

If you LOVE Me, You Will Keep My Command -ments John 14:15

Jesus





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Paradise...What Everyone Thinks About It!

People look forward to some element of the future if they think at all, about life after death. A majority of folks think they will end up in 'heaven'...whatever it is-Because God is Good!

And they also are good because they aren't as bad as the guy down the street who beats his wife & kids. Or, that they are full of good works & go to church Some people don't attend church but are active in the community, and help others less fortunate. Even I bad people justify their lives because they're not as bad as those hypocrites who DO attend church!

But all in all, if people think about the afterlife at all, they pretty much think they're on the right track...somehow! And if someone they know dies, they become saintly over night & went to heaven...

As well as pet rabbits. But -who is *right?* I'll **tell** you... none of these! Well...maybe the *rabbits!*

If you compete in a race only the winner's crowned! And, they must follow the rules to qualify & compete

Heaven has gates and high walls-how do we get in...? Good question!

First, we must qualify. And there are couple of rules,made by God. How do we find these rules?

We must understand that God *sent His Word* to become flesh among us,1 to be <u>His</u> plan to save & redeem us from the evil of this world. We all make mistakes, & some of them are damaging to others, even those we love. God calls these *sin*. People do not like this word!2

Nevertheless, God is looking for family. That is why He made us social. Before sin ever appeared, there was a situation that was not good- God said it was "not good for man to be alone..." 3 So He established families *then*.

Jesus Christ was that Word become flesh,4 the very essence or image of God Himself.5 But Jesus was there at the creation of the world, as the Son of God.6 What was new was that Jesus became Son of Man, when He was born. This is how He always referred to Himself when He was here on earth.

Jesus never stopped being God in the flesh,7 but He *did* take on our limitations. Jesus sits next to God in human form in a now glorified body.8

When He was born, Jesus was no longer omniscient (he didn't know all) 9, or omnipresent (lived in our 24/7-365 limits), or omnipotent. He only performed signs & miracles if God showed Him first.10

Since Jesus was sent by God as the *Word*, we must heed His Inspired Word- Bible! He does watch over His Word.11

So, how do you enter Heaven is the question? It used to be you could go to church & hear the gospel. It's not popular there anymore—its more of a social gathering, dinners, or learn how to get wealthy, or even practice New Age. No life skills taught there...

Sixty years ago, a church was defined by their beliefs, like God is holy, Man is sinful, Grace, deity of Jesus'. *Cults* denied Deity of Jesus.But the Bible itself has lost it's importance in most of today's churches. Let me give you some examples:

PSA (Presbyterians) wrote their own Bible deleting gender; and Lutherans wrote one deleting Israel.The Pope says his words exceeds the Bible and Catholics must worship Mary;and many Baptists say **Some** Lives Matter; Methodist ordain and marry gays; Episcopalian Priests join Planned Parenthood to celebrate openings of PP Centers, usually gay; Charismatics gather to find out all the gospel has given them...

Why am I writing this here? It's important for you to realize that the great falling away that scripture predicts-where people won't endure sound doctrine anymore,12but will have "itching ears"...is HERE!

We have entered into Endtimes! Don't look to the future for it...

Time to Wake <u>Up</u>...! And Yes...God <u>knows</u> all about this situation!

So what is He going to DO about it?God's doing what He has always done He is <u>busy</u> warning and instructing His people!

Lately there has been a video on the internet - It is different in that it's a warning to Americans! A pastor in Ky had a dream in Dec-and all of it has happened! Two more dreams recently! All 3 were a calendar, flipping, but stopping on s strategic months, March June, and Nov. (Covid came Mar.-Surge is now)

His dreams warn in June -Sept of Disease, Fires scorching cities, Riots, Bank failures, D.C. on Fire in Oct.-but Nov. exploded! *Days* flew off the page!I'll give you my *answer* on the backside.

The Greatest UNKNOWN

is the Tenderness of a Loving God...

WAKE:UP

Whether you realize it or not- whether you believe it or not, we are living in the final moments of this age. And the fact that you are reading this is evidence that God is reaching out to you, to wake you up!



References: 1) John 1:1
2) John 1:10 3) Gen 2:;18
4) John 1:14 5) Heb. 1:3
6) John 1:3 6) Gen. 1:26
7) Phil. 2:6 8) Luke 22:69
9) Phil 2:6 10) John 5:10
11) Jer.1:12 12)2 Tim 4:3
13) Mk.12:30,31 14)2 Tim 2:19
15) I John1:9 16) Is.59:2; Ps66:18
17)2 Cor.5:21 18) Matt.11:28
19) I John4:18 20) 2 Tim.1:7
21) Gen 2:1,2 22) John 19:30
23) Hebrews 4:9

A Daily Devotion commits 365 scriptures to memory yearly

The Answer is Not Prayer!

Even though I felt that what Pastor Dana Coverstone dreamed was valid, & was from God Himself, it troubled me. We all know the hatred that is rampant in our land. If volatile rhetoric &hates leads to violence-*America is ripe for it!* If aborting 60 million of babies, or dispelling God Himself from gov't, and schools, plus the marketplace is any reason for God to be angry with this nation that He has soo blessed over 200+ years, well you get the point!

It troubled me after I watched his video for 12-15 hours, until I realized I had been reading the Old Testament for several months, most of this year. I don't usually do that. And then, I realized what I'd learned...

1.) It is refreshing to realize *God* always has a Remnant—people who prove they are wholly committed by keeping His commandments, of Love.13 To Love God and Love your neighbor!

2.) Even though Israel, then Judah and Israel when they split into two nations after Solomon, were rebellious, G God always gave warnings before those judgments came! Reading old testament major prophets -Jeremiah, Isaiah & Ezekiel, I did feel the warnings weretoo many! I even accused God of being verbose! (Sweetly!)

3.)The 3rd thing I realized was that God always gave them an option **out!** They could always repent. They could A **turn** from their evil ways...! (To TURN defines "repent...") "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity" is in New Testament!14

If those nations <u>did</u> repent...? Then the judgment was stayed. Grace then!

4.) Prayer is not the <u>answer God</u> is <u>looking for!</u> But **righteous** prayers can halt the judgment that seems to be apparently on its way...! Repentance always precedes answered prayers! 15

People don't realize God does not hear every prayer...! If you cherish iniquity in your heart, the Lord will not listen. Ps.66:18 And your inquity has made a separation between you & God & your sins have hidden His face from you so He does not hear.16 Is.59:2

God waits for the path that Jesus has created-forgiveness **via** repentance!17 The sacrifices in the old covenant were used for forgiveness until Jesus made the *final* one - enough for <u>all</u> our sin!

A famous restaurant owner said this week that Christians "need to repent." This was a shock to many believers! But not to me, as I've said for decades, 'Where is the voice of the standard-bearers for *God...*? I will go beyond it and say, that because the church has been both mute and anemic while evil in our nation has wildly grown & now prevails, *they are largely responsible* for where we find ourselves in the USA!

Too many Christians attend church but... you can't tell them from unsaved neighbors. Too many view moral filth on their TV and their PC; porn is a big problem in churches;& many don't care enough to reach out to broken, hurting people or families...when Jesus wants to live **through** them to give hope to family, friends,neighbors in their arena'. That is why we are to deny ourselves... daily..and take up His cross. Don't live in Romans 7- the inability of the flesh! Start living in Romans 8, the Spirit-led Life. There is no greater thrill than to live the life you were meant to live...!

Yes, the world needs to repent! But they probably won't 'til they see real believers *live* it out before them!

"This generation of believers is responsible for this generation of souls on earth." Keith Green.

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Ask Agatha — Paradise....LOST?

Dear Agatha: Do you ever wonder 'why' Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..." 18 Can you explain that to me? Gayle
Dear Gayle: Gayle, are you fearful & afraid? You're not alone! Today, fear prevails in the USA.

Perfect love casts out fear. It is the antonym of faith-It is 'why' God warns He "does not call us to a *spirit* of fear, but to power, love, and self-control." **20**God **is** concerned about

Fear is an actual force,

& it blocks out reason.19

God is concerned about your rest?He wants you to be at rest, even in times o of crises...

Jesus was all about **rest**. What does *this* have to do with warnings you just read...? *Everything!*

Did you ever think about God getting *tired*? That's what people think when He rested after 7 days... But God wasn't tired- He was *Finished!..* 'Twice' in that passage...21

Jesus final words were "It is *Finished!"*22

The Sabbath was very Holy before Jesus... but it's hardly mentioned in the New Testament.

Why? Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath. Scripture now pleads, "...there yet remains a Sabbath **rest** for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's **rest** has also **rested** from his works as God did from His. Let us <u>strive</u> to enter <u>that</u> **rest** so no one may fall by the same <u>disobedience.</u>" 23 No anxiety or stress.

Or **fear**....Resist it in Jesus' Name, because **Rest** is available 24/7.

"I Am Lord of the Sabbath"

"The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath..." Luke 6:1-5 - Jesus On the 7th day God Finished His work, & He rested on the 7th day

Gen.2:2-3