

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

Chapter 20

Ephesians 4:20–21

Ephesians 4:20–21 *But ye have not so learned Christ;*

²¹ *If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:*

IN contrast to how the Gentiles walk, in vanity of mind, and spiritual aimlessness, we have the supreme example of the source of all Christian truth, *as the truth is in Jesus*. This revelation is perhaps the greatest revelation in all of Paul's letters to the churches, as it reveals that if a man is sincerely looking for the truth, he can only find it in the Son of God. Because *the truth is in Jesus*, then it makes little difference whatever else we may think we know of the Scripture, or of the higher spiritual realm, if we know not, or have yet to have fully believed upon He, Whom God has sent to save us, and Who alone can provide entrance to the Father.

*(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Eph. 4:21) If so be that ye have heard him—*If you have listened attentively to his instructions, and learned the true nature of his religion. . . .

*And have been taught by him—*By his Spirit, or by the ministers whom he had appointed.

*As the truth is in Jesus—*If you have learned the true nature of his religion as he himself taught it. (END QUOTE)

(John 14:6) *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Jesus' words are clear and unmistakable when He states, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* To share in the life of God, a man must put his faith, trust, and full confidence in the Son of God. By this it is meant that men should not foolishly put their confidence in themselves, hoping to be saved by their own words and/or work. If a man does this, it only reveals that his trust remains in himself to be saved, and that he has no true faith in the Son of God or the Father Who sent Him.¹ Placing our confidence in ourselves also reveals that we remain intent on pursuing our own self-righteousness,² and have rejected that righ-

1 John 5:23 *That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.*

John 5:30 *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*

John 5:36–37 *But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.*³⁷ *And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.* John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 6:57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

2 Rom. 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

teousness that is imputed through faith in God's Son.³ Ultimately righteousness,⁴ divine righteousness, that righteousness that allows us to stand unashamed before God, and justified from sin before Him, cannot be produced through ourselves but is solely accessible through faith in the Son of God. It is the Lord alone Who can justify the ungodly,⁵ and they cannot, by any earthly means, justify themselves. Biblically there is no other path to be made righteous or just by God, than through faith in the Righteous One.⁶ It is also true that if a man has not yet *learned Christ*, or *heard him*, or *been taught by him* (Jesus Christ), then regardless of what else he may think produces religious piety, absent genuine faith in the Son of God, then he cannot be saved. Because *the truth is in Jesus*, then to lack authentic and sincere faith in the Son, is to remain ignorant of the truth.

Just as the apostle revealed that *the truth is in Jesus* to the Ephesians, so did he also reveal in another epistle to the Philippians, that the great purpose of his own life, was to come to *know Jesus*, and *the power of His* (Christ's) *resurrection*. And although our greatest blessing is that God knows us,⁷ still our greatest pursuit in life should be to more deeply come to know Him. This can only occur, when we come to know the One, Whom God has sent to reveal Himself to the world.⁸

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Phil. 3:10) *That I may know him*—That I may be fully acquainted with his nature, his character, his work, and with the salvation which he has worked out. It is one of the highest objects of desire in the mind of the Christian to

Luke 18:9 *And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:*

3 Gal. 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Rom. 3:22 *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

Rom. 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Phil. 3:9 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

4 Rom. 3:21–22 *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

II Cor. 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

5 Rom. 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

6 Jer. 23:6 *In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

7 I Cor. 13:12 *For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

II Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

I Cor. 8:3 *But if any man love God, the same is known of him.*

Nah. 1:7 *The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

John 1:48 *Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*

8 John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

John 6:46 *Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.*

know Christ; see the notes at Ephesians 3:19.⁹
(END QUOTE)

There is no greater knowledge in the world today, than knowledge of the Son of God, and the power which is His, which brings to life those dead in sin, who by natural and sinful birth, came into the world estranged from God.¹⁰ Ultimately the Lord has always purposed Jesus to be the great Restorer of the human race and their sinful condition.¹¹ It is He, Who transforms the sinner's heart and makes it supple and soft to the will of God.¹² It is He, Who joins His own divine nature to the sinner's soul, producing hope of eternal life, and He, Who shall one day

completely transform the believer's earthly body to resemble His own glorified body.¹³ There is also not one of these great supernatural events, that any individuals can accomplish through their own power. Consequently without the intercessional ministry of the Son of God, no man could through his own strength, worth, merit, or human ingenuity be saved by God.¹⁴ For this great task, it takes the ministry of the Son of God. (Heb. 7:25) *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Heb. 7:25) *That come unto God by him*—In his name; or depending on him. To come to God, is to ap-

9 Eph. 3:19 *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

10 Eph. 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Col. 2:13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

Ps. 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Ps. 58:3 *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*

11 Isa. 53:5 *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Heb. 2:17 *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*
Col. 1:19–20 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*²⁰ *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

12 Ezek. 36:26 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

Ezek. 11:19 *And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

Jer. 31:33 *But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

13 I Cor. 15:42–49 *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:*

⁴³*It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. ⁴⁶Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

14 Rom. 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Isa. 53:12 *Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Heb. 9:12 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

I John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

proach him for pardon and salvation. (END QUOTE)

It was impossible for any Israelite to be forgiven for his sin, without both the priest, and the sacrificial offering that the priest would present to God, on behalf of the transgressor.¹⁵ Since it could only be through those made priests by God and ordained for this purpose, that sinners could be forgiven, and their sin removed from them. What this reveals to us in the Christian faith, is that without the intercessory ministry of another, true forgiveness of sin is unavailable. Just as with the Israelites, it is necessary for a priest (another) more holy, divine, and closer to God than ourselves, to make intercession for us. Ultimately before being saved by Christ, no sinner can plead on his own behalf for sins against God to be forgiven. If he could, then there would be no need

for another, ordained and appointed by God for this purpose, just as Jesus Christ our High Priest is revealed to be.¹⁶ This divine truth, that intercession is needed by one both ordained and appointed by God, for any to be forgiven, is very humbling. Jesus is that other—that heavenly Priest Whom Melchizedek was representative of, (Heb. 7:3) *having neither beginning of days, nor end of life*¹⁷—Who, being in God's presence, continually intercedes for His people's sin.¹⁸ This truth is beyond grasp to the human ego, when it is understood, that even in the New Testament, principally another, an eternal High Priest Whom God has appointed,¹⁹ must intercede on the believer's behalf, in order that they may be both forgiven and accepted by God.

Not only has God purposed His Son to be that High Priest necessary to make

¹⁵ Heb. 9:7–10 *But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:* ⁸*The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:* ⁹*Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;* ¹⁰*Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.*

¹⁶ Heb. 4:14–5:6 *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.* ¹⁵*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.* ¹⁶*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

⁵¹*For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:* ²*Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.* ³*And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.* ⁴*And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.* ⁵*So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.* ⁶*As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

¹⁷ Heb. 7:3 *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

¹⁸ Rom. 8:34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Heb. 9:24 *For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:*

Heb. 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

I John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

¹⁹ Heb. 6:20 *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

Heb. 7:15–17 *And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,* ¹⁶*Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.*

¹⁷*For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

intercession for our sin,²⁰ but Jesus' body was also that spiritual sacrifice offered to God, that secured our salvation.²¹ In type, Jesus is both the Priest Who presented the sin offering to God, and the sacrificial Offering, that bears the penalty for sin. Hence we have two types in the Old Testament that both point to the ministry of God's Son: 1. The high priest and his intercessory ministry; 2. The offering needed for true forgiveness to be granted. Both of these crucial elements of priest and offering have come together in the Son of God.

Fellowship of his sufferings. So much was the apostle certain of Jesus' resurrection, that not only did he desire to share in it, but he also greatly desired to share in Jesus' sufferings that preceded His glorification. Thus the apostle desired not simply to share in the everlasting life and glory of the Savior, but also to be a partaker of the same suffering as his Savior. Ultimately, Paul sought for his own physical

life to mirror and mimic His Lord's. He desired not the good without the bad, consequently mitigating what a tremendous price, it took to save him.

*(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Phil. 3:10) And the fellowship of his sufferings—*That I may participate in the same kind of sufferings that he endured; that is, that I may in all things be identified with him. Paul wished to be just like his Saviour. He felt that it was an honor to live as he did; to evince the spirit that he did, and to suffer in the same manner. All that Christ did and suffered was glorious in his view, and he wished in all things to resemble him. He did not desire merely to share his honors and triumphs in heaven, but, regarding his whole work as glorious, he wished to be wholly conformed to that, and, as far as possible, to be just like Christ. Many are willing to reign with Christ, but they would not be willing to suffer with him; many would be willing to wear a crown of glory like him, but not the crown of thorns; many would be willing to put on the robes of splendor which will be worn in heaven,

20 *Heb. 9:12–14 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*¹³*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*¹⁴*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

*Lev. 16:21–22 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:*²²*And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.*

Exod. 30:10 And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

*Lev. 16:15–16 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:*¹⁶*And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.*

Lev. 4:20 And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.

Lev. 12:5 But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days.

21 *I John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
*Heb. 9:12–14 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*¹³*For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:*¹⁴*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

but not the scarlet robe of contempt and mockery.

They would desire to share the glories and triumphs of redemption, but not its poverty, contempt, and persecution. This was not the feeling of Paul. He wished in all things to be just like Christ, and hence he counted it an honor to be permitted to suffer as he did. (END QUOTE)

That I may know him. It is this pursuit of coming to know more fully the Savior, that should be every true Christian's greatest aim. For it is only as we truly come to know the Son of God, and the truth of God that resides in Him, that we shall also come to know the power and holiness of the Christian religion. Because none are alive now, who have had personal contact with the Savior, as the apostles and many others did during Jesus' earthly life, and then after His resurrection.²² Consequently the only possible means of coming to know the Savior, and learn of Him, is through Jesus' words,²³ the Spirit He sends,²⁴ and those gift ministries He has sent to bring believers into

a full knowledge of Himself.²⁵ Ultimately it is through the aid of these three divine gifts provided by the Savior, that the Son of God can be made known, and those chosen for heaven through Christ,²⁶ shall become equipped to grow up into the full measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. (Eph. 4:13) *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Eph. 4:13) *Unto a perfect* (that is, full-grown) *man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*—In these words are described the second great object of the ministries of the Church—not only the production of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, but the formation of Christ in the soul, as “dwelling in the heart through faith.” This image of Christ in “fulness” is the absolutely perfect humanity, showing forth the image of God. Each can partake of it only up to “the measure” which God gives him. (See Ephesians 4:7.²⁷) When he so partakes of it to the utmost, he is “full-grown” (relatively, not absolutely, perfect) up to the spiritual “stature” assigned

22 I Cor. 15:4–8 *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.* 23 John 8:31–32 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

24 John 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

I John 3:24 *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

25 Eph. 4:8–15 *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

26 Eph. 1:4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

27 Eph. 4:7 *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

to him, although (as in the body) that stature may vary in different persons, and in none can perfectly attain to the whole “fulness” of Christ. (END QUOTE)

It is impossible for a man to be mature in his faith, if there is in his religion a lack of strong trust in and dependence upon the Son of God. This is why neither religion, nor even extensive biblical knowledge, can establish and mature someone in the faith, if the Son is not truly known, nor believed upon. To know Christ is the apex of spiritual maturity; to not know Him, reveals that people remain immature in their faith, or potentially possess no true faith at all.

There are but two potential sources from which the gospel of Jesus Christ, which reveals the truth of Jesus, has its origin. It is either of man, and is the result of clever human imagination, or the gospel has been given to us, *by revelation of Jesus Christ*. It is this spiritual point, that Paul sought to certify to the Galatians, that the gospel Paul preached, did not originate from himself, or through any other human influence. (Gal. 1:11–12) *But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.* If we believe the gospel to be of man, then it has no more temporal or

eternal value than man. But, if we rightly receive the gospel as originating from God, then what we hold in our hands, has its source as having come from God, and as such, is God’s revelation to man.²⁸

*(Barnes’ Notes on the Bible, Gal. 1:12) For I neither received it of man—*This is very probably said in reply to his opponents, who had maintained that Paul had derived his knowledge of the gospel from other people, since he had not been personally known to the Lord Jesus, or been of the number of those whom Jesus called to be his apostles. In reply to this, he says, that he did not receive his gospel in any way from man.

*Neither was I taught it—*That is, by man. He was not taught it by any written account of it, or by the instruction of man in any way. . . .

*But by the revelation of Jesus Christ—*On his way to Damascus, and subsequently in the temple, Acts 22:17–21.²⁹ Doubtless, he received communications at various times from the Lord Jesus with regard to the nature of the gospel and his duty. The sense here is, that he was not indebted to people for his knowledge of the gospel, but had derived it entirely from the Saviour. (END QUOTE)

Understandably, there is no other way to come to know the Savior, and be taught of Him, beyond those entities that the Son of God has revealed are directly connected to Himself. These include, as we have stated, Jesus’ Word,³⁰ the Spirit Christ

28 II Pet. 1:20–21 *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.* ²¹*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

II Tim. 3:16–17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:* ¹⁷*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

29 Acts 22:17–21 *And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;* ¹⁸*And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.* ¹⁹*And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:* ²⁰*And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.* ²¹*And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.*

30 John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

sends,³¹ and then those divinely appointed gift ministries that the Lord Jesus has set in His church.³² Any other means that is attempted to be used to discover the *truth*, will inevitably accomplish the exact opposite. This is also why, he, who does not believe that *the truth is in Jesus*, must believe that truth can and does exist apart from Him. Yet, God's Word is very clear on this point, that the foundation and actual source, of all true faith in God, resides in the Person of God's Son.³³ It is the Son upon Whom all Christianity rests; without Whom, Christian religion, is just another human religion, formed by man, and purposed to die with him. (I Cor. 15:14–19) *And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

(Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, I Cor. 15:17) *your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins]* ... the Resurrection of Christ was the triumph of humanity (see 1 Corinthians 15:21³⁴) over sin and death; the reversal of the sentence, 'the soul that sinneth, it shall die.' Had He not risen from the dead, humanity had not triumphed, the sentence had not been reversed, man had not been delivered from the yoke of sin, and therefore those who had 'fallen asleep' could never wake again. "None of these things would have taken place, had He not emerged victor from the conflict by rising again." Calvin. (END QUOTE)

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, I Cor. 3:11) *For other foundation*— ... A foundation is that upon which a building is raised; the foundation of a church is the doctrine on which it is established; that is, the doctrines which its members hold—those truths which lie at the basis of their hopes, and by embracing which they have been converted to God.

Can no man lay—That is, there is no other true foundation.

Which is Jesus Christ—Christ is often called the foundation; the stone; the cornerstone

31 Gal. 4:6 *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

32 Eph. 4:11–13 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

33 Eph. 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

I Pet. 2:8 *And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

Isa. 28:16 *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

Matt. 21:42 *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

Acts 4:11 *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*

Eph. 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

II Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

I Pet. 2:6 *Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

34 I Cor. 15:21 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.*

upon which the church is reared; Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Peter 2:6.³⁵ The meaning is, that no true church can be reared which does not embrace and hold the true doctrines respecting him—those which pertain to his incarnation, his divine nature, his instructions, his example, his atonement, his resurrection, and ascension. The reason why no true church can be established without embracing the truth as it is in Christ is, that it is by him only that people can be saved; and where this doctrine is missing, all is missing that enters into the essential idea of a church. (END QUOTE)

There is no doubt that the gospel of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the church has both been diluted and adulterated through the centuries by so many who have sought to distort, minimize, and ultimately usurp for themselves, the glory that is Jesus Christ's alone.³⁶ This present reality is also evident in the prosperity gospel of today, when members are fleeced in Jesus' name, and sold promises never endorsed by Him, ultimately purposed to both enrich and bring notoriety to those who regularly and publicly make merchandise of God's people. (II Pet. 2:3) *And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, II Pet. 2:3) *And through covetousness*—This shows what one

of the things was by which they were influenced—a thing which, like licentiousness, usually exerts a powerful influence over the teachers of error. The religious principle is the strongest that is implanted in the human bosom: and men who can obtain a livelihood in no other way, or who are too unprincipled or too indolent to labor for an honest living, often turn public teachers of religion, and adopt the kind of doctrines that will be likely to give them the greatest power over the purses of others. True religion, indeed, requires of its friends to devote all that they have to the service of God and to the promotion of his cause; but it is very easy to pervert this requirement, so that the teacher of error shall take advantage of it for his own aggrandizement.

Shall they with feigned words—Greek formed, fashioned; then those which are formed for the occasion—feigned, false, deceitful. The idea is, that the doctrines which they would defend were not maintained by solid and substantial arguments, but that they would make use of plausible reasoning made up for the occasion.

Make merchandise of you—Treat you not as rational beings but as a bale of goods, or any other article of traffic. That is, they would endeavor to make money out of them, and regard them only as fitted to promote that object. (END QUOTE)

A similar loss of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ is also evident in so many who claim to come in Jesus' name, but lack the powerful influences and gifts

³⁵ Isa. 28:16 *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

Matt. 21:42 *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

Acts 4:11 *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Eph. 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;*

II Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

I Pet. 2:6 *Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

³⁶ Acts 20:29–30 *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.* ³⁰*Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

of the Holy Spirit,³⁷ Whom Christ sends to confirm spiritual sonship.³⁸ Understandably, if Jesus Christ and His ministry is not stressed, and His baptism of the Spirit is not emphasized,³⁹ and the Lord's return is not highly anticipated,⁴⁰ and men do not believe that all men, without exception and without distinction, shall be required to stand before the judgment seat of Christ,⁴¹ then whatever so-called gospel or truth people embrace, does not have its true source in God, and certainly has not been inspired through revelation given to us by the Son of God. This is also why if Jesus Christ, and His Lordship,⁴² is not the nucleus, foundation, and cornerstone of any man's spiritual ministry, then whatever else he may speak of, whether the Scripture is used or not, is surely not endorsed by God. (II Cor. 4:5) *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

(Barnes' Notes on the Bible, II Cor. 4:5) Ministers may be said to preach themselves in the following ways:

(1) When their preaching has a primary reference to their own interest; and when they engage in it to advance their reputation, or to secure in some way their own advantage. When they aim at exalting their authori-

ty, extending their influence, or in any way promoting their own welfare.

(2) when they proclaim their own opinions and not the gospel of Christ; when they derive their doctrines from their own reasonings, and not from the Bible.

(3) when they put themselves forward; speak much of themselves; refer often to themselves; are vain of their powers of reasoning, of their eloquence, and of their learning, and seek to make these known rather than the simple truths of the gospel. In one word, when self is primary, and the gospel is secondary ...

But Christ Jesus the Lord—This Paul states to be the only purpose of the ministry. It is so far the sole design of the ministry that had it not been to make known the Lord Jesus, it would never have been established; and whatever other objects are secured by its appointment, and whatever other truths are to be illustrated and enforced by the ministry, yet, if this is not the primary subject, and if every other object is not made subservient to this, the design of the ministry is not secured. (END QUOTE)

To either minimize or exclude the words of Jesus Christ, is to remove the very One the Scripture is purposed to reveal. Ultimately none who have been divinely ordained by God, like the Lord's true apos-

37 I Cor. 12:8–11 *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

38 Gal. 4:6 *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

39 Acts 1:5 *For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

40 I Thess. 1:10 *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

41 II Cor. 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Rom. 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

42 Rom. 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

II Cor. 4:5 *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*
Phil. 2:11 *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

bles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers,⁴³ can either neglect, or minimize the critical importance of Jesus' Words,⁴⁴ the Spirit He sends,⁴⁵ and the essential need for all men to obey Him.⁴⁶ This is why if a man has not Jesus as his Lord,⁴⁷ his Christ,⁴⁸ and his ultimate reason for living, then his life remains his own, and he has never denied himself sufficiently enough to be recognized as one of our Lord's true disciples. (Matt. 16:24) *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.* Biblically no man can come to know Jesus—that *the truth is in Jesus*—without denying himself, taking up his cross, and following the Savior.

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Matt. 16:24) *Let him deny himself, and take up his cross.*—Our common thoughts of “self-denial,” *i.e.*, the denial to ourselves of some pleasure or profit, fall far short of the meaning of the Greek. The man is to deny his whole self, all his natural motives and impulses, so far as they come into conflict with the claims of Christ. If he does not so deny

himself, he is in danger, as Peter was (it is significant that the same word is used in both instances), of denying his Lord. The self-denial here commanded has, accordingly, its highest type and pattern in the act by which the Son of God, in becoming man, “emptied Himself” (see Note on Philippians 2:7⁴⁹) of all that constituted, if we may so speak, the “self” of His divine nature. (END QUOTE)

Colossians 2:6–7 *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

⁷ *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

It is *Christ Jesus the Lord* that every true Christian should be *Rooted and built up in*, and not merely the religious institutions, and/or dogmas and doctrines, so many have been raised up in. This is because true Christian growth can only occur, when men and women are *Rooted and built up in him* (the Lord Jesus Christ), just as only when saints are truly rooted in Christ, that they can be as a result, established, or *stablished in the faith*.

43 Eph. 4:11 *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

44 John 6:63b *...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

John 15:3 *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

45 Rom. 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

I John 4:13 *Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.*

Rom. 8:16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

46 Heb. 5:9 *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Luke 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

John 14:21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

John 14:23 *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

47 Rom. 10:9–10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*¹⁰ *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

48 Acts 2:32–33 *This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.*³³ *Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*

49 Phil. 2:7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

(*Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers*, Col. 2:7) *Rooted and built up in him.*—There is a significant change of tense in the original, *having been rooted*—i.e. (as in Ephesians 3:17⁵⁰), “rooted and grounded” in Him once for all, and *being built up* continually on that Foundation. (Comp. 1 Corinthians 3:9–15.⁵¹) St. Paul bids them seek not only the first basis of their faith, but their continual growth, in Christ alone, by continual “strengthening in the faith” which rests in Him. (END QUOTE)

Once an individual has received the Son of God, made Him Lord of their life,⁵² and been baptized with the Holy Spirit,⁵³ then he must maintain this same subjection to the Son of God, the remainder of his life. Simply because there is no such thing as departing from the faith,⁵⁴ and still being both fit and welcomed into the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62) *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

50 Eph. 3:17 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*
51 *I Cor. 3:9–15 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*
¹⁰*According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.* ¹¹*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹²*Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;* ¹³*Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.* ¹⁴*If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.* ¹⁵*If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*
52 Rom. 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
53 Acts 2:1–4 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.* ²*And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.* ³*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.* ⁴*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
Acts 8:14–17 *Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:* ¹⁵*Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:* ¹⁶*(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)* ¹⁷*Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*
Acts 10:44–48 *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.* ⁴⁵*And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.* ⁴⁶*For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,* ⁴⁷*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?* ⁴⁸*And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*
Acts 19:1–7 *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,* ²*He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.* ³*And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.* ⁴*Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.* ⁵*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* ⁶*And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.* ⁷*And all the men were about twelve.*
54 Heb. 6:4–6 *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,* ⁵*And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,* ⁶*If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*
II Tim. 4:10 *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*
I Tim. 4:1–2 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;* ²*Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Luke 9:62) *No man, having put his hand ...*—To put one's hand to a plow is a proverbial expression to signify undertaking any business. In order that a plowman may accomplish his work, it is necessary to look onward—to be intent on his employment—not to be looking back with regret that he undertook it. So in religion. He that enters on it must do it with his whole heart, He that comes still loving the world—still looking with regret on its pleasures, its wealth, and its honors—that has not “wholly” forsaken them as his portion, cannot be a Christian, and is not fit for the kingdom of God. How searching is this test to those who profess to be Christians! And how solemn the duty of all people to renounce all earthly objects, and to be not only “almost,” but “altogether,” followers of the Son of God! It is perilous to tamper with the world—to look at its pleasures or to seek its society. He that would enter heaven must come with a heart full of love to God; giving “all” into his hands, and prepared always to give up all his property, his health, his friends, his body, his soul to God, when he demands them, or he cannot be a Christian. Religion is everything or nothing. He that is not will-

ing to sacrifice “everything” for the cause of God, is really willing to sacrifice nothing. (END QUOTE)

Let us also remind ourselves that all professed faith in the Son of God, without works proving we truly follow Him,⁵⁵ cannot be described as anything but *dead* faith,⁵⁶ This is where faith in Jesus is professed, but there are little to no corresponding spiritual works,⁵⁷ or fruit⁵⁸ to confirm the faith as genuine. Hence there is also no such thing as true faith in the Lord Jesus, that will not be followed by a life of commitment and service both toward and for Him. (Jas. 2:17) *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

(*Barnes' Notes on the Bible*, Jas. 2:17) Faith is designed to lead to good works. It is intended to produce a holy life; a life of activity in the service of the Saviour. This is its very essence; it is what it always produces when it is genuine. Religion is not designed to be a cold abstraction; it is to be a living and vivifying principle. (END QUOTE)

55 Matt. 4:19 *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

Matt. 8:22 *But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.*

Matt. 9:9 *And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him.*

Matt. 16:24 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Matt. 19: 21 *Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*

John 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

56 Jas. 2:14–26 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ¹³If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²²Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

57 Eph. 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

58 Gal. 5:22–23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

²³*Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace

If something is dead, as with dead faith,⁵⁹ it does not move, or show evidence of life of any kind. Dead faith, like all dead things, is motionless, doth not bear fruit, and has no desire to please the Lord or obey divine will. This is why if a man has truly believed upon the living Christ,⁶⁰ and has offered his life as a living sacrifice to God,⁶¹ then the Son of God shall make

Himself visible in the man's life. This will be evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit that is borne,⁶² the power of God that is evidenced,⁶³ and genuine love heartfully being displayed toward our fellow believers.⁶⁴ It is by these things that we can know that a man has truly learned Christ, been taught by Him, and ultimately come to know that *the truth is in Jesus*.

⁵⁹ Jas. 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

Jas. 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas. 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

⁶⁰ Rom. 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

⁶¹ Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

⁶² Gal. 5:22–23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

⁶³ Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

I John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

⁶⁴ John 13:35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*