

Light and Salt
(or Stand Up for the REAL Jesus,
the TRUE Light of the World)

by Tricia Berg

Please don't think that to be a "nice" person or "good" Christian that you have to accept the ways of the world when they go against the moral values taught in the Bible. Really - God made some people in the wrong gender of body, or He made a mistake when He made genders at all? (If anyone can't see that's calling God a liar or inept, I don't know how to help them.) When people are confused and deceived, the last thing they need is a "yes man" to agree with them out of "lovingkindness." EVERYONE will be answering to the King of kings and Lord of lords. (Isa. 45:22-24) The world and everything in it will pass away, but His Kingdom lasts forever. (1John 2:15-17) Why do professed Christians then go along with all manner of evil as though that's what God would want and He will be pleased with them for doing so?

I'm absolutely NOT saying that hatred should be directed towards anyone. If God hated lost, deceived sinners, then we'd all in trouble because that's exactly where we all started out before we were saved. God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to save us FROM our sins, not TO sin. Speaking the truth in love does NOT mean telling people what they like to hear, joining in their sin or celebrating and supporting it. Doing those things in place of telling the truth is like recommending products that we know are scams. Why would we do that to anyone, let alone someone we love? If we love someone, we'll care about their eternal soul enough to steer them in the right direction, even if talking about sin makes us uncomfortable.

If "your Jesus" has changed with the times and so things that used to be sin when the New Testament was written no longer apply, then he's NOT Jesus. If your Bible is a paraphrase that says that anything goes except intolerance of sin, and as long as sin is consensual then it's okay, "your Bible" is not reliable. Read the context and the whole counsel of God, not just parts of it, in an accurate translation. (Perhaps start with ESV and compare it with NKJV and NIV, for starters—also look at the NASB to get a better picture of what is being said. If you enjoy the Word, as a person indwelt by the Holy Spirit should, then you may want to also look up some of the original Hebrew and Greek.)

Here's some truth: God made male and female, only TWO genders, and according to Him, marriage is ONLY between a man and woman, who are then

meant to reproduce and be faithful to one another. (Gen. 1:27, 2:24, Matt. 19:5-6, Rom. 1:18-32) Making some behaviors to no longer be considered "sexual immorality" is not the answer. God defines what that is, and He said it is anything other than sexual relations between a man and woman who are MARRIED. Jesus didn't say "put a log in your own eye so that you won't see the log in someone else's eye," did He? No, He said not to be a hypocrite. There's a difference. (Matt. 7:3-4) People might think they're getting away with something by redefining "good," but they will regret it when Jesus returns.

Jesus does NOT change and that is good, so we know He is ALWAYS trustworthy, faithful and true. He still hates sin. If there were going to be a point where it became okay, then why would He die for ours? Wouldn't He just wait until that time and then declare it all good? How absurd is that line of thinking?! The warnings to live to please God and obey Him are for us believers. If they were for unbelievers, then that would be works to save ourselves. We obey out of love, gratitude and respect because He is the one, true God and He saved us from the punishment we deserve. Without Him, we would be doomed to hell and without His indwelling Spirit, we would still be unable to resist sin or even want to try. (Philipp. 2:12-13, Rom. 8:7-8) But sadly, we're in the last days when people only want to hear how pleased God is with sin, or at least completely unconcerned by it.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

*As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For **many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.** And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And***

many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:3-14

Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'**" For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. **The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.** "I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. **But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.** Jeremiah 23:16-22

I 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: **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.** 2 Timothy 4:1-4

If your views are accepted by the rest of the world, there's a good chance that your beliefs do not line up with those of Jesus. He told us the way is narrow, and we would be hated for standing up for the truth. (Matt. 7:13-14) People should have nothing evil to say about us because we love in word and deed (like helping those in need - Titus 2:7-8, 1John 3:16-18, James 2:14-17, Gal. 6:9-10), not because we're just like them and we sell out the Jesus of the Bible whenever it would be inconvenient or unpopular for us to stand up for Him. (Matt. 10:32-33) If we can't stand up for the REAL Jesus now, under the "heavy" pressure of being unliked on social media, then how on earth will we stand firm when it's life or death? (Jer. 12:5) Whoever takes the mark of the

beast will eventually go in the Lake of Fire—or wouldn't "your Jesus" ever send anyone there? Whoever thinks that God will understand they had no choice but to worship the beast in order to survive, will find out they were mistaken. (Rev. 13)

*"Behold, I am sending you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.** Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings **for my sake**, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, **do not be anxious** how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But **the one who endures to the end will be saved.** When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. **"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them,** for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And **do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So **everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.** Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. **Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me."** Matthew 10:16-40*

"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. 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." Mark 9:42-43

"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, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' For everyone will be salted with fire. **Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."** Mark 9:45-50

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin." John 15:18-22

We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And WHY did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. 1 John 3:12-13

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Timothy 3:12-13

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10-19

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Psalm 1:1-6

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Psalm 111:10

People who embrace the "wisdom" of the world, thinking that either everyone goes to heaven (or at least everyone they consider "good"), or who think they can live with one foot in the world and one in God's kingdom are NOT wise. Nor are those who listen to unsaved people (or people trying to profit from them) telling them how to please God! People who lie to us for profit or to deceive us

are NOT our friends! Saying we're saved when our words and actions go completely against the Bible doesn't make us saved. Jesus said we should look for fruits (deeds). (Matt. 7:15-29) A saved person will be (usually gradually, but sometimes quite dramatically in a short time) changed from the inside out and show fruits of the Holy Spirit.

*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.** 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. And **the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.** 1 John 2:15-17*

*The **natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them** because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14*

*So you also must consider yourselves **dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.** Romans 6:11-12*

*But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now **the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.** But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.** Galatians 5:16-2*

*Put to **death** therefore what is earthly in you: **sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** In these you too **once** walked, when you were living in them. But **now** you must **put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and***

have **put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.** Colossians 3:5-10

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by convicting the consciences of people about their sins. He didn't say "Jesus is going to make it so that you can do whatever you like from now on and still be 'clean'" - He said REPENT! We're to ABIDE in Jesus. (John 15) That does not mean taking it for granted that even when we don't repent or ask forgiveness, He will wash us clean again every time we sin—even though we are in essence joining Him INTO our sin since His Spirit indwells believers—even though we give no thought whatsoever to defiling His temple, which is our body. Do you really think so? Read it for yourself. The behavior of believers MATTERS. It reflects on our HOLY Father and our HOLY Savior, His only begotten Son. (Rom. 1, 1Cor. 6, Eph. 5, Rev. 2-3)

Bear **fruit** in keeping with **repentance.** Matthew 3:8

Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But **he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality.** Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.** 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am **stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder**, that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that **scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.** They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For **they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **The Lord is not slow to fulfill his**

*promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the **ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 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 3:1-18*

*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*

Judgment is coming on people who have no regard for God's ways. It BEGINS at the household of God, which means believers. There will be a consequence for those who prefer to please themselves rather than God. We don't save ourselves, again, but the way we live reveals who we are on the inside—a born again, regenerated disciple of Christ, or someone who doesn't even know God well enough to have a healthy respect for Him, well enough to know that He sees and hears it ALL and even knows our very thoughts, well enough to keep in mind that He will be returning to judge everyone! (1John 3:4-10, Heb. 10:26-31) Even for those who truly believe but have been misled into thinking they can do whatever they want—despite having eternal life—there will be loss of reward, FOREVER. Is it worth it to "have fun" in this short life? Shouldn't our definition of what is considered fun change if God has made His home in us?

*"The Father judges no one, but has **given all judgment to the Son**, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. **Whoever does not honor***

the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him **authority to execute judgment**, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, **those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**" John 5:22-29

If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a **reward**. If anyone's work is **burned up**, he will **suffer loss**, though he himself will be **saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?** If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. **Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.** 1 Corinthians 3:14-18

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"** Therefore let those who **suffer according to God's will** entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good. 1 Peter 4:12-19

Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist. And the LORD said to him, **"Pass through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."** And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.

*Kill old men outright, young men and maidens, little children and women, but **touch no one on whom is the mark.** And **begin at my sanctuary.**" So they began with the elders who were before the house. Ezekiel 9:3-6*

*And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but **only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. And **in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.** Revelation 9:1-6*

***I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.** Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and **those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead.** And all the churches will know that **I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.** Revelation 2:21-23*

*And **that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating.** Everyone to whom **much was given, of him much will be required,** and from him to whom they **entrusted much, they will demand the more.** Luke 12:47-48*

*Seek the LORD, all you **humble** of the land, **who do his commands; seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the wrath of the LORD.** Zephaniah 2:3*

Terror and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth! He who flees at the sound of the terror shall fall into the pit, and he who climbs out of the pit shall be caught in the snare.** For the windows of heaven are opened, and the foundations of the earth tremble. The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. **On that day the LORD

will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders. *Isaiah 24:17-23*

For the sincere, honest love of and respect for our great and wonderful God, let's all be overcomers, by His power and for His glory, to receive the wonderful things He has promised to those who love Him. Let's love GOD in both word AND deed, the same as He told us to love one another—not according to the standards of this lost, fallen world, but according to His—the only ones that matter.

*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**"— 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*

*For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But **if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.** For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. **And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.** Hebrews 6:4-12*

*For you have need of endurance, so that **when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.** For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Hebrews 10:36-39*

And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another. **And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.** For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. **Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting for whoever greets him **takes part in his wicked works.** 2 John 1:5-11

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.** Revelation 20:11-15

"He who **overcomes** will **inherit** these things, and I will be his God and he will be My **son**. "But for **the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**" Revelation 21:7-8

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