6-7.

## — What is this “Everlasting Gospel”?

The Everlasting Gospel is the "Good News" about Jesus Christ and the plan of redemption and salvation from sin through faith in Him — who is the only connecting link between God and man (John 14:6; Genesis 28:12-13). This glorious gospel declares that we can be freely justified before God (Isaiah 45:25; Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Romans 5:9, 3:4; Matthew 12:37; Romans 2:13; James 3:20-24), obtain grace and strength to stand (Romans 5:1-5; Ephesians 6:10-18; Galatians 5:1), and successfully war against and victoriously overcome all temptations and sins (Romans 8:1-2) unto righteousness (Romans 6:16, 5:21) and continued sanctification through Christ and the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 23:6; Isaiah 61:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13) which strengtheneth us (Philippians 4:13). This gospel is not "all faith" or "all grace" which shuts out our personal efforts; nor is it "all works" which shuts out Jesus. But it is the uniting of divinity and humanity together — God working and us working for our salvation (Philippians 2:12-13; Revelation 22:14).

## 4 What is the Plan of Redemption or Salvation?

The Plan of Redemption is the conditional process whereby fallen humanity can be reconciled back to God in a joint union or working co-partnership in the keeping of God's law, and in the subduing of every sin through the force of our will, and thereby reflect the righteousness of God and vindicate His character before all peoples. Jesus Christ made this glorious plan possible by being born of a virgin, clothing His divinity with humanity, taking man's fallen sinful nature upon Him, and then enduring the inherent natural inward pulling and drawing towards Satan's temptations, but never giving in to any of it. Christ needed to experience and overcome the strong temptations with which Satan tempts all fallen humanity, in order to break Satan's stranglehold upon mankind, and provide every human being with a perfect example and pattern of how they can also overcome temptation through Jesus.

Christ never once used His own divine power on earth, but completely relied upon His Father for divine help and power to overcome every temptation, as well as to sustain Him in His work. Christ had no advantage over humanity, which means that we can, by uniting with God through Christ by faith, exercise the same powers which Christ had in order to live a pure spotless life out of love for God.

Christ bore, suffered, and died upon the cruel cross; rose the third day; and ascended to heaven to secure for humanity the choice to either serve God or Satan. The humanity of Christ means everything to His followers, because since He was tempted in fallen human nature - just like us, then He knows exactly what you and I are going through when tempted, and knows exactly how to succor and help us gain the victory!

## 5 What is sin?

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **sin is the transgression of the law**." 1 John 3:4.

Which law is it a sin to transgress in the New Covenant period?

"...I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except **the law had said, Thou shalt not covet**." Romans 7:7.

"Thou shalt not covet" is part of the 10 commandment law of God found in Exodus 20:1-17. This reveals that sin is the transgression or the breaking of God's 10 commandment law in this New Covenant period.

## 6 What is Justification?

"Being **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness **for the remission of sins that are past**". Romans 3:24-25.

Justification is a free gift of grace from God of full and complete pardon from our passed acknowledged, confessed, and forsaken sins (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9). But justification is not given or retained while we are knowingly breaking God's law.

"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**." James 2:21-24.

Justification is not "once justified (saved) always justified (saved)", because if you knowingly commit sin then you are no longer justified, but would need again to acknowledge, confess and forsake that sin in order to obtain grace and pardon and become justified or made righteous once again.

## 7 What is Sanctification?

“For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even **your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel (body, soul and spirit) in sanctification and honour**; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” 1 Thessalonians 4:2-7.

Sanctification is remaining justified or righteous by abstaining from breaking any of the commandments of God in your daily life. Sanctification is living a life of holiness by avoiding sin and continually growing more in grace. This sanctification is aided by daily studying God's word (1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Timothy 4:5; John 17:19), and daily dying to self by conforming to God's will (1 Corinthians 15:31; Luke 9:23). Thus sanctification means perfect love manifested for God and mankind, perfect obedience in following God's word of truth, and perfect conformity to God's will in your daily life (Isaiah 5:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth**”. 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth...And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be **sanctified through the truth**”. John 17:17, 19.

## 8 What does it mean to "fear God"?

- To love (Deuteronomy 10:12)
- To reverence (Psalms 89:7)
- To trust (Psalms 115:11)
- To serve (Joshua 24:14; 1 Samuel 12:14, 24)
- To hope (Psalms 33:18-22, 147:11)
- To keep God's commandments (Deuteronomy 31:12-13, 17:19, 5:29; Psalms 112:1)
- To depart from evil (Proverbs 3:7, 16:6; 2 Chronicles 19:7; Exodus 20:20; Psalms 34:11, 14; Job 28:28; Proverbs 8:13).

## 9 What does it mean to "give glory to Him"?

To reflect His righteous character in your own life and actions (Exodus 33:18-23, 34:5-8; Acts 10:35; 1 Corinthians 15:33-34; Psalms 29: 1-2, 86:7-13).

## 10 What does it mean that "the hour of His judgement is come"?

The day of God's judgment had arrived on October 22, 1844 at the end of the 2300 day/year prophecy of Daniel 8:14. Those who have chosen to serve God and continued faithful to Him would be judged worthy of everlasting life, but those who chose to reject God and His means of salvation, and to continue in sin, would be judged unworthy of everlasting life (1 Peter 4:17; Romans 2:5-9).

All our sins are being written down in the record books of heaven for the purpose of this judgment (Daniel 7:9-11). The judgement starts first with the righteousness dead, and then with the living. This means that every human being is judgement bound! As this is true then it should awaken us to the urgency that time is short, and that we must get ourselves ready by coming to Jesus for pardon, cleansing and freedom from all sin before we are individually judged, or we will undoubtedly face eternal destruction.

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: **the judgment was set, and the books were opened.**" Daniel 7:9-10.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**" Revelation 20:11-15.

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

## 11 What does it mean to "worship Him"?

— To honor, serve and obey God and Him alone (Psalms 96:9, 29:2, 5:7; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Matthew 4:10; John 4:23-24)

— Our spiritual allegiance is to God and Him alone and not to any man or church or government or nation or power!

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men**.” Acts 5:29.

“...for if I yet pleased men, **I should not be the servant of Christ**.” Galatians 1:10.

“**It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man**. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes....The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” Psalms 118: 8-9, 6.