

The Biblical Believer #99

"All men will know that you are My disciples,

**Updated
Jan 2026**

**if you have
love for one
another"**

the 9th grader

**The Poor * Widows * Orphans
* Sick * Homeless * Needy
* Those in Prison (unjustly so)
* Strangers**

**What Does God Want
Us To Know?**

January 2020

A Topical Study of The Bible

A topical study is a review of what the Bible has to say about a term or a specific subject matter and can be very useful in understanding God's perspective and His will. The Bible is our first source for understanding God's will.

Ver-2b

NOTES:

1. Bible verses are from either the New American Standard Bible (NASB) Copyright © 1995 by THE LOCKMAN FOUNDATION or the English Standard Version (ESV) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.
2. Credits: Cover/other images: my own using online AI image creators, Bing “free to use” image results, or my own making.
3. Words in black text, with added emphasis (*italics*, **bold**, underlining) are used to highlight importance.
4. **Jesus, God or a prophet words, are in red, other Bible text is in blue, Bible verse location in bold.**
5. I will not insert any scriptures from the book of Revelation, as everyone is sternly warned with curses (**Rev 22:18-19**) not to take away words from it or add any words to it. For whatever reason, God wants Revelation to always remain in its whole unaltered state. Thus, you will have to look up those citations on your own.
6. My comments specific within a Bible text in { ... } brackets.
7. Bible verses and insertion came from “Logos Bible Software”
8. The original text, format and layout of this pamphlet is copyrighted ©, but; “*people are permitted to make copies in color and distribute **without any changes and without any financial gain** as long as such reproduction/distribution remains within the context of this book, i.e., drawing people closer to Jesus Christ and the God of the Bible*”. See the inside back cover for more info.
9. **NT= New Testament**, OT= Old Testament.
10. These booklets will be released and put up on the website as they are completed and may be revised from time to time.
11. **Make it your own**, by highlighting and/or adding notes along the margins!

Know what you are reading (being fed)

42 ½-sized pages, excluding covers **46%** of this booklet is related Bible scriptures
382 written out scripture verses and 6 other cited verses,
for an average of 9.2 p/page

Estimated time to read this tract is **80 minutes**.

(@ 238 wpm, absent contemplation and reflection of what you are reading)

The estimated time to apply Biblical guidance is a lifetime!

Preface

About the author: *I go by handle of “the 9th grader”. My name is not important because I am not important in the overall scheme of things, I seek no money (print copies are sold at cost to produce & ship) and no recognition. My reward is that God may be glorified. If you are frustrated by my spel’n, or linguistics you may miss the message. Read to understand the concepts, please set aside nitpicking my chick’n scratch’n. My words here should be regarded as fallible and **the Scriptures supreme**. I am not a teacher, I am a reader, I wrote this pamphlet about what I read in the Bible. What I hope for is that we all would draw closer to God in these final days. I’ll get personal; I am a sinner, I know my own thoughts, my selfishness, my self-centeredness, my fleshly and worldly behaviors, I am no one with a lofty reputation and in some ways, I am a hypocrite. I have been in a spiritual battle for decades since asking Christ to be my personal Lord and Savior. **(Eph 6:10-17) Very, very soon, Jesus will return**, in <12 yrs. **The Bible is 100% True**. If you are like me, you long for the day when we will have the full victory over, our flesh, worldly influences and the Devil. Perhaps you too can relate to these words that the apostle Paul wrote;*

Romans 7:14-25 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.**

*Over 40 years ago, then an atheist and fulltime sinner, I came to know God is real, I believed and received Jesus Christ, God’s Son as my Savior. My hope, trust and faith reside in His redeeming power after finding no goodness of my own. Since then, I give all praise and glory to God, for reconciling a sin debt I could not repay. I love God’s Word; **revealing Jesus Christ the savior of my soul**. If you wish to email me (no attachments) use tract@the9thgrader.com, I will check this email occasionally.*

the 9th grader ©

OMAUCWMI

Jesus Summarizes What Really Matters

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing and recognizing that He {Jesus} had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! **The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.**’ “The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The apostles who were taught by Jesus also admonished others by sharing what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Jam 1:22 *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.*

Jam 1:27 *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

Rom 14:23 *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.*

1 Cor 13:13 *But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Along with admonishment by our Old Testament patriarchs.

Ps 19:14 *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.*

If you are a servant of the Most High God, a disciple of God’s Son, Jesus Christ and you are not just wearing a team jersey, or acting as sideline reporter of what others are doing who are in the game, but you have rolled up your sleeves and put on your pads, cleats, helmet and are actively out on the field doing and living your faith ... I have the highest respect for you along with those who are put their hands together as prayer warriors, lifting the needs of others to God.

It is clear in the Bible; our Father wants His children to be passionate doers who live out our faith. I believe in <12 years, we will very soon enter God’s rest, yet, we can be assured we will be active as well in our next life. As parents, we glow when our children are accomplishing good things. God is likewise pleased when we represent Him well!

Please read the whole pamphlet, but the takeaway of this study is:

- 1) **John 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- 2) The poor, the sick, the widows, the orphans, the homeless and strangers around us are opportunities to “be Christian” and maybe an exam of sorts. Will we actually demonstrate our faith?
- 3) Biblical Believers receive God’s Holy Spirit within us. It is then that we quite literally start (*or should*) living for the Lord. The evidence of the Holy Spirit living in us, is living and doing as God’s Son, Jesus Christ did.
- 4) It is perverted Christian theology, to live for ourselves, to layup and accumulate “stuff” while others around us suffer, as well as to be “pridefully self-sufficient” rather than “God dependent”.
- 5) Collectively poor people consist of some people who “*as we all have*”, may have made some bad choices. Yet, others can become poor through little fault of their own. Dear Christian, God is telling us we are not to avoid those in need, but to embrace them and respond to their need in love.
- 6) The word “alms” (*to give alms*) is specifically applicable to Believers and our acts of compassion towards those in need. Gifts to those in need is the act of giving alms. We as God’s children should be “be known for our love.” **John 13:35**
- 7) When we give sacrificially (*not of our surplus*), we are demonstrating our trust in God, for He promises to bless us as a result. It is an act of faith to believe God will meet our needs, as we meet the needs of others. We honor God by loving others.
- 8) **Love** can be a feeling, such as “*I feel loved*”, yet that feeling is borne from someone else “giving (action) love” to you. God directs us to love our neighbor and even our enemy, so loving the poor among us likewise a requirement.

It’s nearly certain that when someone with a need comes before us, we will be inconvenienced and it may also carry a monetary cost. The action of love requires effort and sacrifice.



Do You Know God's Will in Regards to the Needy?

When was the last time you recall hearing a sermon on the poor, the needy, the homeless, the widows or strangers amongst us? After nearly four decades of being a lay Christian, belonging to and attending churches in several different cities and states, listening to perhaps thousands of hours of Christian radio and television speakers, my wife and I couldn't recall hearing a single topical message on this subject. Perhaps the fault is ours ... maybe we just were not paying attention?

In an effort to be real with myself, if I had received such a message I had obviously either disregarded it or forgot it, so it was time to take a deep dive into God's word. God's word requires that we examine ourselves in light of His word. As I wrote this, I felt much conviction.

I concluded this study with a better understanding of what God's will is, I then had to measure my own actions against the truth of the word of God. I've determined that I fall short and admittedly I am without excuse. In properly applying God's word to my life, this means "I" have to change and realign myself with His word and I need to personally make a better effort in ministering to those in need. **1 Cor 13:5 ESV** Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail to meet the test.

This study has made it clear to me that our Father desires that all of His children will become doers in this area and by doing, we would thus honor Him. We are God's children and representatives on this earth and God has instructed us to reach out not only to our indigent brothers and sisters in Christ, but also to those who do not yet call themselves "Christian." In the following text from Matthew, Jesus speaks to his disciples with graphic intensity concerning the difference between those who minister to those in need and those who do not.

Matt 25:34-46 **Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me."** Then the righteous will answer Him, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And

when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" The King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."

Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me." Then they themselves also will answer, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?" Then He will answer them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." **These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**

The Priest, the Levite and the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him and went away leaving him half dead.

And by chance a priest was going down on that road and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.'

Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then **Jesus said** to him, "**Go and do the same.**"



God Gave Us Mercy and He Expects Us to Give Mercy

God's very nature requires justice, so much so God had to provide His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins, a Perfect Sacrifice without blemish or sin was required. Blameless, Jesus willingly fulfilled the requirement for justice on the cross, by paying the debt for your and my sin and dying in our place. Jesus fulfilled the law; He paid the sin debt we owed.

Yet, another aspect of God's nature is as a loving Father; He is indeed a God of love, compassion, mercy and grace. If He was not a merciful God, none of us would have any hope beyond eternity in Hell.

God does what is just and right and He desires us to do likewise. God wants us to forgive one another, to show mercy for one another, just as He does for us. God withdraws His blessings from people and nations who don't care for the downcast people in their own society. This point is made very clear in God's word, if we are not tending to the less fortunate and needy, if we are not representatives of His mercy, grace, love and forgiveness ... we place ourselves in contradiction to Christ's nature, the very one we are supposed to be emulating.

Psalm 9:15-20 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; in the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught. The Lord has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God. For the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever. Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail; let the nations be judged before You. Put them in fear, O Lord; let the nations know that they are but men.

Luke 14:12-14 And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

As we will learn in this review; Believers, the Christian Church (*which is the body of Christ*) and related Christian ministries should at the very least, be tending to our own as well as reaching out to meet the needs of those who do not yet know their Savior. As we read prior in the story of the Good Samaritan, we are indeed Biblically directed to respond to

those in need with love and kindness.

Collectively we as the body of Christ, should be dispensing spiritual healing and when we can, meeting the basic needs of those less fortunate. When this is done properly, all glory goes to God, people draw closer to God and spiritual revival will flow across our land. If America is going to be restored, we must realign ourselves with the word of God.



Without getting political, every student of the Bible knows, America stands no chance of becoming “great again” unless God is the one doing the heavy lifting and that is going to require a huge renewing of the hearts and minds of not only America’s leaders, but also “we the people of America.”

1 Cor 12:24-27 ESV ...But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that here may be no division in the body, but that **the members may have the same care for one another.** If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. **Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.** Psalm 37:3 Trust in the Lord and **do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.**

Biblically, the Christian Church is not a building, it is a collective of people (*Believers in Christ*) working together in devotion to God and in love and service to each other. The terms “*the church, the body of Christ and the Bride of Christ*” are all synonymous, its all of us as Believers.

As Biblically based born again Christian Believers, we have been redeemed from the penalty of eternal death for our many sins, apathy, and transgressions. When we repent of our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, He saves us from the just punishment we deserve, by paying our penalty with His own blood. The very least we can do is to honor Christ by living what life we have left for Him as His hands and feet on earth. God isn’t seeking perfect people; **He is asking imperfect and repentant people to love Him and to love each other.**

James 2:2-6 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes and there also comes in a **poor** man in dirty clothes and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the **poor**

man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil motives? Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? **Eph 5:1-2** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

There are many ways to become poor; the inability to find a job, the loss of a job, an out of wedlock pregnancy, a divorce, a costly hospital stay, a handicapping physical or mental condition, committing a felony crime, chemical or gambling addictions, excessive craving for material things, not saving enough for retirement, the loss of a spouse and their income contribution ... **all these things are doorways to poverty.**



Greed isn't limited to corporations who don't provide benefits or fail to pay workers a fair wage, greed also infects God's people who receive good wages and have great benefits. Personal greed fosters poverty because our own insatiability sets aside merciful acts of kindness. By not helping each other in times of need, **we perpetuate poverty.** We fear giving away portions of what we have because we like our “stuff” and are afraid we too might lose it. This fear means we are not actually trusting God to supply all our needs.

Are the individuals of a nation good when we individually value a new boat, car or plane more than helping the needy amongst us? Are we otherwise afraid that by giving too much, we will not be able to feed our own families?

This “keep it all for me” and “hoard it” mentality is particularly troubling when we consider Christ taught us just the opposite. In fact, we are to live by faith, i.e., trusting God for our very provisions.

Luke 12:15 Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

Luke 12:22-34 And Christ said to His disciples, “For this reason I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds!

And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life’s span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, **why do you worry about other matters?** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? **You men of little faith!** And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but **your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom and these things will be added to you. Do not be afraid,** little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in Heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

A Biblical Believer is, or should be, someone solidly founded in their faith and trusting God in all areas of life. Just as we put our hope, faith and trust in God for eternal salvation, we should trust God to refill our cup as we give portions of what we have to our local church, Christian ministries and people who are in need. A Bible based faith walk requires constant examination to the Biblical model and earnest prayers for our Father’s help.

Our Heavenly Father grieves when we as His own adopted children; **(John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,)** greedily clench money or possessions between our fingers because we do not trust God to replenish them. Aside from the question of using our earnings for real needs, most of us as Americans have become very accustomed to spending money on “stuff,” i.e., junk we really do not need. Our American appetite for things is rarely satisfied. Compared to those in 3rd world countries, every American is very rich. God has

blessed America, but we have done the same thing the chosen Hebrew people did, we've abandoned our love, devotion and obedience to God.

1 Tim 6:17-19 [Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.](#)

Biblically, we are **all** sinners, we are **all** imperfect, we **all** fail in various ways, but praise be to God, He is a very loving and patient Father! The image we need to put into our heads is that we can actually make our Heavenly Father excited and pleased by our actions. **Luke 3:22** [and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."](#) Are we trusting God in the area of our finances enough to not just tithe to our local church, but help those in need when they cross our path?

The Lazy Sluggard

But what about those who are in poverty because of their own laziness? God rejects the undisciplined lazy sluggard who is not willing to work for their own sustenance when they are capable of work.

Prov 6:9-11 [How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest— your poverty will come in like a vagabond and your need like an armed man.](#)



<https://use.ai.chat>

Prov 21:25-26 [The desire of the sluggard puts him to death, for his hands refuse to work; all day long he is craving, while the righteous gives and does not hold back.](#)

The body of Christ is under no obligation to serve or support such people, rather their poverty and need should compel them towards working and supporting themselves.

Also, those seeking to minister to people must consider that in some cases God will discipline His own (*a lazy child of God*) and may orchestrate harsh living circumstances to cause the; foolish, lazy and

disobedient Believers to fall from their place of comfort and arrogance.

Psalm 118:18 The Lord has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death.

Heb 12:9-11 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He {God} disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

God's mercy is ever desiring to heal and restore us, if we return to God. Outreach ministries to those in need, must be careful not to remove the "trial by fire" discipline God has placed upon people in rebellion to Him.

Psalm 39:11 "With reproofs You {God} chasten a man for iniquity; You consume as a moth what is precious to him; Rather our outstretched hand and gifts must encourage every person to "*be or get back in right relationship with God*". If you will; "*Here, please receive these gifts for your need, but seek to be in right relationship with the Lord and He will restore you*".

In full context, the Biblical references to the sluggard and lazy also applies to the "*casual non-fruit producing*" Christian, someone who lives life for him or herself, but calls them self a Christian.

Jude 12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.

Christians are to be living out (*doing*) our faith. A Biblical "*fruit producing*" Believer will be using his/her talents to further the Gospel and the church. **Col 1:10** so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Warning: Prosperity Preachers are Biblically Unsound

As Biblically based Believers, we know during the remaining time Satan has left on this earth (that's right, Satan was cast out of Heaven and down to earth) before the final and great Judgement takes place, that he will attempt to corrupt every good thing he can. Satan has indeed worked his way into many so called "Christian" leaders and their ministries, distorting,

deceiving and twisting the word of God. No longer devoted to God, these “*prosperity preachers*” have become devoted to the love of money and worldly possessions and preach a false Gospel.

2 Peter 2:2-3 [Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.](#)

Satan started deceiving God’s children in the Garden of Eden, twisting God’s words to lead Adam and Eve astray. Satan also twisted God’s words when he made a failed effort to tempt Christ to violate God’s word in the wilderness. Likewise, Satan is alive and well in many so called Christian ministries today, perverting the truth of God’s word.



Satan is a liar; deceiver and he doesn’t have much more time before he meets his final destiny in Hell.

So please brothers and sisters in the Lord, do not fall for the perverted prosperity gospel teachings by TV preachers, direct mail letters and radio shows badgering you to send your money in now. These cult gospel preachers compel you to; “*send in your seed money*” and “*test God by giving more than you can afford,*” and “*as much as you give, God will bless you back 10- fold*” and “*if you send money now, we’ll send you a miracle cloth*” and “*we will pray the prayer of faith once we get your donation and you will be healed*” and other such schemes. **These “prosperity preachers” are the devil’s tools to corrupt the Gospel.**

2 Cor 11:13-14 [For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.](#)

Giving, to get is not Biblical giving, it’s closer to bribery, tit-for-tat or quid pro quo. These ministry schemers live lives of luxury while swindling widows of their last few dollars. **Matt 7:15** [Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.](#)

The American Dream, Politics and Poverty

The substance of the “*American Dream*” might be described as follows:

“To obtain a good job, get to the point that our persistent application

of hard work and careful spending provide our family with the means to obtain 2 cars and home. The American Dream continues as we raise our children in a safe neighborhood while we apply significant portions of our monthly paychecks to pay off the loans upon our car and home until the day we no longer have those payments.

The American Dream is not yet fulfilled when we reach retirement age with all of our debts paid off and enough monthly retirement money coming in to retain a comfortable middleclass lifestyle while we assist our children in raising their children. The American Dream is only fulfilled when we are able to live out the remaining years of our life without losing everything we've strived for to medical institutions and thus able to leave something for our children."

The American Dream is not inherently bad, but it is absent a weightier "eternal" perspective. What good is living the American Dream if you just squeaked into Heaven but arrive scorched and smelling like smoke? Or worse ... end up in Hell? Eternity is vastly longer than the 60-80 years of life most of us get.

In this life, we should be living with an eternal perspective for we know that's what the Bible teaches. This life, is not our only life, rather it is the very period we must decide to love, serve and worship God and to love and care for our fellow man.

The Biblical Believer understands our flesh and the taunting's of the world to obtain riches is what we are fighting against. We are not seeking to gratify our flesh and embrace worldly ambitions, but to crucify such desires.

Gal 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Thus, a Believer must amend the American Dream to include a broader eternal perspective.

"To live like Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior and like Him, we are to live as children of God, to love and serve our Father by loving our brothers and sisters in Christ and our fellow man. We further purpose to raise our children to be resolute in the application of moral principles, a Biblically based faith and trust in God, to be fruit producing servants, workers and leaders, by participating in forms of community service, helping our neighbors, those in need, the less fortunate, the disabled, sick, homeless, the fatherless and widows."

If we amend the American Dream to include the above, then when we as Biblical Believers take our last breath, we will be welcomed into Heaven having survived all the corruption down here on earth to hear our Heavenly Father say, *“Welcome child, please enter into My rest.”*

Heb 4:3 For [we who have believed enter that rest](#),

Matt 11:29 *“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart [and you will find rest for your souls](#).”*

Poverty Perspective For the year 2026, The Federal Government defined poverty as an annual household income of <\$15,960 for 1 person, <\$21,640 for 2 people and <\$27,320 for 3 people. In 2018 governmental data revealed just over 16% of Americans (38 million) were in poverty. In early 2019 a study was released indicating 40% of American households had no emergency money set aside and were just one paycheck away from poverty. One in 10 households were behind in making monthly payments. Roughly 26% of Americans claim to live with some kind of disability, about 4% are receiving disability payments.

Unfortunately; and regardless of political party, many of our local, state and federal leaders often compel people toward poverty by; writing laws that allow very high loan interest rates, require costly building and zoning code requirements, continually raising property and other taxes, granting subsidized favors to corporations at the expense of the people and by enacting immoral laws that cause people to drift away from Biblically based moral boundaries. Our country is deeply in debt, [we are deeply divided](#), we are morally bankrupt and we are quite literally a few years if not months from total collapse.

The ten most dangerous words in the English language are; “Hi, I’m from the government and I’m here to help.” **RONALD REGAN**

Matt 12:25 *And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, “Any kingdom [divided against itself is laid waste](#); and any city or house divided against itself will not stand. **Luke 11:17** But He knew their thoughts and said to them, “Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house [divided against itself falls](#).”*

Over time, God blesses nations who love and serve Him, He deals harshly with those who do not. **Gen 12:2** *And [I will make you a great nation](#) and I will bless you and make your name great;*

Psalms 33:10-12 [The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.](#) ¹¹ [The counsel of the Lord stands](#)

forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation. ¹² **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,** the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

Jer 25:32 Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Behold, **evil is going forth from nation to nation and a great storm is being stirred up from the remotest parts of the earth.**

Zep 2:1-2 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, **O nation without shame,** ² Before the decree takes effect— The day passes like the chaff— Before the burning anger of the Lord comes upon you, **before the day of the Lord’s anger comes upon you.**

Lev 20:23 ‘Moreover, you shall **not follow** the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things **and therefore I have abhorred them.**

America’s leaders have furthered the cause and acceptance of various forms of depravity while driving out the very God who not only created the universe and everything in it, but guided America’s Founding Fathers in forming America. America should not have to deny our dependence on God our Creator; our Founding Fathers certainly did not. We were once a Christian nation that stood for personal faith, morality and freedom, now America seems to stand for all manner of wickedness.

Hosea 4:1-3 Listen to the word of the Lord, O sons of Israel, (substitute America?) **for the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land, because there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land. There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone who lives in it languishes** (becomes feeble, exhausted, weak) ...

The guidance needed to address most of these destructive forces is readily available in our Bible. Sixty years ago, our government sadly reversed 200 years of American history and tradition by outlawing the teaching of the Bible that was prior required reading in most of our schools. The Christian Bible contains enough information within its pages to guide anyone who will apply it, out of poverty. There is no instruction as valuable for a society as receiving sound Biblical education that leads to a right relationship with God, via His Son, Jesus Christ.

The solution to minimizing poverty and creating a vibrant society does not originate in government, it’s not found in universal income, nor

socialism, nor free healthcare, or free housing. It is the daily reading and personal application of Bible based principles and devotion to our Creator.

God promises to bless a nation and the people that love and trust in Him. Indeed, America was such a nation, but sadly most of our efforts over the last six decades have been misguided by ignorant attempts to live without the wisdom God and the Bible provide.

Students of the Old Testament become keenly aware that God causes nations to rise and fall due to the actions and activities of a nation's leaders and its people. Certainly, the rulers of a country have and can lead its people down the right or wrong moral paths.

As Biblical believers we are called to invite others to a genuine faith (trust) in God, not to provide people with an alternative god (government). God zealously desires that "*our trust, our hope, our faith, our dependency*" be in Him, not a government, not a pastor or priest, not an angel, not money, not fame, not ourselves, not medicine... but that **we put our trust in Him.**

2 Chr 14:11 Then Asa called to the Lord his God and said, "Lord, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, **for we trust in You,** and in Your name have come against this multitude. O Lord, **You are our God;** let not man prevail against You."

In modern America, there is a host of federal, state and local government assistance programs to aid those in need. This begs the question; do these programs relieve the Believer from reaching out to those in need? The answer is no. But if the answer were yes, then these government provisions should carry with them the understanding that they come from God, for God blesses nations that trust in Him.

Government assistance programs while helpful, can be harmful in three ways:

- 1) Overall, they can supplant the recipient's trust and dependency in God, because their faith can be redirected to a greater trust in government. Government thus becomes an idol (*a false god*), something revered or trusted before God and above God.
- 2) Worse, in America, whatever activity our government is involved with must now specifically exclude any reference to God because of "*separation of church and state*" mantra, which does not occur

anywhere in our Constitution. In the overall context of the scriptures, the devil is always trying to substitute something else for the one true God. God is supposed to be our provider. In Socialist and Communist countries, God is banned or made not relevant, because the government is set up as the provider of all things. Satan knows if he can get the people and its government to set aside God, God will punish the nation and its people. This occurred over and over in the OT with the Jewish nation and happening now in the USA.

- 3) Government assistance programs to the needy can become the reason that Believer's justify not personally reaching out to the poor, because we believe the government is already doing it with our tax dollars. This kind of reasoning is detrimental to the Believer's faith walk because we are directed to individually demonstrate our love for God and each other by tending to each other's needs. Jesus Christ specifically went to the so-called lower class to minister to them with His love. Jesus literally said, "**When you do it for the least of these, you are doing it to me.**" **Matt 25:40**

The early Church did not petition government for the needs of those in poverty, rather provided an example of how to care for each other. The Biblical Believer's compassionate care for one another is exemplified in the following scripture, which admittedly is hard to grasp for modern Americans.

Acts 4:32-35 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles' feet and they would be distributed to each as any had need. We see this is the church and the Believers who made up the church, reaching out to care for those with less.

America's first settlers, most of whom were Christian, operated in a manner not far from the early Church example, many came together and shared what they had and helped one another to establish a solid foundation to be productive. This activity was not socialism based on a system of government, rather individual compassion based upon the Biblical model of brotherly love and kindness to each other.

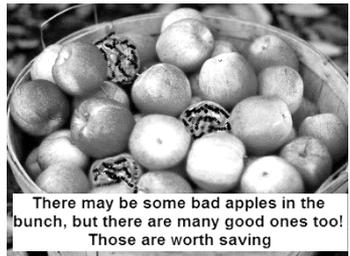
The loss of income and home is just the beginning of poverty, for poverty leads to mental anguish, to a sense of shame, feeling devalued and ignored, increased crime, the loss of self-respect and eventually to loss of all hope.

Many of us cannot imagine living on the street or in a car. It is certainly true some of those who live on the street are drug addicts, some are alcoholics and some of the homeless are people with serious mental and emotional troubles.

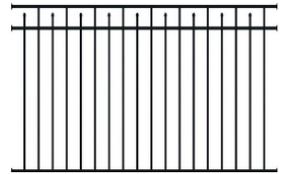
But there are also retired people, veterans' w/PTSD, abused children and wives, single mothers and entire families who through a variety of circumstances end up homeless and living on the street.

There are plenty of opportunities to help those who really could use a hand up.

When we take a moment to consider their plight, we learn that many really just need a few months of devoted support to get them back on the productive side of living. Simple things that you and I daily take for granted would help immensely in making that transition back to having a normal life.



A collection of mostly small things creates an iron fence restricting them to the poverty side of society. Doing without little things like; a shower, a clean shave, a haircut, or clean clothes, makes getting a job almost impossible. What should they put down on a job application for a home address? How about a contact phone number? How do they create a resume? What about the single mom who would need someone to watch a child? All these little things build the fence that keeps them in poverty.



Have you looked at a street person and thought, "If they would just get a job!" Sadly, I have ... **but if you and I would look through God's eyes, we'd realize God wants to work through us, not in spite of us.** The problem is less about them and more about your and my response (*or lack of it*) to someone in need.

My county has about 150,000 people, about 18,000 (12%) live below the poverty level. Depending upon who you talk to, my County has

about +/- 400 people who are estimated to be homeless, which includes those living in a car. Reintegration is a proven way to restore a person.

Assuming it takes \$750 every month for a six-month period to re-integrate each homeless person; if the 50,000 working adults in my county (*with an average personal income of \$42k*) each were willing to give just \$36 during one year to Christian re-integration^(a) ministries in our County, we could nearly solve the homeless problem.

(a) Re-integration in this context means to provide temporary support while at the same time helping each person get and hold a job, teaching them how to manage money, leading them into a reliant relationship with Christ, to become a productive citizen and Christian disciple.

Message to the Church at Laodicea

Many students of the Bible believe the 7th letter to the Church in Revelation applies specifically to the “*current modern day Church*”. If so, this message is a wake up call to us and we need to get hot for God! **Rev 3:14-22** (*please look it up and read these verses*)

The Parable of the Sower

Jesus offered this parable below to teach His disciples about the various ways the word of God is received lived out in each of us. The greyed text represents a futile Christian life, the underlined text the walk of a Biblical Believer. Obviously, Christians should be productive in our spiritual walk and ministering to others.

The parable ... Mark 4:3-8 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

The interpretation ... Mark 4:13-20 And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word,

immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

Definitions *in context words found in the NASB. Note- sometimes the same word is used in a different way and in a different context and thus different meaning. Often, the original Hebrew and Greek language provides a much deeper linguistic richness than modern English. The definitions below will provide a contextual understanding of the Bible verses Readers are encouraged to take time to ponder each definition.*



Alms: *freewill gifts and compassion to those in need, an expression of undeserved kindness, the act of mercy and favor.* The word alms only appears in the NT. The general context appears to be towards the “fellow brother and sisters of the Jewish people of Israel” and in new covenant times, to include “fellow brother and sisters in Christ.” To Cornelius an angel of God said; **Acts 10:2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually. **10:4** “your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.”

Arrogance: *pride, puffed up, over inflated and exaggerated above a normal or natural condition. Being larger but empty inside.*

Biblical Believer: *a person who combines right Biblical theology with right; thought, speech, living and behavior. Someone on a sincere journey seeking to crucify their flesh, to set aside their own desires to live for God and others. In comparison to a societal norm, a radical servant of God who looks at everything in the light of God’s Word. One looking toward the coming Kingdom of God. The use of the term “Biblical Believer” is meant to bring every Christian back to the source of truth. We cannot be a Christian while practicing and embracing what the Bible abhors.*

Charity: *the act of giving alms or donations to the poor, merciful acts towards another in need.*

Church: 1) *an individual local assembly (army, horde) of Christians, a locally governed gathering place for reasoning from the scriptures*

and worship of God – church. **2)** Collectively the united the body of Christ acting in response to the will of God -“Church”.

Christian: a follower of Christ the Son of God the Messiah. A disciple of Christ. **Caution:** Because so much bad theology persists in denominations, churches and ministers, it is getting hard to distinguish what Christian truly means. As such, many who call themselves Christian, may not in fact be Christian. **2 Peter 2:2-3** Many will follow their sensuality and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Compassion: moved to love another, tender feelings of affection, mercy-pity-kindness towards one who is in difficulty demonstrating a closeness of our common bond, to take a personal interest in.

Doer: one who performs tasks, one who carries out God’s will or the law, a person of action and implementation, more than words. **James 1:22** But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

Follow Me: (Jesus speaking) join with Me in doing what I do while on the earth; to follow Jesus’s lead, to be like Him; be a disciple of Jesus behaving differently than those in the world, following the path/road Jesus walked rather than the path others walk. A Spirit led life as Jesus Christ walked is so radically different than what our selfish flesh desires that serving our own flesh fades away, it’s no longer about us and our personal needs, it’s about loving and serving others needs.

Fruit (expected from children of God): *what is accomplished out of obeying the Spirit of God, our Spirit led behavior in serving God, when we bless those in our vicinity, our good works towards others produces fruit, the evidence that we are being led by the Holy Spirit.*

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. **Col 1:9-10** For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **John 15:8** “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”

Generous: *nobly and willingly, freely and abundantly, purposing to honor and bless God by giving, always ready to share, being in a constant state of giving out of love and devotion to God.*

Gift: *to hand to another without cost or obligation from the recipient, to provide something with no strings attached. A gift may be money, or service or other material aid. A gift can be provided to honor another, out of devotion to another, to meet a need or out of love for another. Phil 4: 15-17*



also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.” In another context, God gives gifts to us not because we are deserving or earned them, but because of His great mercy and love.

Glean-gleaning: *to gather up what is left after a harvest, to gather from what is left behind, to obtain a meager yet satisfying portion by gathering left overs. God instituted gleaning as a two part process. Gleaning requires those with crops to leave small portions of the produce as food for the needy and strangers in the land. Gleaning then requires those in need and strangers in the land to extend some amount of energy (work) gathering for themselves what remains of the harvested crop. In this manner the poor extend effort to obtain food. In modern context, a grocery store giving day old bread to a food bank would be considered cleaning.*

Good works/deeds: *noble and valuable conduct and actions honoring God, the expected activity of those who trust in and are in relationship with God, activity attractive to God, admirable acts. In essence being a fruit producing branch as a result of being a Believer.*

Greed: *to cling to more than you need, to covet/desire/accumulate well beyond your need. Greedy people don't give to others, which further oppresses those in need because our abundance should be used to help others. A greater injury occurs to the Believer who is greedy because they begin to trust in their abundance rather than God.*

Hardness of, or hardened heart: *as a stone, without compassion, callused or tough covering, inability to feel and thus not sensitive to God's instructions, inability to properly discern, mistakenly stubborn.*

Helpless: *poor, sick, weak and/or lacking strength, of humble condition or low status, empty or impoverished, vulnerable to oppression.*

Homeless: *a wanderer, roaming person, not having a home, unanchored or drifting, an unsettled state, restless, destitute.*

Hospitality: *tending to the needs of a stranger, to be a host to those desiring a place to abide, generous and unexpected care to another.*

Kindness: *good will to others, kinship, respect or loyalty to others, godly actions, goodness.*

Love: *deep affection tied to high personal value, someone who is relationally very dear or close, to care sacrificially for, to strongly desire, to be fully vested in, to provide the best for, full commitment.*

Mercy-merciful: *undeserved or unearned pardon or favor, genuine compassion to substitute favor instead of the penalty due, with full sincerity to help or pardon one who is guilty, afflicted or needing aid, to provide unmerited relief to another out of love.*

Minister: to serve, *the setting aside of ordinary ambitions in service to God and others in God's behalf, partaker of duties and tasks, rendering of service to God.*

Needy: *poor, oppressed, needing help, sparse existence, lacking the basics, subject to abuses, without a supply to meet basic needs.*

Neighbor: *a friend, acquaintance or any person in our vicinity, a countryman, a person to whom should be the object of our love.*

Offering: *(the word and variations of it occurs 1,423 times in the Bible) a gift in worship to God, what is given or set aside as special, a voluntary contribution above or beyond the tithe or other substance. That which is offered to God, such as praise, thanksgiving, or a lifestyle of devotion, a personal sacrifice to honor God. This could be personal, or in relation to a church organization or to other Christian ministries. In another context, an offering is made for favor to God because of our transgression and sin. Such offerings are made to God, the supreme judge and authority and the offering must be only of the type acceptable to God. In the OT under the prior covenant, various animal offerings were made to God for sin, but in the NT under the new covenant, Jesus Christ was the only and final acceptable offering for our sin. In light of the new covenant, and Jesus Christ offering up Himself for our sin, we as Believers have accepted Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for our sin and we likewise then offer up our lives to God for devotion and service.*

Orphan: *lacking parents, without a devoted, loving, guardian and caregiver. Unable to fend for themselves, in desperate need.*

Pity: *to act with tender compassion towards another even though they may have brought their condition upon themselves, to spare or comfort one in a miserable situation, to deliver someone from a tough or helpless condition, to aid in restoration of another who is in anguish.* {conversely sometimes God ordered His people not to have pity on others who were in rebellion}

Poor: *one who is low not able to sustain oneself, weak, thin, to languish, be in distress, needy or empty.* Someone can be poor in wealth and poor with regard to material possessions, another may be poor in health and yet another poor in spiritual maturity. A Believer who hoards treasures on earth will be poor in Heaven.

Rich: *wealthy beyond most others, to possess in abundance, not in need of more, having excess far above others.* Those who are rich are tested with wealth and abundance, which imposes a greater and daily struggle to let it go.

Sacrifice: *a blood offering to God, a life offered in devotion and worship to God, to take something guiltless in the physical world containing breath and send or carry it into the presence of God.* For the Christian, the following scripture exemplifies how the Believer should sacrifice to God. **Rom 12:1-2** *“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Selfish: *defiled, a horrible state of being, a condition that provokes or angers God, hostility against all others, to put oneself above any other, self-absorbed, corrupt, Selfish is “it’s about me” existence.*

Selfishly ambitious: *contending to be in front or at the top or ahead, self-promotion, self-concerned, causing a separation or biased rivalry to distance oneself from others.* In context, selfish ambition leaves others behind rather than helping them improve. This condition is the opposite of how Christ lived His life.

Self-Sufficient: (this compound word is not found in most Bible versions, there are however two Bible concepts for this term, one good, one sinful) **The good** - **Eph 4:13** *has to do with a maturity in being able to apply the word of God to your life in the correct and balanced manner.* **The sinful** - **Rev 3:14-18** *is to be living your life without the need for God, you feel you are the reason for your success, your wealth, your position in life, and thus no longer dependent upon God. God becomes “not relevant.”*

Share or sharing: *give, impart, hand portions of something over to another.*

Sick: *helpless, vulnerable, a sad or broken state, lacking strength, in need, weak, without the ability to do normal or expected functions.*

Sluggard: *sluggish, lazy, undisciplined, lacking initiative, someone of little productive worth.* In context, the Biblical Believer can also be a sluggard in “not doing or living” our Christianity.

Stranger: *a visitor, non-resident, alien, foreigner, newcomer, someone from a different geographic or cultural area, a traveler, one with less privileges or resources, a guest.*

Tithe: *a tenth payment or part of; earnings, crop, produce, flock or herd given in furtherance of God’s work and the care of His servants.* In context the giving of one’s income to the church to support its operation. Tithing is generally practiced as obligatory in context of scriptural instruction. God provides 100%, we then return 10%.

Widow: *without a husband or provider, vulnerable, absent of one’s spouse, lacking devoted companionship.*

Random Bible Verses Surrounding this Topic

Let’s pray: *Father God, we ask that you help us to overcome our flesh and worldly ways, to live in such a manner that is pleasing to you, that our daily life draws people to you and glorifies your name, Amen*

Meditate on each Bible verse and ponder what God wants you to know.

Micah 6:1 [Hear now what the Lord is saying ...](#)

Ex 22:21-25 [“You shall not wrong a **stranger** or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall **not afflict any widow or orphan.** If you afflict him at all, and if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry; and My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. If you lend money to **My people, to the poor** among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; **you shall not charge him interest.**”](#)

Ex 23:2-3 [You shall **not** follow the masses in doing evil ...](#)

Lev 19:9-10 [Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; **you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger.** I am the Lord your God.](#)

Duet 15:4-11 “However, there will be no **poor** among you, since the LORD will surely bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, **if only you listen obediently to the voice of the LORD your God,** to observe carefully all this commandment which I am commanding you today. **For the LORD your God will bless you as He has promised you and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you. If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother;** but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him **sufficient for his need in whatever he lacks.** ... **You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him,** because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings. **For the poor will never cease to be in the land;** therefore I command you, saying, **You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.**”

Deut 24:14-15 “You shall not oppress a hired servant who is **poor and needy,** whether he is one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is **poor** and sets his heart on it; **so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.**”

Esther 9:22 ... that they should make them days of feasting and rejoicing and **sending portions of food to one another and gifts to the poor.**

Job 20:18-19 ... as to the riches of his trading, he cannot even enjoy them. **For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor;** he has seized a house which he has not built.

Job 24:3-10 **They drive away the donkeys of the orphans; they take the widow’s ox for a pledge. They push the needy aside from the road; the poor of the land are made to hide themselves altogether. Behold, as wild donkeys in the wilderness they go forth seeking food in their activity, as bread for their children in the desert. They harvest their fodder in the field and glean the vineyard of the wicked. They spend the night naked, without clothing, and have no covering against the cold. They are wet with the mountain rains and hug the rock for want of a shelter. Others snatch the orphan from the breast, and against the**

poor they take a pledge. They cause the poor to go about naked without clothing, and they take away the sheaves from the hungry.

Job 24:14 The murderer arises at dawn; he kills the poor and the needy, and at night he is as a thief.

{In these next two citations, Job knows He diligently cared for the needs of the poor and needy, God declared Job righteous in his day.}

Job 29:12,15,16 Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the orphan who had no helper. ... I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy, and I investigated the case which I did not know.

Job 31:15-23 Did not He who made me in the womb make him, and the same one fashion us in the womb? If I have kept the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, or have eaten my morsel alone, and the orphan has not shared it (But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father and from infancy I guided her), if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or that the needy had no covering, if his loins have not thanked me, and if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep, if I have lifted up my hand against the orphan, because I saw I had support in the gate, let my shoulder fall from the socket, and my arm be broken off at the elbow. For calamity from God is a terror to me.

Job 34:27-28 Because they turned aside from following Him {God}, and had no regard for any of His ways; so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him, and that He might hear the cry of the afflicted.

Psalms 9:17-18 The wicked will return to Sheol, {hell} even all the nations who forget God. For the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.

Psalms 41:1-2 How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, and he shall be called blessed upon the earth;

Psalms 112:1-12 Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord ... He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; ... He will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is upheld, he will not fear, Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries. He has given freely to the poor ...

Prov 10:26 Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him.

Prov 11:25 The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered. (“waters” means to lavish upon another, so the context is, when a man lavishes care for another, he will be lavished in return)

Prov 14:20-23 The poor is hated even by his neighbor, But those who love the rich are many. He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is gracious to the poor. Will they not go astray who devise evil? But kindness and truth will be to those who devise good. In all labor there is profit, but mere talk leads only to **poverty**.

Prov 14:31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Prov 15:19 The way of the **lazy** is as a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.

Prov 19:1 & 6-7 Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in speech and is a fool. ... Many will seek the favor of a generous man, and every man is a friend to him who gives gifts. All the brothers of a poor man hate him; how much more do his friends abandon him! He pursues them with words, but they are gone.

Prov 19:15 Laziness casts into a deep sleep, and an **idle man** will suffer hunger.

Prov 19:17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed.

Prov 20:13 Do not love sleep, or you will become **poor**; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with food.

Prov 21:13&17 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered. He who loves pleasure will become a **poor** man;

Prov 22:2 The rich and the poor have a common bond, the Lord is the maker of them all.

Prov 22:7-9 The rich rules over the **poor**, and the borrower becomes the lender’s slave. He who sows iniquity will reap vanity, and the rod of his fury will perish. He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

Prov 22:16 He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Prov 22:22-23 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord will plead their case and take the life of those who rob them.

Prov 28:6 Better is the **poor** who walks in his integrity than he who is crooked though he be rich.

Prov 28:25-27 An arrogant man stirs up strife, **but he who trusts in the Lord will prosper.** He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered. He who gives to the **poor** will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses.

Prov 29:7 The **righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor**, the wicked does not understand such concern.



Prov 31:10-20 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. ... She extends her hand to the **poor**, and she stretches out her hands to the **needy**.

Isa 3:13-15 The Lord arises to contend, and stands to judge the people. The Lord enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people, "It is you who have devoured the vineyard; **the plunder of the poor is in your houses.** What do you mean by crushing My people and grinding the face of the **poor**?" declares the Lord God of hosts.

Isa 10:1-3 Woe to those who enact evil statutes and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, so as to deprive the **needy** of justice and rob the **poor** of My people of their rights, so that **widows** may be their spoil and that they may plunder the **orphans**. Now what will you do in the day of punishment, and in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your wealth?

Isa 11:3-4 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He will judge the **poor**, and decide with fairness for the **afflicted** of the earth;

Is 58: 5- 7 Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the Lord? Is this not the fast which I choose, to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free and break every yoke? Is it not to divide your bread with **the hungry** and bring the **homeless poor** into the house; when you see **the naked**, to cover him;

Jer 6:13 For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain,

Jer 5:27-29 Like a cage full of birds, so their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich. They are fat, they are sleek, they also excel in deeds of wickedness; they do not plead the cause, the cause of the orphan, that they may prosper; and they do not defend the rights of the poor. Shall I not punish these people declares the Lord, on a nation such as this shall I not avenge Myself?



Eze 16:48-50 As I live, declares the Lord God, Sodom, your sister and her daughters have not done as you and your daughters have done. Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it. *{This very judgement will indeed come upon the USA, unless we repent, and return to God.}*

Eze 22:29-30 The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

Dan 4:27 Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by doing righteousness and from your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.

Amos 5:11-12 Therefore because you impose heavy rent on the poor and exact a tribute of grain from them, though you have built houses of well-hewn stone, yet you will not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, yet you will not drink their wine. For I know your transgressions are many and your sins are great, you who distress the righteous and accept bribes and turn aside the poor in the gate.

Zech 7:8-11 Then the word of the Lord came to Zechariah saying, Thus has the Lord of hosts said, Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another. But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing.

Mal 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed

with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of Heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

Matt 5:16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.

Matt 6:1-4 Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in Heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Matt 11:4-5 Jesus answered and said to them, Go and report to John what you hear and see: the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?” Jesus answered, “The foremost is, HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. The second is this, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:42-44 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”

Luke 12:15-21 Then Jesus said to them, Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions. And He told them a parable, saying, The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘this is what I will do: I will

tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, you fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared? So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.



Luke 14:12-14 And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 16:19-25 Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.’

Luke 18:18-25 A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments, do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.” And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” When Jesus heard this, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in Heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he had heard these things,

he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. And Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! “For 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.”

Luke 18:28-30 Peter said, “Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times as much at this time and in the age to come, eternal life.”

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Acts 9:36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha; this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

Acts 20:35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Rom 5:15 & 17 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. ... For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 14:22-23 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin. *(This verse defines the importance of trusting God, when we do not trust God, it is sin. We are to have passionate faith in God)*

Rom 15:25-26 ... but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

1 Cor 4:11 We {the Apostles} are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are

distinguished, but we are without honor. To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are **poorly** clothed, and are roughly treated, and are **homeless**; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. {A frank description of the early Christian church leaders}

1 Cor 13:2-4 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the **poor**, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant ...

2 Cor 9:7-8 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed ...

Gal 2:10 They only asked us to remember the **poor**—the very thing I also was eager to do.

Eph 4:17-19 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, **because of the hardness of their heart;** and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity **with greediness.**

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

1 Tim 6:17-19 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to **be generous** and **ready to share**, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Phil 2:1-4 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,

complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Heb 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.



Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds ...

Jam 1:2-8 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 1:22-25 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a **doer**, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

Jam 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Jam 3:13-18 (ESV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where

jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Jam 4:16-17 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Personal Application

True Follower of Jesus Christ?

If you Are, You're a Radical in Helping Others!

I submit that our modern day American hearts gloss over much in the word of God. God's word can be life changing but only when we ponder our own actions in light of what we read. God's word proves itself true and alive because each time we meditate upon it, we absorb more than before. I confess that I have mistakenly pre-judged strangers who are homeless and others in need without even knowing them. Perhaps you have too?

In our hearts many of us have pre-judged those in need to be 'troubled' for lack of a better word and some of us may even be repulsed when we walk by these strangers who are among us. The Good Samaritan did not walk around the man in need; he immediately tended to his needs.

Truly following Jesus is a radical departure from worldly self-centered living. Have we forgotten that Jesus himself was homeless? Jesus chose not to live as a king with a grand palace, but as a homeless person, obtaining shelter only when someone offered. I'm not suggesting that we have to be homeless to follow Jesus, but I am suggesting if we were alive then and had the same opinion we do now about the homeless, we'd miss having our Savior literally dine and sleep with us. Jesus says when we do it for them, we are indeed doing to Him.

Matt 25:40 The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Luke 9:57-59 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." And He said to another, "Follow Me."

Heb 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

John 12:25-26 “He who loves his life loses it and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”

To the modern American Christian – It’s not wrong to own and live in a nice home, or own cars, to have a savings account, or a full pantry of food, but I believe the Lord is telling us it is wrong to put our trust in those things or have pride in acquiring those things while others around us suffer and are in need; it’s also wrong to place a greater value on our stuff than the lives of others. It’s wrong when we work hard to succeed but leave others behind; it’s wrong to ignore the plight and needs of others along our way. If we think of ourselves as a Biblical Believer and a true follow of Christ, our lives should be radically devoid of self-centeredness. Obviously, Jesus was radically focused on helping others.

Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another’s burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

“**One**” person can make a difference, but we only make a difference when we actually do something for someone. To the widow, the orphan, the sick, or the needy person or family that you or I visit, encourage, or help, **we can make all the difference!**

“**Collectively**” when you or I volunteer or give to a Biblically based outreach to those in need, we can vastly magnify the difference one person makes. Such ministries already know what kind of help to give those in need to ensure each individual is successful in not only rising out of poverty, but also drawing nearer to God. By joining with these ministries, you can be an answer to their prayers and learn from those already skilled in how to minister. **Most outreach ministries advise not giving cash to those on the street.** Be it drugs, alcohol, gambling, or just plain bad management of money it will get wasted. Most often cash is used to continue in their addictions. What they need is supervised and structured support that includes behavioral boundaries.

Thoughts From Others

“It’s a God thing.’ Some things are God things; they are too big for me to solve, yet I can pray to God for the person and their situation. When something is bigger than me, it must be brought to God.” – Pastor Grant

“Hey, this isn’t that tuff. You are smart enough to know if your lifestyle prevents you from having any money left over or is leading you deeper into debt or bankruptcy ... then it’s time to change your lifestyle. The change is voluntary when you make up your mind to do it, it’s forced when the sheriff kicks you out of your home.” – the 9th Grader

“I’ve said that, that I’ve felt like as Christians and particularly even as Republicans, we needed to address issues that touched the broader perspective, and that included disease, hunger, poverty, homelessness, the environment.” – Mike Huckabee

“From a Christian perspective, we can’t fix everything, or even most things, but we can make an effort to help fix some things. Being God’s hands and feet means that our presence should make a difference. If not when we came, at least by the time we leave.” – the 9th grader

Don’t fear..... “A man or woman doing God’s will is immortal until God is done with him” – Dr David Jeremiah

“3-keys are required to unlock the door to a good job, one key is our own personal preparation in acquiring the wisdom and counsel of those who know the field of work that interests us. The second key is our attitude and work ethic, both should be good every workday. The third key is getting someone with connections to provide us the opportunity to get that job. The third key will not work unless each individual comes to the interview with the first two keys already in hand.” – the 9th Grader

“The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.” – Albert Einstein

I’ve never heard a single finance person say this, but I learned it early on. Overtime pay (1.5x the normal hourly rate) is the lightning rod of financial gain for the blue collar worker. While everyone is striving for 3, 4, or 5% gain on their money over a whole year, overtime provides the average man with a 50% gain in one hour! I worked all the overtime I could and by age 50 we owned everything debt free! – the 9th Grader

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Among the many doorways into poverty are two that should not be. One door leads into a casino, the other leads into a hospital. Both of these buildings will take every dollar and asset that you own with little thought. At least the motives of the casino are well known but sadly the impoverishing activities of both remain legal.” – the 9th Grader

*“There is enough in the world for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.” — **Frank Buchman, Protestant evangelist***

Earning more income is pretty simple, it doesn't matter if you dig ditches, wash dishes or perform heart surgery, respect is what you get when you come to work with a good attitude and do your job well. Doing your current job well is the single most important factor in moving up the ladder, because every employer wants and needs good help, the more you know and the more you can do, the more valuable you will be and the more pay you will receive. All around you are other people in higher paid positions, observe them and learn from them. And in time, you'll be one of them. – the 9th Grader

*I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. In my youth I traveled much and I observed in different countries, that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves and became richer. - **Benjamin Franklin***

Did I do what I could when a need presented itself ...

A Final Note: *To our dear brothers and sisters that may be reading this pamphlet, who are widowed, sick, aged in years, fatherless, homeless, or otherwise in need ... God loves you and if you've read the prior pages, He expects those of us who are able to aid you in your time of need and to likewise love you. Forgive us when we have failed to live out our faith. Being worldly selfish is a sin common to many of us who call ourselves Christian. Please continue to draw near to God while we each grow and mature in our faith.*

Biblically Sound Christian Ministries

Moody Bible Institute www.moodybible.org Based in Illinois, a multifaceted Christian organization, with a university, radio, publishing and Bible teaching focus and network.

Focus on the Family www.focusonthefamily.com marriage, raising children, remarriage and relationship help. Many good tools.

Campus Crusade for Christ www.cru.org focuses on marriage help, conducts dozens of marriage retreats across the U.S. every year.

Crown Financial www.crown.org a large global and effective finances ministry.

The Salvation Army www.salvationarmy.org a worldwide Christian ministry dedicated to helping those in need.

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association www.billygraham.org a worldwide ministry to bring people to Christ.

Samaritan's Purse www.samaritanspurse.org Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world.

Online Christian Music

Shine Radio www.shine104.9.org Based in Washington state, but with online mostly contemporary Christian music and some teaching.

Moody Radio www.moodyradio.org Worldwide hosting various Bible teachers and contemporary Christian music.

K-Love www.klove.com Originally founded in California, now a nationwide network of stations, contemporary Christian music.

On Line Bible (or app)

www.bible.com/bible/59/JHN.1.ESV As always, download only from your trusted app store. Remember, apps and online resources collect information about you. You can avoid this by using a printed Bible or paying for a dedicated program.

www.Logos.com Sells a variety of very useful "Bible resource" programs. I have used this program for 2-decades.

Notice; Biblical Believers.org receives no income from the listings above, we make no statement regarding the personal application and use of the content contained within the pages of this pamphlet, nor the entities listed above, with regard to any individual person. This pamphlet may contain errors, portions may be misunderstood or misapplied and Biblical Believers.org accepts no responsibility for the misapplication of any of the information contained within this pamphlet, which is of course is based solely on and up to, each individual person and their reasoning ability. As such, it may not be suitable for those who are cognitively challenged. Every reader is advised to speak to your local church leadership with regards to the validity, conclusions and application of any information drawn from reading this text. The ultimate authority for any written text in this pamphlet is superseded by Biblical text taken in context with the entire Bible. Those organizations and/or individuals distributing copies are solely responsible for compliance with all laws, rules and regulations as well as their own conduct during distribution activities.

To make copies: Office Depot/FedEx/Staples – the original pamphlet was created in MS Word, using “book fold” then converted to pdf using Adobe XI. Use either folded 8.5”x 11” or 11x17 paper sheets depending upon your desired booklet size. **Front/back cover:** 24#-28#, color, using 300-600dpi resolution. **Inner pages:** 24# non-bleed thru, matte, color, 300dpi. Staple fasten w/ 2 staples in spine.

The above commercial copy businesses may have behind the counter copy machines that allow them to program the print action for; the cover and all inner pages, in the proper order and some can even fold and staple them all in one machine. Have them make one copy first, to insure it turns out correctly! Its costly!

WARNING! If you will be making copies from a digital .pdf file, you are advised that unless you downloaded from our website, it may have been modified and contain a virus or malware. **NEVER** open a downloaded files without a paid, regularly updated high quality security suite on your device.

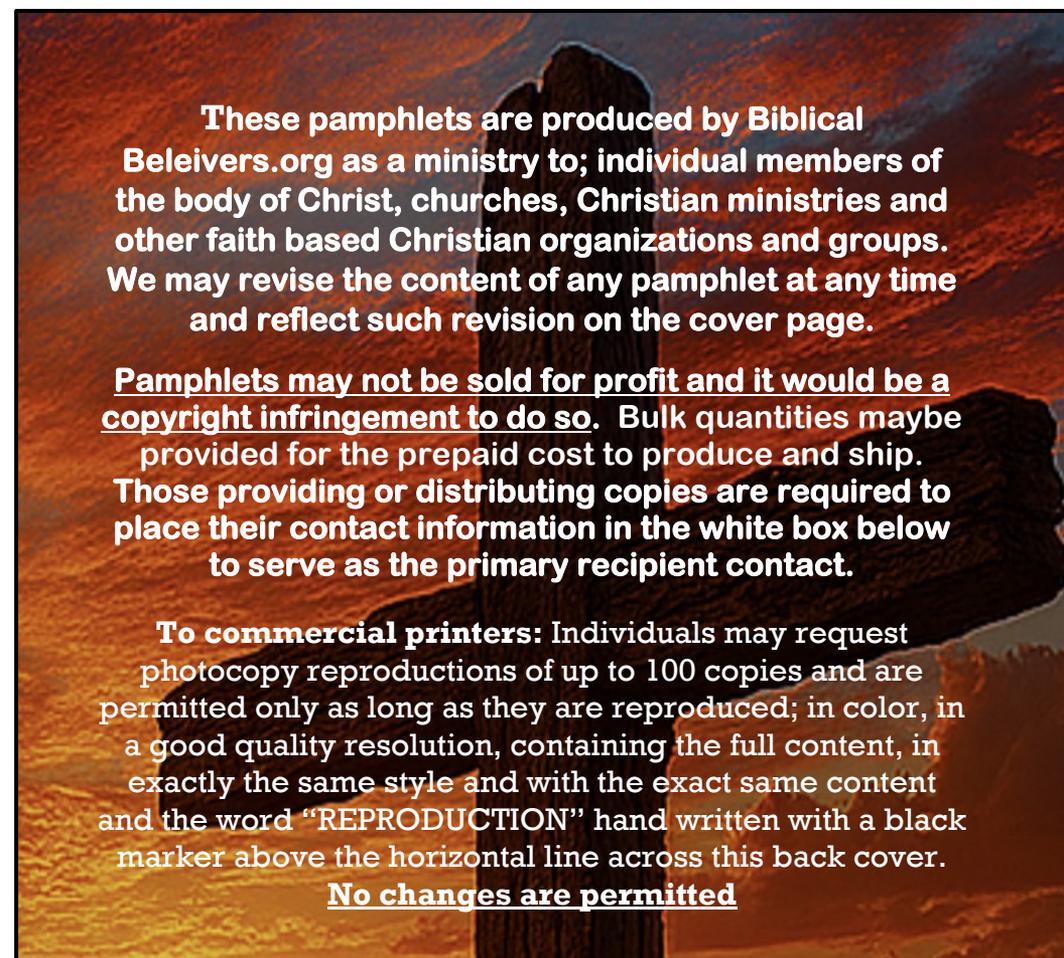
TO MAKE COPIES FROM a .pdf file: BE SURE to instruct the print technician, that the entire booklet is to be 2-sided printing, folded and stapled, thus they MUST program their printer CORRECTLY to make the page numbers and content work out in the proper order for booklet style. Print and fully examine 1 copy first!

The least costly method is to make copies using an existing booklet in your possession by: removing the staples, smooth out the spine crease and set the copy machine for 2-sided color copies. Then fold each page, put pages in the proper order and staple at the spine. Many copy places have and will allow you to use their deep spine stapler. Be sure to add your contact info back cover and write reproduction above the line on the back cover.

PLEASE NOTE – MAKING ALL COLOR BOOKLETS IS EXPENSIVE!

Copy and distribute at your own risk and at your own expense. Biblicalbelievers.org nor its affiliates are responsible for any liability related to the copy, production, distribution, improper or illegal use of this material. The content contained within this document should be considered as a personal free-speech and religious opinion regarding any particular topic, organization, entity or person. Readers alone are responsible to develop their own opinion and any resulting actions.

Why did I write these tracts? Why are they free? *(otherwise just the cost to produce and ship in print form)* I honestly do not want anyone *(ok, nearly so)* to go to Hell, not even those who hate me or have wronged me. I was certainly bound for Hell; my wife’s faith got me to look at the Bible with a more open and purposeful mind. God doesn’t want anyone to go to Hell either, God loves everyone enough to warn us that’s where we are headed if we don’t heed His advice. God has literally been WARNING everyone for thousands of years, but few regard His guidance.



These pamphlets are produced by Biblical Believers.org as a ministry to; individual members of the body of Christ, churches, Christian ministries and other faith based Christian organizations and groups. We may revise the content of any pamphlet at any time and reflect such revision on the cover page.

Pamphlets may not be sold for profit and it would be a copyright infringement to do so. Bulk quantities maybe provided for the prepaid cost to produce and ship. Those providing or distributing copies are required to place their contact information in the white box below to serve as the primary recipient contact.

To commercial printers: Individuals may request photocopy reproductions of up to 100 copies and are permitted only as long as they are reproduced; in color, in a good quality resolution, containing the full content, in exactly the same style and with the exact same content and the word "REPRODUCTION" hand written with a black marker above the horizontal line across this back cover.

No changes are permitted

◆-----◆
Contact: tract@the9thgrader.com

Biblical Believers.org does not accept donations, we dispense all Christian information without charge based upon God's providence. Please use your funds and the talents that God has blessed you with to your Biblically based church and/or by donating and/or volunteering at Christian ministries that faithfully adhere to Biblically sound principles and doctrine.

Pamphlet Provided by: