

Just Like the Father

Planet Earth has become the epicenter of the great battle between Christ and Satan. While Satan misrepresents God on earth and tempts people to doubt the goodness and fairness of God, Jesus came to the earth to reveal to the human family the true character of God. Every person alive has the choice

to accept Satan's view of what God is like, or the view of God presented to the world by Jesus Christ. Our choices will ultimately determine whether or not we believe God is love.

Matthew 11:27 - "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

In order to know what our heavenly Father is like, all we need to do is look at what Jesus was like, because He revealed the character of the Father to the world. The self-sacrificing, servant-like nature of Jesus, who "went about doing good" is a reflection of the character of God the Father. We can have that same image of the Father active in our lives today. Do you want to be like Jesus? Then, read and get to know about Him in the word of God daily. Do you realize that He is always there beside you, waiting to help you with day-to-day life? Once you realize that He really loves you and really cares about you, you will begin to know Him more. And before you know it, you will be acting like Him too, in all that you do.

The Cost was High!

To make a way for sinful people to experience eternal life and recovery from the power of sin, God paid the ultimate price when He allowed Jesus to come to earth to die for us. Such a sacrifice reveals that God is not indifferent toward suffering and sin. In fact, sin has cost God far more than it will ever cost any of us!

Such is Satan's self-centered desire to receive worship that he eventually leads the world to the place where everyone alive makes a conscious decision for either God or Satan.

Revelation 13:8 - All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

God's promise is that He will remake this world in perfection and beauty, and it will be a world without sin and suffering. The enemy will no longer taunt and tempt God's people ever again. And guilt and sorrow will no longer exist!

Today, if you are being taunted by Satan, or living under a world of guilt trying to find your way out, you don't have to live that way any longer. God has done everything He can, including sending his Son, to make sure that you walk freely and in peace in this world. No, the world is not going to give it to you, you can't achieve this peace, but God will give it to you on the inside. Step out of the cloud of Satan's lies and deceit. You are a child of God, and you can make a conscious decision right now to be free and enjoy the peace of God.

Consider this fact: God created a perfect earth, and placed two perfect people in the midst of a sinless garden. With absolutely no reason to sin, they chose rebellion over faithfulness to God, and plunged the universe into the chaos of sin. And sin would cost God infinitely more than it would cost anyone else in existence!

Faced with the loss of His eternal Son, God made the choice to redeem sinful humanity—even though it meant Jesus would die on the cross. There has never been another demonstration of such selfless love in all of history! As the Bible says, “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16).

Are You Watching?

While the signs of the times reveal that the return of Jesus is near, it is important to recognize that an understanding of the nearness of Jesus’ coming is of little use without a personal readiness for His coming! Along with “watching,” Jesus urged us to “pray” and to have our hearts open to God and to communicate frequently with Him. Personal spiritual growth should be the aim of every believer in Jesus. A vibrant devotional life, including daily prayer and Bible reading and sharing one’s faith with others is vital for those who desire to honor God and intend to live with Him forever!

Mark 13:33-37 - Take heed, watch, and pray; for you do not know when the time is. “Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— unless, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

God’s people should not be caught sleeping. There is work to do and when you look very, very close around you, you may find that the work you need to do is as near as a family member, your children, a spouse or co-worker. You don’t have to look very far to find that people deal with hurt, pain, disappointments, deep-seeded issues and so much more, as they don’t know where to go or where to turn. Ask God to help you wake up and partner with Him in helping someone break through their many hang-ups and family issues. Be personally, lovingly ready as you share your faith with others, while watching for the soon return of our Lord. Are you watching?

Pride and the Downfall

Did you know that God is on your side? Did you know that God wants to give you the best life you can possibly live, right now? And He wants to do this by putting in us a new heart. He wants conversion and conversion means to turn around and hate sin and disobedience to God. If we are continually stumbling all the time, we need to go to God to change our heart and give us a new heart. In the bible King Nebuchadnezzar was a very proud man. Nebuchadnezzar procrastinated and in one year’s time, he still was full of pride, but it was much worse because Daniel had warned him and so did God by giving him the dream. He would not change so judgment fell upon him.

Daniel 4:30-32 - The king [Nebuchadnezzar] spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” While the word was still in the king’s mouth, a voice fell from heaven: “King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they

shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

When is it a good time to heed to the voice of God? Today, when you hear the words of God.

Don't allow your heart to get harder and harder as Nebuchadnezzar did. *He used God's mercy as a sign that He will do nothing about it.* Turn to him right now and He will gladly hear you. And it is a good thing if you do it right away.

Can the Bible Be Trusted?

In 2009, an American businessman was sentenced to 150 years in prison. His wealth management company was found to have defrauded thousands of people out of billions of dollars. People trusted that the man with whom they'd invested their hard-earned money would act in their best interests, but that trust was betrayed.

But there's a bigger question: Can God be trusted? And can the Bible be trusted? If a person has no firsthand knowledge of God, how can God earn that person's trust? To push back against the arguments of those who challenge the Bible as unreliable and false, God must demonstrate that the Bible is worthy of complete confidence by showing that it is historically true and accurate. And in the Bible, God does that very thing!

Daniel the prophet predicted the rise and fall of four great kingdoms from a statue based on a dream of king Nebuchadnezzar. His kingdom ruled the world from 605 to 539 BC. It was the combined force of the Medes and Persians represented by the chest and arms of silver that gain power after his fall.

“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut.

More than 150 years prior to the fall of Babylon, the prophet Isaiah predicted that a man named Cyrus would overthrow the city. Isaiah 45:1, 2

And what God predicted years before happened exactly as He said it would!

Not of the World

God calls us to live for Him, we understand that. The world generally speaking is sinful, and we understand that. So, do we become solitary people?

Psalms 106:34-36 - They did not destroy the peoples, Concerning whom the LORD had commanded them, But they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works. They served their idols, Which became a snare to them.

Now here's the thing, God's people learned the works of the unbelievers of the heathen nations. And it caused a great stumbling block for them. We are called to be in the world but not of the world. God calls everyone to an experience of righteousness and of holiness. It is important that we don't learn their works. If you are growing with God, you don't become like the very thing God is trying to save you from.

Now there is a balance. And God wants us to stay clear of the works of this world. But if you are committed to God and He has your heart, He will lead you to get that balance right so you can be totally committed to serving Him. Don't learn and don't respond to their works but respond to God in your walk that you may look like Jesus, talk like Jesus and walk like Jesus. In living this way, you are not of this world, but of the world to come in heaven.

A Deal is a Deal

There is a story in the bible about a husband and wife who makes a promise to God. They would sell some land and give the proceeds of the sale to the church. This was at a time that the early Christians were really having a hard time to survive.

Acts 5:2 says the man Ananias [kept] back

If you are familiar with the story you know that both Annaias and his Sapphira died as a result of the judgment of God because they were dishonest with God. And their dishonesty would have undermined the infinite goal of the church.

If you make a promise to God, keep the promise. If you worry about a few dollars here or there or a lot of dollars, don't be. God will take care of you and He will make it up to you. Even if He doesn't in this world, He will in the world to come. Our willingness to let God be the Lord of all of our life says a lot about our Christian walk with God.

God has made more promises to you than you will ever know.

Neglecting the Little Things

It has been said that there are dangers involved if you don't get enough sleep. Also, the dangers of not eating enough fruit and vegetables and of course the dangers of not getting enough exercise as well. Not getting enough sleep, well, that is not hard. Eating the right foods or taking a walk, that is not hard either for most people. Or you can neglect those *little things* and you will get terrible results.

Solomon wrote this in **Songs of Solomon 2:15 – Take up the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines.**

He wasn't warning you about the moose or the elephant but the little things that do harm. The simple things, things like prayer and bible reading, daily. Don't let this be your spiritual walk today. A little neglect becomes a really big, big, spiritual problem.

Anger

Have you ever been angry and wanted to react? Someone does something dishonest and unjust to you and you feel like setting them straight or taking revenge upon them.

James wrote in **James 1:19-20** – **“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath [anger]; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”**

Before you react, slow down, take a deep breath, think and pray, and you will do much less damage and you won't have to regret it later.

Where Do You Turn?

Every now and then, life throws us a really big challenge. For most of us, life is an everyday plain walk sometimes, until it isn't. Until there is a crisis, a death a calamity a disability. Where do you turn at times like these?

Daniel was a young man taken from Jerusalem into slavery in Babylon, when the king announced that he was going execute his entire group of counselors. Which included Daniel and his friends. **Daniel 2:17-18 says, Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

And God answered their prayer. Daniel gave us a great example of where to turn when trouble comes. He turned to God. Where do you turn before you panic? You should turn to God, because He is right there standing by waiting to help you in your time of need.

Getting Through Your Storm

It is easy to express sympathy when you talk about the troubles that come into another person's life. Especially if you are a Christian. If you lose a family member and someone says to you, “Oh, you are going to be just fine.” That is no comfort because grief doesn't feel fine. And it is easy to say, “It is going to be ok, because God is with you and will be by your side.” But as true as that is, tough times are still tough, and it is so hard to find comfort in pain.

David said in **Psalms 57:1 - Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.**

When times get tough and you take refuge in God, you are like a bird, sheltering in a storm. You find a safe place in Jesus, and you wait it out with Him, until the storm pass. A safe place to be is under the shadow of God's wings. If you are going through your storm today, you can be certain that the storm will pass. And great comfort comes in knowing that Jesus is riding out the storm with you. Let these words comfort you today.

A True Hero

There are so many great stories about people who have done so many heroic things. Maybe a soldier who has done something brave without thinking about his own safety. Putting himself in harms way so others can survive.

But Jesus example was a little different. **Romans 5:6 – For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

Jesus didn't just die for His friends, He died for His enemies, too. He died for people who despised Him and later killed Him. He died for the worse of sinners. Think of a crime being committed where the most horrible person is about to be executed. Could you imagine yourself saying, "No, don't kill him, kill me instead!" That's what Jesus did. He died for the ungodly. The love of God for a sinful world is truly incredible. Today you can give thanks to Jesus for dying in your place. Instead of receiving the death penalty you can now spend eternity in heaven. Give glory to God for He is a true Hero. Let Him be that for you in your life today.