

Judgment Day by Tricia Berg

But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. Romans 2:5

This has been on my mind lately, so I'm just going to say it. On Judgment Day, I don't want anyone pointing their finger at me saying, "Why didn't you tell me?" I only want people I've known to say, "I'm so glad you told me." I want everyone I've had contact with to know that Jesus is the ONLY WAY and that He's worth living for and giving up anything for. Our eternal souls are at stake. This is no time to mince words and beat around the bush. Live and let live is nice, but not when it comes down to living in hell for eternity. There is ONE way to avoid that fate, and His name is Jesus. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 1:14) I want people to be able to see by my life what's inside my heart. If someone sees me going astray, I sure hope they will pray for me and care enough about my soul to speak the truth in love rather than to just approve of wrong things I do or believe, because that's easier for them. As for myself, I am telling you--make sure that you know where you're going when your time on earth is up. (James 5:19-20) Be ready. (Matthew 26:41, Mark 13:32-37, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Revelation 3:2-3, Revelation 16:15)

That said, have you pondered how amazing God's creation is--from the tiniest complex detail to the vast greatness of the universe--and the fantastic variety of it all? How humans alone were made in His image and how special that is? (Genesis 1-2, Genesis 5:1-2, Nehemiah 9:5b-6, Psalm 104:24-25, Psalm 139:13, Psalm 148:1-13, Isaiah 40:26, Isaiah 42:5, Isaiah 45:18, Matthew 19:4, John 1:3, Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-2, Revelation 4:11, Revelation 10:5-7) Have you thought much about the miracle of how He actually chose to dwell in a human body at all (Matthew 1:20, Colossians 1:19-20), let alone for the purpose to suffer and die to save us from our eternal prison sentence of torment away from His presence? (Romans 3:23-25, Mark 9:42-48) Or how about the unimaginable honor He bestows on those who are His because He dwells inside of believers to seal them as His own and to help them to live in a way that pleases Him? (Colossians 1:27, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14) Or about the unfathomably great future He has promised us who belong to Him that we will live with Him forever--He loves us so much that He has done all of this for us and wants us to be with Him! (1 Corinthians 2:9-10) Wow! Could there be any reason whatsoever for anyone to not put Him FIRST over ALL people and things in their life? (Colossians 1:18, Hebrews 1) I just can't think of any. Can you?

It seems to me that to not understand His infinite worthiness of all I can give and be is to not understand who He is, what He is like, what He has done and what He is going to do at all. He said He expects to be first, most, best, highest in our lives--that we should love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our brother as ourselves. (Mark 12:29-31) He defined this love as an action, not only a feeling or empty words. (John 14:21) If we really believe, then our lives will reflect our love for God and our gratitude to Him. (James 2:17-18) We won't deliberately choose to do anything that will misrepresent our holy God to the world (which is different from slipping and/or struggling against temptation). (1 Peter 1:14-19) If we claim to believe in our hearts, then that faith is meant to work its way out for the world to see. (Philippians 2:12-16) It should color every aspect of our day-to-day lives. Some people say God's ENTIRE will for us is to believe, and that is ALL He expects. My Bible says a lot more--the entire New Testament outside of the Gospels consists of letters written to CHURCHES. Those are PEOPLE who BELIEVE (not buildings or institutions, or the general public). Those letters are God's instructions to us on how we are to live AFTER we come to faith, of how He expects HIS people to behave.

We're here to lift up and honor His name--there is supposed to be a difference between us and unbelievers--so that they will want to know and trust in Him, too. (John 13:34-35, John 15:8-10) We are ONLY able to do this IF we are already saved--there is NO pleasing God without faith, NO way to earn salvation. (Hebrews 11:6, Romans 8:7-8) In order for any "works" to be pleasing to God, they must come AFTER repentance and acceptance of our need for Jesus as our Savior. After He becomes our Lord, it is His Spirit within us who enables us to even care what He wants. (Philippians 2:12-13) If we have no concern for pleasing God whatsoever after being saved, or He comes way down on the list after loved ones, our job, our hobbies, self, etc., or if there are no nagging convictions when we sin, then "Houston, there is a problem." (1 John 2:15-17) God desires to be worshiped in spirit and truth, not with mere routine or talk that doesn't match our walk. (John 4:23-24, 1 John 2:3-6) If we really believe He sees all and is worthy of all, then why wouldn't our behavior, thoughts and words show it? (And again on the flip side, if we don't believe, then why bother? Only those who have the Son also have the Father. Matthew 11:27, 1 John 2:23, John 3:35-36) Not one of us will ever be perfect until Jesus makes us so, but there should be steady progression toward being like Christ. (2 Peter 1:5-11, Romans 8:29, Romans 12:1-2) After all God has done for us, do we really need to be threatened in order to obey Him? Shouldn't we do it out of LOVE for Him, especially seeing how it is His power within us that enables us to love and obey Him?

Jesus is returning for His own soon. (John 14:2-3, Philippians 3:20-21, Hebrews 10:35-39, Revelation 3:11, 22:12) Only God knows exactly how soon, but the signs of the times that He gave the disciples are happening before our eyes, and there were many other warnings about what the end times would be like in the letters (epistles) of Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude to believers. Let's be ready so that we don't have anything to be ashamed of on that day. (Matthew 24-25) Jesus is faithful to forgive when we sin and is the ONLY one who can wash us clean, but salvation is freedom FROM sin, not a license TO sin. (Romans 6:1-2, Galatians 5:13) We are not meant to rush back to get ourselves "dirty" again once He washes us, but to yield to the Holy Spirit's prompting and assistance in remaining clean. (2 Peter 2:18-22) If there is no difference between the way we live and the way unbelievers live, then how will people notice a difference and wonder why we have the hope and peace that they want? (1 Peter 2:15-16, 1 Peter 3:15-16) God LOVES us! Isn't that wonderful? He didn't create us to ask us to do the impossible and then condemn us. He came to rescue us because He is holy--He cannot and will not tolerate sin, but He wants ALL to be saved and has made ONE way: Jesus. (John 3:35-36, 1 John 5:10-12) Hallelujah (Praise God)!

Let's read our Bibles for ourselves so that we know truth from false teachings (and partial truth mixed with twisted or truncated scriptures). (1 Timothy 6:3-5, 2 Timothy 4:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 2 Peter 3:16-18) We need to know our Scripture so that we are not deceived by deliberate, orchestrated attacks on God's truth (the ONLY truth). (2 Corinthians 11:3-4, Acts 20:29-32) We need to know what the Bible says so that we will not mistakenly join sides with those AGAINST God and His ways, who are pretending to be shepherds of His fold, but are really wolves and thieves coming to destroy the flock. (Matthew 7:15, John 10:7-10, Acts 20:29-30) God does not change. (Numbers 23:19, Psalm 55:19, Hebrews 13:8) He has always hated sin and loves us enough to have laid all of the punishment for OUR sin on His only begotten Son, Jesus (the ONLY way to be saved). (1 Corinthians 15:1-7) That doesn't mean He now winks at sin, but that we can be forgiven through the unbelievably precious blood of Jesus. (1 John 2:1-6)

It almost seems as though people these days are opposed to "judging" other believers for sin, but they have no problem with judging their Christian brothers and sisters for trying to live as God instructed, calling it self-righteousness. They say we can't judge someone's heart to see if they are saved or not by looking at the [lack of, or bad] fruits (behaviors, priorities, results) of their life, and then turn around and judge someone else's heart to say they are trying to earn salvation, so they might not be saved, since salvation is only by faith not works. Let me just say this--if we don't believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior,

then there is NO pleasing God--it ALL starts and ends with Jesus. ALL of our behavior and the way we think reflect on Him, whether honorably or poorly. (Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 1:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, 2 Timothy 2:19, 1 John 3:1-10, 1 Peter 1:14-19)

We each need to judge our OWN lives using the Bible as a measuring stick because it's God's instruction book on what pleases Him (and what does not). (2 Corinthians 13:5, James 1:22-24, Ephesians 5:8-12, Ephesians 5:15-17) Then we can look forward to Judgment Day with great anticipation! (2 Timothy 4:8, Revelation 11:18) I pray that it will be a blissfully happy day with no tears due to loss of reward (not to mention the pain of disappointing our Savior) for you and for myself. (1 Corinthians 3:14-15) Please Lord, help us all in these evil times to obey You and not to blend in with the world and be deceived. Please make us lights in this dark, misled generation to illuminate the way to You, through Jesus, our beloved Savior. On Judgment Day, we want to hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Amen. (Philippians 2:14-16, Matthew 25:23, Ephesians 5:15-21)

If you don't believe, but are curious, then call on God from your heart--He hears you. (Genesis 21:17, Psalm 139:1-4, 145:18-20, Psalm 94:9, Romans 10:1-13) We were created by Him FOR Him, so if you are unhappy and don't know why or what it would take to change that, He is the answer. He is the provider of EVERYTHING we could ever need. (Romans 11:36) He loves us. I can't say it enough. This is not just for certain special people. No one loves God because they are "good." We love Him because He FIRST loved us, and "us" includes everyone. (1 John 4:9-10) He doesn't want anyone to perish, but He has made ONE way--His Son. (John 3:16-18, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 2 Peter 3:9) Jesus did this for us willingly because He loves us. (John 10:14-18) None of us could possibly imagine the amount of pain and humiliation that Jesus suffered or the intense pain of the Father in sacrificing His only begotten, beloved Son to save us--to rescue us from sin and its penalty. (Psalm 22:6-8, 2:12-18, Isaiah 52:14, 53:3-5, Matthew 27:27-31, Matthew 17:5) Have you ever had anyone disrespect a gift you gave them? How much more, unimaginably offensive is it to reject God's gift of salvation through His Son? (Hebrews 10:29-31)

You may look around you and see that it seems like many "good" or "nice" people, many of whom you may consider to be "smarter" than you, do not believe, and their lives seem okay to you from the outside. (Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:7) While the inside may be a different story, the fact is that everyone who dies without Christ will be separated from God for eternity. You don't want to go where they are going. (Psalm 37, 73, Revelation 20:15) Jesus

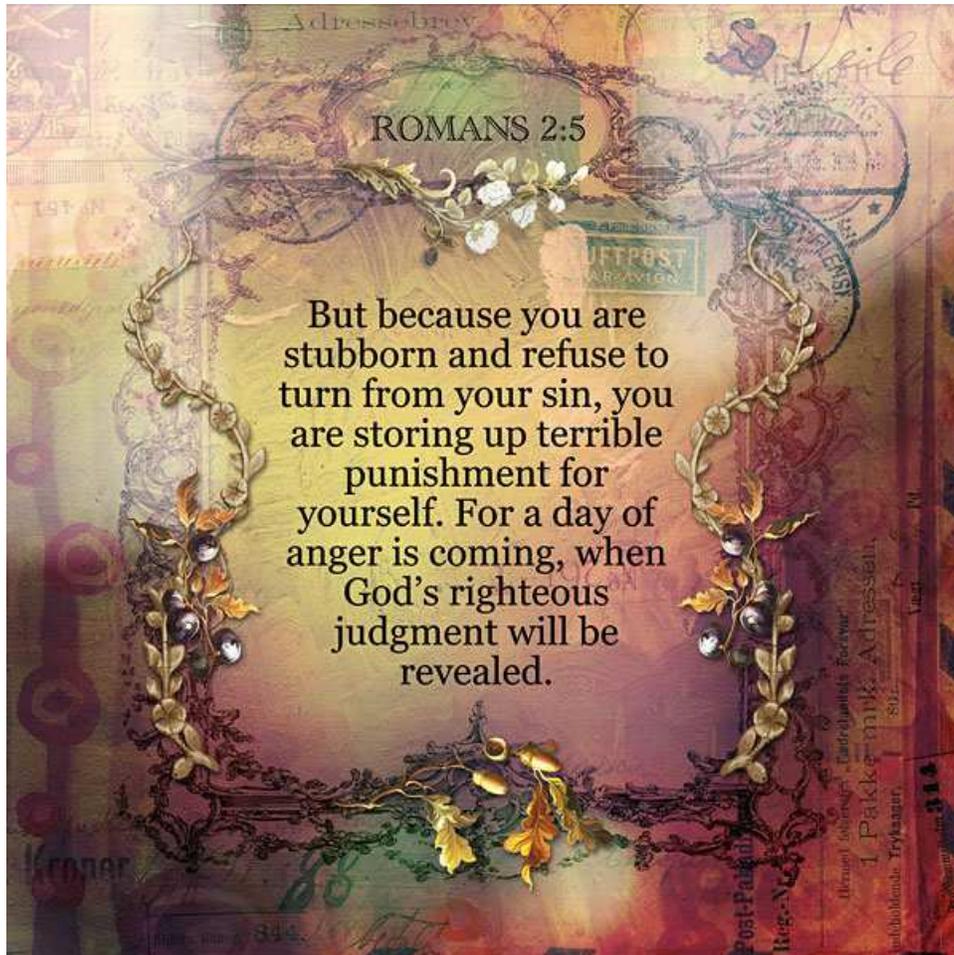
said that many would be offended by Him. (Matthew 11:6) He was predicted to be, and is, a stumbling block for many who do not want to submit to God's sovereign plan. (Romans 9:32-33, Matthew 11:6) Don't trust the opinions of the crowd and go with the flow! There will be no "phone a friend" or "ask the audience" option and that's a good thing because Jesus said the way to life was narrow and the way to destruction was broad. (Matthew 7:13-14) Don't wait to see Him in person on Judgment Day to get right with Him--it will be too late then and what a wasted life that would be. Your life can have meaning NOW. You can have a relationship with your loving Creator NOW. (John 10:9-10) What a privilege! Don't put it off and have bitter, eternal regrets. Each of us will answer for ourselves. (John 5:22-24, Romans 14:11-12, 2 Corinthians 5:10) There will be no blaming scientists or popular culture to explain why we rebelled against and rejected God and His ways, preferring our own way. (Isaiah 53:6, Proverbs 14:12)

If you want to be saved, all you have to do is admit to God you are a sinner (we ALL are) and ask His forgiveness. (Romans 3:22b-25, 6:23, Psalm 86:5) Each of us need to tell Him that we BELIEVE in our heart that Jesus died for OUR sins and rose again from the dead. Tell him out loud (confess with your mouth) that you want Jesus to be YOUR Lord and, to wash you clean so that you can be with Him forever. (1 John 1:9, Romans 10:8-10) Ask Him to grant you repentance from your sins and unbelief and to help you live in a way that pleases Him (read your Bible--He has it all written down for us). (2 Timothy 2:24-26) When we truly believe, we are "born again," which means God's Holy Spirit brings to new life our spirit and He dwells inside of us. (Matthew 3:11, John 3:6-7, Acts 11:16, Titus 3:5-7) We were first born physically as a baby, but being born AGAIN is to be born spiritually as a child of God. (John 1:12-13)

Jesus has also instructed us to be baptized in water (Matthew 28:18-20)--this signifies outwardly how inwardly our old, doomed, stubborn, rebellious, sinful self has been "drowned" (died/crucified with Christ) and we rise out of that water as a NEW creation in Christ, in His victory on the cross, alive in His resurrection. (Colossians 3:3-10, Romans 6:3-12, 13:14, Galatians 3:27) We are washed clean not by the water (which would be works, and in the case of infant baptism, the works of the parents), but by the precious blood Jesus shed for us on the cross (each person individually, personally saved by faith in God's grace--washed in the living "water" OF THE WORD--Jesus). (1 John 1:7-10, Ephesians 5:25-27, James 1:18) It's a beautiful, memorable event for the believer--if you do not remember being baptized and may not have even been aware of it happening at the time--then perhaps you might like to do a study on it to decide for yourself what God's will is on the subject. I have written an article here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=0Bx44W_xQvLzoNVIQampxZUctelU

A quote by J.C. Ryle, who died in England in 1900: *"Oh, reader, let us realize this point! There is before us all a great change. Surely, when a man has notice to quit his present dwelling-place, he ought to make sure that he has before him another home... Oh, that you may think on this matter, and never rest till you are ready to meet Christ!"*



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Written by Tricia Berg, August 2016 (6 pp. w/digital scrapbook layout + verses)

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Verses:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the

Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 (ESV)

My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, 20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins. James 5:19-20

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41 (ESV)

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake." Mark 13:32-37 (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Revelation 3:2-3 (ESV)

("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") Revelation 16:15 (ESV)

Genesis 1-2

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. Genesis 5:1-2 (NASB)

Praise Your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are Yahweh. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and the heavenly host worships You. Nehemiah 9:5b-6 (HCSB)

How countless are Your works, LORD! In wisdom You have made them all; the earth is full of Your creatures. 25 Here is the sea, vast and wide, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. Psalm 104:24-25 (HCSB)

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 (HCSB)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! 2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! 3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. 6 And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away. 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word! 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds! 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! 12 Young men and maidens together, old men and children! 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. Psalm 148:1-13 (ESV)

Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:26 (NASB)

Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, Isaiah 42:5 (NASB)

For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else. Isaiah 45:18 (NASB)

And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, 5 and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'? 6 "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." Matthew 19:4-6 (NASB)

All things were created through Him (Jesus, The Word), and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. John 1:3 (HCSB)

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17 (ESV)

Hebrews 1:1-2 (below)

Our Lord and God, You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because You have created all things, and because of Your will they exist and were created. Revelation 4:11 (HCSB)

And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. Revelation 10:5-7 (ESV)

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:20 (ESV)

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:19-20 (ESV)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:23-25 (ESV)

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. 43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45 And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'" Mark 9:42-48 (ESV)

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Colossians 1:27 (ESV)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NASB)

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV)

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— 10 these things God has revealed to us

through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (ESV)

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. Colossians 1:18 (ESV)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." 8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." 10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; 11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, 12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." 13 And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Hebrews 1 (ESV)

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31 (ESV)

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." John 14:21 (ESV)

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:17-18 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Peter 1:14-19 (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in

the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:12-16 (ESV)

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24 (ESV)

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-11 (ESV)

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29 (ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. 1 John 2:3-6 (NASB)

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one

knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Matthew 11:27 (ESV) (NASB)

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:23 (NASB)

The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. 36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:35-36 (ESV)

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (HCSB)

My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. 10 If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love. John 15:8-10 (HCSB)

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7-8 (RSV)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Philippians 2:12-13 (RSV)

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. John 14:2-3 (RSV)

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." 38 And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." 39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Hebrews 10:35-39 (NIV2011)

"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown." Revelation 3:11 (NIV2011)

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. Revelation 22:12 (NIV2011)

But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20-21 (RSV)

Matthew 24 (Olivet Discourse, signs of the times), 24-25 (be ready)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:1-2 (ESV)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire." 2 Peter 2:18-22

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV2011)

For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 1 Peter 2:15-16 (ESV)

"The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. 36 He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:35-36 (NASB)

The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. 11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:10-12 (NASB)

If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 1 Timothy 6:3-5 (NASB)

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 (NASB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. 2 Peter 2:1-3

He speaks about these things in all his letters in which there are some matters that are hard to understand. The untaught and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures. 17 Therefore, dear friends, since you know this in advance, be on your guard, so that you are not led away by the error of lawless people and fall from your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. 2 Peter 3:16-18 (HCSB)

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (ESV)

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:29-32 (ESV)

"Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves." Matthew 7:15 (HCSB)

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. 9 I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:7-10 (RSV)

"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them." Acts 20:29-30 (NASB)

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Numbers 23:19 (NIV2011)

God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change— he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God. Psalm 55:19 (NIV2011)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8 (NASB)

Now brothers, I want to clarify for you the gospel I proclaimed to you; you received it and have taken your stand on it. 2 You are also saved by it, if you hold to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you believed for no purpose. 3 For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. 6 Then He appeared to over 500 brothers at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 (HCSB)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3 And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. 1 John 2:1-6 (ESV)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NASB)

In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:11-12 (RSV)

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NIV2011)

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." 2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV2011)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:1-10 (ESV)

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:14-19 (NIV2011)

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. James 1:22-24 (RSV)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. Ephesians 5:8-12 (NIV2011)

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Ephesians 5:15-17 (NASB)

"The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small— and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18

In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8 (NASB)

If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:14-15 (NASB)

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16 (RSV)

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Matthew 25:23 (NIV2011)

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the

Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:15-21 (ESV)

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. Psalm 139:1-4 (NIV2011)

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Genesis 21:17 (NIV2011)

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. 19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. 20 The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. Psalm 145:18-20 (ESV)

He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see? Psalm 94:9 (ESV)

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; 13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." Romans 10:12-13 (NASB)

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36 (NASB)

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NASB)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; he who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:16-18

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 1 Timothy 2:3-6 (ESV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV2011)

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. 8 "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." Psalm 22:6-8 (NIV2011)

Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— 17 I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; 18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:12-18 (ESV)

As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— Isaiah 52:14 (ESV)

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:3-5 (ESV)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. 28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. Matthew 27:27-31 (ESV)

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5 (NIV2011)

"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." John 10:14-18 (NASB)

How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by the man who has spurned the Son of God, and profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:29-31 (RSV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10 (NASB)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7 (NASB)

Psalm 37, 73

And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 (HCSB)

"And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." Matthew 11:6

Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." Romans 9:32-33 (ESV)

"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:9-10 (ESV)

"For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:22-24 (NASB)

For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:11-12 (NASB)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. Proverbs 14:12 (ESV)

For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:22b-25 (ESV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 (HCSB)

For You, Lord, are kind and ready to forgive, rich in faithful love to all who call on You. Psalm 86:5 (HCSB)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (HCSB)

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Romans 10:8-10 (ESV)

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 (ESV)

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Matthew 3:11 (ESV)

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" John 3:6-7 (NASB)

"And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Acts 11:16 (NASB)

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5-7 (NASB)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13 (NASB)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (RSV)

For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. 4 When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, God's wrath comes on the disobedient, 7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. 8 But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. Colossians 3:3-10 (HCSB)

Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life. 5 For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of His resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order

that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, 7 since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, 9 because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over Him. 10 For in light of the fact that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in light of the fact that He lives, He lives to God. 11 So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. Romans 6:3-12 (HCSB)

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Romans 13:14 (NASB)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ ?like a garment?. Galatians 3:27 (HCSB)

But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, "We don't have any sin," we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 1 John 1:7-10 (HCSB)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27 (NASB)

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. James 1:18 (NIV2011)