

# What The Lord Says About Salvation in the Gospels

Sorted by General Subject

By Rev. David Lindrooth

## Initial Thoughts About the Subject of Salvation in the Gospels

What does Jesus actually say about salvation? What did He teach in the New Testament about what will get a person to heaven in the next life? It strikes me as odd that there is such a significant gap between what Jesus said in the Gospels and what many Christians contacting us at Newchurch.org have claimed are the basic principles of salvation taught in Christianity. In fact, the gap is so great that contacts frequently go to great lengths to deny direct teaching that the Lord gave in favor of arguments that have been spawned in the darker corners of Christendom centuries after His death.

By contrast, what Jesus says in the New Testament, is compellingly in-line with teachings found in the Writings of the New Church. As one would expect, there is perfect symmetry between the Jesus' teachings of salvation and the presentation of salvation in the Writings of the Second Coming. I have found Jesus' own words about salvation to be the best starting point in dialoguing with Christians about the tenants of faith of the New Church. The New Testament is their primary frame of reference when talking about faith. Furthermore, it is harder for Christians to avoid the realities of the false doctrines of their faith when confronted with true statements about religion that the Lord Himself made while on earth.

What are the false beliefs that our contacts most commonly bring up about salvation that differ significantly from the Lord's own teaching in the Letter of the Gospels? The following is a list of the ones we see most:

- Salvation is by faith alone and not related to a person's own efforts.
- Salvation comes only through God's plan to sacrifice His innocent Son for the sake of the guilty.
- God holds people guilty for the sin of Adam
- God is angry
- Only baptized Christians can be saved – no exceptions!
- The Ten Commandments (and the law in general) do not apply to Christians and salvation because they 'were nailed to the cross' (Col. 2:14).
- A good life is generally as a product of salvation (many people struggle with this because they still long for evil after they 'got saved').
- There are often fears expressed by people who worry about what will happen to them if they were members of 'the wrong religion'.
- Forgiveness issues.
- Judgment issues.

From a doctrinal perspective these issues come up repeatedly in the Writings. That said, I am still surprised to see how pervasive these issues are in the internet conversations we have with our Christian contacts. It is so strange to see people who call themselves 'Christian' flatly refuse to acknowledge clear, openly stated words of Christ.

There are also many good people contacting us who innately understand the Lord in a general way. They also have issues. Some come to us simply out of pain due to some trauma or death. Some are struggling with addictions. Some come to us with marriage issues. And some are facing spiritual problems that just won't go away. Occasionally, get people who have pretty much pieced together a 'new church' form of belief and are overcome with joy when they find the church they have been searching for many years. These basically good people are easy to serve yielding the most joyful results.

Peter Devassay is a great example of this later class of people. He had been involved with Catholics and Pentecostals but always felt that there was something missing in their theology. He took up a contact with the folks in Colchester after discovering us on [newchurch.org](http://newchurch.org). Olaf Hauptman and Heulwen Ridgeway began to send books to him. Eventually, Peter travelled to Stockholm, as the nearest church he could find (he was in Poland at the time). Peter now is planting a church in Kerala India.

## **Introduction to the Gospel Study**

In the early Fall, I began to gather passages from the Gospels that I judged to be the direct references to salvation and what it took to get to heaven. I highlighted in yellow the references that explicitly spoke of salvation or life and merely copied the references were obvious but indirectly spoke of salvation through analogy. There may be ones I missed. Once I collected them, I organized them into 23 categories. About a third of the passages fit into several categories so they are repeated. Some of the categories probably will be combined in the future. Most of the categories have clear teachings from the Writings that help characterize their nature.

Where it might go from here:

The study began out of the need to have the passages ready at my fingertips for my dialogues with our internet contacts. Yet, after repeated readings, I am still moved by the text and the power inherent in their being bundled together. I expect I will extend this study into the Old Testament and into the Epistles in order to build out a bigger picture. And then, ultimately, I hope to couch this study in a paper on the New Church Doctrine of Salvation. I hope that it might be of use to you at this early stage and that you might feel free to share thoughts and insights so that I can improve its insights and usefulness in the future.

A final thought before we begin: The fundamental focus of the priesthood is the Lord and His salvation of souls. To the degree that we focus our attention on this most holy use, the Church will be in order and function in a robust and healthy way. The Priesthood represents salvation. This is taught in AC 9809. The good of the priesthood is the salvation of souls (Life 39; HD 317; AC 10796).

In the doctrine of Charity we read of charity in the priest. This passage makes clear how important the subject of salvation is to the priesthood and thereby to the church as an organization. We read "If [the priest] looks to the Lord and shuns evils

as sins and sincerely, justly and faithfully performs the work of the ministry enjoined upon him, he does the good of use continually and becomes charity in form. And he does the good of use or work of the ministry sincerely, justly, and faithfully when he is affected with a desire for the salvation of souls. And in proportion as he is so affected, he is affected by truths, because by means of them he leads souls to heaven; and he leads souls to heaven by means of truths when he leads them to the Lord.” (Charity 160)

## Table of Contents

<b>Initial Thoughts About the Subject of Salvation in the Gospels</b> .....	2
<b>Introduction to the Gospel Study</b> .....	3
<b>Notes on How to Read This Study:</b> .....	5
<b>The Lord is Salvation Itself</b> .....	6
From The Writings – The Lord is Salvation Itself.....	6
From the Writings - Salvation comes from the Lord alone: critical for a person to believe when struggling in temptation .....	7
<b>Salvation is the Lord’s Work</b> .....	7
From the Writings – The Lord’s Work of Salvation .....	9
<b>The Need to be Conjoined with the Lord</b> .....	9
<b>The Word of the Lord Teaches Salvation</b> .....	10
<b>Life or Works</b> .....	10
From the Writings - Life.....	15
From the Writings – Life/Mercy without Means .....	15
From The Writings – Natural Good Saves No One.....	15
From The Writings – Salvation as a Reward .....	16
<b>Evil Life Condemns</b> .....	16
From The Writings – Evil Life Condemns.....	17
<b>Forgiveness</b> .....	20
<b>Positive Attitude Toward Others is Important</b> .....	21
<b>Obedience to the Lord’s Commandments</b> .....	23
<b>Humility</b> .....	25
<b>Belief</b> .....	26
<b>Spiritual vs. Natural</b> .....	27
<b>Endurance</b> .....	29
<b>Hard Work For Some</b> .....	30
<b>Backsliding</b> .....	31
<b>Some Choose not to be Saved</b> .....	31

<b>Confession/ Reception .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Sacrifices of God (What He expects) .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Words and What You Say.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Interfering with Salvation .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Gentiles Healed/ Allowed into Heaven .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Unclassified Life After Death .....</b>	<b>34</b>

**Notes on How to Read This Study:**

The material is organized more as an index than as a paper. The body is divided first by main headings containing passages from the Gospels which appear roughly in the order that they occur in the Word. Some of the main headings also have sub-headings that contain several passages from the Writings that speak to the subject. The purpose of this organization is to be able to zero in to specific subjects and quickly make use of the passages there in dialogues with others.

I'm not expecting everyone to read everything this whole study. Rather, I see it as the beginning of a tool that can help with dialoguing about salvation. Having said that, you might enjoy browsing or reading selected headings. As stated earlier, I have found reading and reflecting on the passages quite fulfilling.

## The Lord is Salvation Itself

Luke 2:30: Simeon says of Jesus: "For my eyes have seen Your salvation."

Luke 3:6: "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

John 10:9: "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

John 11:25: "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." "

John 12:12-13: "<sup>12</sup> The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup> took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: " Hosanna! ' Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! The King of Israel!" "

John 12:50: "And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

Compare I John 5:20 quoted in TCR 3

The name "Jesus" is a cognate of "the Lord Saves"

### From The Writings – The Lord is Salvation Itself

TCR 150. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are to receive those spiritual benefits, because He Himself is salvation and everlasting life. He is salvation, because He is the Savior, for this is the meaning of His name Jesus; He is everlasting life, because those in whom He is, and who are in Him, have everlasting life. This is why He is called everlasting life in 1 John 5:20. Now since He is salvation and everlasting life, it follows that He is also every means which leads to salvation and everlasting life. Thus He is the whole of reformation, regeneration, renewal, quickening, sanctification and justification, cleansing from evils, and finally salvation. In the case of every single person the Lord confers these benefits, or rather, He attempts to impart them; and when a person makes himself ready and suitable to receive them, He does impart them. The activity of readying and making oneself suitable comes from the Lord too, but if the person does not receive them with spontaneity of spirit, then the Lord cannot go beyond the attempt to introduce them, and this attempt is constantly kept up.

AE 460 [2] "Salvation unto Him," signifies that salvation is from Him, since He is salvation; for everything of salvation and of eternal life is from the Lord and is with man and angel; for all the good of love and all the truth of faith with man are the Lord's with him, and not the man's; for it is the Divine proceeding, which is the Lord in heaven with the angels and in the church with men, and from the good of love and the truth of faith come salvation and eternal life; so when it is said that salvation is the Lord's, and that the Lord Himself is salvation, it is clear how this is to be understood

AR 804. Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God, signifies that now there is salvation from the Lord, because now there is a reception of Divine truth and Divine good from His Divine power.

### From the Writings - Salvation comes from the Lord alone: critical for a person to believe when struggling in temptation

AC 8172 It is said here that they should faithfully believe that salvation comes from the Lord alone and not at all from themselves, because this is the chief thing to be believed in temptations. The person who believes when he is tempted that he has strength of his own with which he can offer resistance goes under. The reason for this is that he is subject to a falsity that leads him to ascribe merit to himself; and in doing this he claims that he himself accomplishes his salvation, in which case he shuts out influx from the Divine. But the person who believes that the Lord alone offers resistance in temptations is victorious, for he is guided by the truth and ascribes merit to the Lord; and he perceives that his salvation is accomplished by the Lord alone. A person whose faith is bonded to charity ascribes salvation wholly to the Lord and not at all to himself.

### Salvation is the Lord's Work

Matthew 18:11: "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."

Matthew 18:14: "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

Matthew 24:22: "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved."

Mark 2:10: "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."

Mark 10:27: "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Luke 9:56: "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Luke 12:32: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Luke 19:10 "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 3:14-17: "<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.** <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:18-21 "<sup>18</sup>He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only

begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

Compare to John 8:12: “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” ”

Also compare to John 9:15: “Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ”

John 4:14: “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 5:21: “For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”

John 6:40: “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:47: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

John 6:50-51: “<sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.”

John 6:68: “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” ”

John 8:24: “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

John 10:9: “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”

John 11:25: “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” ”

John 12:32: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

John 12:47-48: “<sup>47</sup> And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for **I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.** <sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

## From the Writings – The Lord’s Work of Salvation

DP 257 Divine providence has for its end nothing else than reformation and thus salvation. This is its continual operation in each individual. And salvation cannot be achieved except by acknowledgment of the Lord’s Divinity and confidence that the Lord accomplishes that salvation when a person lives according to His precepts.

TCR 142. (2) THE DIVINE VIRTUE AND OPERATION, SIGNIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONSIST, IN GENERAL, IN REFORMATION AND REGENERATION; AND FOLLOWING UPON THESE, RENEWAL, VIVIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATION; AND FOLLOWING UPON THESE AGAIN, PURIFICATION FROM EVILS AND REMISSION OF SINS; AND FINALLY, SALVATION.

These are the virtues in their order which the Lord makes effective in those who believe on Him, and who adapt and prepare themselves to receive Him and become His dwelling place. This is brought about by means of Divine Truth, and in the case of Christians, by means of the Word, as this is the only means by which a man approaches the Lord, and into which the Lord enters. for, as was said above, the Lord is the Divine Truth itself, and whatever proceeds from Him is Divine Truth. It is, however, Divine Truth from good that is to be understood, and this is the same as faith from charity, for faith is nothing but truth, and charity is nothing but goodness. By means of Divine Truth from good, that is, by means of faith from charity, a man is reformed and regenerated; then renewed, quickened, sanctified and justified; and according as those virtues progress and develop, he is also purified from evils: and purification from these is the remission of sins. However, all these several operations of the Lord cannot here be explained in detail, for each requires its exposition to be confirmed from the Word and rationally illustrated; and this does not belong to our present subject. The reader is therefore referred to later parts of this work which treat in due order of Charity, Faith, Free Will, Repentance, Reformation and Regeneration. It should be known that the Lord without ceasing renders effective those saving graces in every man, for they are the steps to heaven, and the Lord wills the salvation of all men; thus the salvation of all is the end He has in view, and He who wills the end wills also the means. The Lord’s Coming, His Redemption, and the Passion of the Cross, were all for the sake of man’s salvation, Matt. xviii. 11; Luke xix. 10; and as man’s salvation was, and eternally is, the end He has in view, it follows that the operations just mentioned are mediate ends, while salvation is the ultimate end.

## The Need to be Conjoined with the Lord

John 6:53-54: “Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:57-58, 63: “<sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever...<sup>63</sup>It is the **Spirit** who gives life; the flesh profits **nothing**. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” [emphasis added]

John 12:32: “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

## The Word of the Lord Teaches Salvation

John 6:68: “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” ”

John 12:47-48: “<sup>47</sup> And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; **for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.** <sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

## Life or Works

Matthew 3:7-12: “<sup>7</sup> But when he [John the Baptist] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. <sup>10</sup> And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I indeed baptize you with water unto 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. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ”

Matthew 5:14-16: “<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:15-18: “<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”

Matthew 7:19-20: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

Matthew 7:21: “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

Matthew 7:24-25: “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”

Matthew 9:13: “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Matthew 10:5-11: “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food. 11 Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.”

Matthew 10:39: “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Matthew 12:7-13: “But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” 9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him.

11 Then He said to them, “What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” 13 Then He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other.”

Matthew 12:33: “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.”

Matthew 12:36: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

Matthew 12:50: “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

Matthew 13:23: “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Matthew 16:25: “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Mark 8:35-37: “<sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he

gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Matthew 16:27: "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Matthew 19:29: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

Matthew 21:31: " "Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you [the Pharisees]."

Matthew 21:43: "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

Matthew 25:31-46: "<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?' <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**' [emphasis added] <sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

<sup>44</sup> "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." "

Mark 3:35: "For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Luke 3:7-8: "Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have

Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

Jesus says to the sinful woman who washed His feet with oil at the Pharisee's house, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Luke 7:36-50: "<sup>36</sup> Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, <sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

<sup>41</sup> "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." <sup>44</sup> Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. <sup>45</sup> You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

<sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Luke 10:25-28: "<sup>25</sup> And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

<sup>27</sup> So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

Luke 12:47: "And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."

After this Jesus spoke the parable of the barren fig tree, saying, "fertilize":

Luke 13:6-9: “<sup>6</sup> He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ <sup>8</sup> But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.”

Luke 16:9: ““And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.” ”

Luke 17:33: “Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

Luke 19:1-10: “<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” <sup>6</sup> So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. <sup>7</sup> But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; <sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

John 3:18-21 “<sup>18</sup>He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

John 4:35-36: “<sup>35</sup>...Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! <sup>36</sup> And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.”

John 5:28-29: “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:39-40: “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

### **From the Writings - Life**

Life 1. ALL RELIGION IS OF THE LIFE, AND THE LIFE OF RELIGION IS TO DO THAT WHICH IS GOOD.

Every man who has religion knows and acknowledges that he who leads a good life is saved, and that he who leads an evil life is damned; for he knows and acknowledges that the man who lives aright thinks aright, not only about God but also about his neighbor; but not so the man whose life is evil. The life of man is his love, and that which he loves he not only likes to be doing, but also likes to be thinking. The reason therefore why we say that the life is to do that which is good is that doing what is good acts as a one with thinking what is good, for if in a man these two things do not act as a one, they are not of his life.

DP 339. It is apparent now from this that all who think of salvation in terms of life think not of any instantaneous salvation out of mercy apart from means, but of the means of salvation into which and by which the Lord operates in accordance with the laws of His Divine providence, thus by which the Lord leads a person out of pure mercy.

On the other hand, people who do not think of salvation in terms of life, suppose there to be an instantaneous change in salvation and an absence of means in mercy, as those do who separate faith from charity (charity being life) and attribute an instantaneous change to faith, if not before, during the last hour of death. And those, too, do the same who believe that the forgiveness of sins is, without repentance, an absolution from sins and thus salvation, and go to Holy Supper. Likewise those who trust in the indulgences of monks, and in their prayers for the deceased, and in their dispensations by virtue of the power they claim to have over people's souls.

AR 675 As for religion: Who can deny that religion consists in refraining from evil and doing good? Is there any religion where people are taught that faith alone saves, and not charity? Is there any religion where people are taught that charity emanating from people is nothing but moral and civic charity? Who does not see that in such charity there is no religion? Is there any deed or work in faith alone? And yet religion consists in doing.

### **From the Writings – Life/Mercy without Means**

DP 338. Instantaneous salvation out of mercy apart from means is not possible. In the preceding discussions we showed that the operation of Divine providence to save a person begins at the person's birth and continues to the end of his life, and afterward to eternity, and that this operation takes place unceasingly, through means, out of pure mercy. It follows from this that there is no instantaneous salvation, nor any mercy apart from means.

### **From The Writings – Natural Good Saves No One**

AC 7761. A clear distinction must be made between spiritual good and natural good. As before said, spiritual good has its quality from the truths of faith, their abundance, and their connection; but natural good is born with the man, and also

arises by accident, as by misfortunes, diseases, and the like. Natural good saves no one, but spiritual good saves all. The reason is that the good which is formed through the truths of faith is a plane into which heaven can flow, that is, the Lord through heaven, and lead man, and withhold him from evil, and afterward uplift him into heaven; but not so natural good; and therefore they who are in natural good can be as easily carried away by falsity as by truth, provided the falsity appears in the form of truth; and they can be as easily led by evil as by good, provided the evil is presented as good. They are like feathers in the wind.

### From The Writings – Salvation as a Reward

AE 445 If a man is living according to the Lord's commandments, it is permissible for him to think of eternal life, salvation, and heavenly joy; but it is not permissible for him to keep his mind intent upon reward, for if he does so he has reward as an end, and easily falls into the thought that by his life he deserves heaven and salvation, and this thought causes him to have regard to self in every particular, and such regard to self removes him from heaven; for so far as man looks to self in what he does, he does not look to heaven.

### Evil Life Condemns

Matthew 5:30: "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."

Matthew 10:28: "28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 16:25: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Mark 8:35-37: "<sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Mark 9:43-47: "<sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched. <sup>44</sup> where

*' Their worm does not die  
And the fire is not quenched.'*

<sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— <sup>46</sup> where

*' Their worm does not die  
And the fire is not quenched.'*

<sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire."

Luke 12:47: “And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”

Luke 16:19-31: Rich man and Lazarus, obviously talking about heaven and hell. Message to those on earth: <sup>19</sup> “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

<sup>27</sup> “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ <sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup> But he said to him, **‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’** [emphasis added]

John 3:18-21 <sup>18</sup>He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

### From The Writings – Evil Life Condemns

TCR 564 A person who has never repented, or looked into himself and examined himself, ends up not knowing what is the evil that damns him and what the good that saves him. Since so few people in the world of the Reformed Christians repent, it is necessary to add this point, that anyone who has not looked into or examined himself ends up not knowing what is the evil that damns him and the good that saves him. For he has no religious belief by which he can know this. The evil which a person does not see, recognize and acknowledge, lasts; and what lasts grows deeper and deeper roots until it blocks the interiors of his mind. This makes a person first natural, then sensual and finally bodily. In neither of these last two states does he recognize any damning evil or saving good. He becomes like a tree growing on hard rock, spreading its roots among the cracks in it, which ends up by withering for lack

of moisture.

## Repentance/ Amendment of Life

Matthew 3:1-2: “1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!””

Matthew 3:7-12: “7 But when he [John the Baptist] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, 9 and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto 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. 12 His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ”

Matthew 4:17: “17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ”

Jesus’ first words in Mark:

Mark 1:15: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 9:43-47: “<sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched. <sup>44</sup> where

*‘ Their worm does not die  
And the fire is not quenched.’*

<sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched— <sup>46</sup> where

*‘ Their worm does not die  
And the fire is not quenched.’*

<sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.”

Matthew 9:13: “13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” ”

Mark 10:29-31: who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Luke 3:7-8: "Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

Luke 13:3: "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Luke 13:5: "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

#### Lost sheep:

Luke 15:7: "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance." [emphasis added]

#### Lost coin:

Luke 15:10: "Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

#### Lost son, alive again through **repentance**:

Luke 15:11-31: "<sup>11</sup> Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. <sup>13</sup> And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. <sup>14</sup> But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. <sup>15</sup> Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup> And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."

<sup>20</sup> "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; <sup>24</sup> **for this my son was dead and is alive again**; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. [emphasis added]

<sup>25</sup> "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked what

these things meant. <sup>27</sup> And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

<sup>28</sup> "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

<sup>31</sup> "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

## Forgiveness

Matthew 6:14: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Matthew 12:32: "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

Matthew 18:22-35: "22 Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup> Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. <sup>26</sup> The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' <sup>27</sup> Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

<sup>28</sup> "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' <sup>30</sup> And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. <sup>32</sup> Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' <sup>34</sup> And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

Matthew 18, cont.: <sup>35</sup> "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Mark 2:10: "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins."

John came:

Luke 1:77: "To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins."

Jesus says to the sinful woman who washed His feet with oil at the Pharisee's house, "*Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.*" :

Luke 7:36-50: "<sup>36</sup> Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, <sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

<sup>41</sup> "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." <sup>44</sup> Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. <sup>45</sup> You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

<sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Then He said to the woman, "*Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.*"

## **Positive Attitude Toward Others is Important**

Matthew 5:21-22 "21 'You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire."

Matthew 6:14: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Matthew 25:31-46: “<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?’ <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**’ [emphasis added] <sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

<sup>44</sup> “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” ”

Rich man and Lazarus, obviously talking about heaven and hell. Message to those on earth:

Luke 16:19-31: “<sup>19</sup> “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

<sup>24</sup> “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

<sup>27</sup> “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s

house,<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’<sup>29</sup> Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’<sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’<sup>31</sup> But he said to him, **‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’**” [emphasis added]

## Obedience to the Lord’s Commandments

Matthew 5:17-20: “17 “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 16:24: “Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” ”

Matthew 19:16-22: “16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**” 17 So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments.**” 18 He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ 19 ‘Honor you father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” 20 The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” 21 Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**”<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” [emphasis added]

Mark 10:17-22: “<sup>17</sup> Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, **what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**”

<sup>18</sup> So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>19</sup> You know **the commandments:** ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” <sup>20</sup> And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” <sup>21</sup> Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, **sell whatever you have and give to the poor,** and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” <sup>22</sup> But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” [emphasis added]

Compare to Matthew 19:16-22 (see above), and Luke 18:18-23: “<sup>18</sup> Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”  
<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” <sup>21</sup> And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”  
<sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.”

Matthew 19:29: “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”

Mark 10:23-27: “<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, “Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

<sup>26</sup> And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, “Who then can be saved?”

Luke 10:25-28: “<sup>25</sup> And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

<sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

<sup>27</sup> So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’

<sup>28</sup> And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

Rich man and Lazarus, obviously talking about heaven and hell. Message to those on earth:

Luke 16:19-31: “<sup>19</sup> “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

<sup>24</sup> “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented

in this flame.’<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.’<sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

<sup>27</sup> “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup> Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ <sup>30</sup> And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup> But he said to him, **‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’**” [emphasis added]

John 5:39-40: “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

John 12:50: “And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

## Humility

Matthew 5: 1-11: “1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3 “ Blessed are the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 16:24: "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." "

Matthew 16:25: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Mark 10:15: "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

(compare Matthew 19:13-15 and Luke 18:15-17):

Matthew 19:13-15: "<sup>13</sup> Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." <sup>15</sup> And He laid His hands on them and departed from there."

Luke 18:15-17: "<sup>15</sup> Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

John 12:25: "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

## Belief

Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

John came:

Luke 1:77: "To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins."

Luke 17:20-21: "<sup>20</sup> Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation...<sup>21</sup> For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." "

John 3:36: "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 4:14: "But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

John 5:25: "...the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live...." John 5:28-29: "Do not marvel at this;

for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

John 5:39-40: “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

John 6:40: “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:47: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

John 6:68: “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” ”

John 8:24: “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

John 12:47-48: “<sup>47</sup> And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

## Spiritual vs. Natural

Matthew 6:24: “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 6:33: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 7:13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.”

Matthew 19:16-22: “<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**” <sup>17</sup> So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments.**” <sup>18</sup> He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ <sup>19</sup> ‘Honor you father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” <sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**” <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” [emphasis added]

Mark 10:17-22: “<sup>17</sup> Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “Good Teacher, **what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**”

<sup>18</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>19</sup> You know **the commandments**: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" <sup>20</sup> And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." <sup>21</sup> Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, **sell whatever you have and give to the poor**, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." <sup>22</sup> But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." [emphasis added]

Compare to Matthew 19:16-22 (see above), and Luke 18:18-23: "<sup>18</sup> Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" <sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." <sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich."

Matthew 19:29: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

Mark 8:35-37: "<sup>35</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Luke 12:31: "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."

Luke 12:33-34: "<sup>33</sup> Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 17:20-21: "<sup>20</sup> Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation...<sup>21</sup> For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." "

Luke 17:33: "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

John 3:3: "Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "

John 3:5-6: “<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ” ”

John 3:12: “If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?”

John 6:27 “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.

John 6:50-51: “<sup>50</sup> This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.

John 6:57-58, 63: “<sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever...<sup>63</sup>It is the **Spirit** who gives life; the flesh profits **nothing**. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” [emphasis added]

John 12:25: “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

## Endurance

Matthew 10:22: “And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 24:13: “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (compare to Matthew 10:22)

Mark 13:13: “And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

Compare to Daniel 12:12-13: “<sup>12</sup>Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. <sup>13</sup>But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

Also Matthew 10:22 and Matthew 24:13 (see above)

Also Revelation 2:10: “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Luke 13:23-30: “<sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door,

saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'<sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'<sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'<sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.<sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.<sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." [emphasis added]

John 6:27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.

### Hard Work For Some

Mark 10:23-27: "<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!"<sup>24</sup> And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!<sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?"

Mark 10:27: "But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Luke 13:23-30: "<sup>23</sup> Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them,<sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able."<sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'<sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'<sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.'<sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.<sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.<sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last." [emphasis added]

Luke 14:25-33: "<sup>25</sup> Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,<sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."<sup>27</sup> And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.<sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the

cost, whether he has enough to finish it—<sup>29</sup> lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,<sup>30</sup> saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish?”<sup>31</sup> Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?<sup>32</sup> Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.<sup>33</sup> So likewise, **whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.**” [emphasis added]

## Backsliding

Luke 9:62: “But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” ”

## Some Choose not to be Saved

Parable of the great supper, excuses about faith alone causing people to select out:

Luke 14:16-24: “Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,<sup>17</sup> and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’<sup>18</sup> But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>19</sup> And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’<sup>20</sup> Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’<sup>21</sup> So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’<sup>22</sup> And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’<sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’<sup>24</sup> For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

## Confession/ Reception

Matthew 10:32: “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

John 1:12-13: “<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Luke 12:31: “But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.”

John 5:25: “...the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”

John 5:39-40: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. <sup>40</sup> But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

### Sacrifices of God (What He expects)

Matthew 12:7-13: "7 But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." 9 Now when He had departed from there, He went into their synagogue. 10 And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—that they might accuse Him.

11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." 13 Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other."

Matthew 19:16-22: "16 Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, **what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?**" 17 So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, **keep the commandments.**" 18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, " 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 19 'Honor you father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, **sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.**" <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." [emphasis added]

Matthew 19:29: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

Luke 12:33-34: "<sup>33</sup> Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

## Words and What You Say

Matthew 12:37: "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

## Interfering with Salvation

Matthew 23:13: "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."

## Gentiles Healed/ Allowed into Heaven

Matthew 8:5-13: "5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.' 7 And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' 8 The centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.' 10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, 'Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.' And his servant was healed that same hour."

Matthew 25:31-46: "<sup>31</sup> 'When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

<sup>37</sup> 'Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.**' [emphasis added] <sup>41</sup> 'Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart

from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:  
<sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no  
drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe  
Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

<sup>44</sup> "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or  
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' <sup>45</sup>  
Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not  
do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away  
into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.' "

See also Romans 2:10,14,15: "<sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who  
works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek... <sup>14</sup> for when Gentiles,  
who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not  
having the law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written  
in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves  
their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)."

## Unclassified Life After Death

Luke 20:37: "But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are  
raised, when he called the Lord 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God  
of Jacob.'"

Luke 23:43: "And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with  
Me in Paradise."

The angels say:

Luke 24:7: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

John 1:51: "And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see  
heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."