

“Having Nailed It to the Cross” Colossians 2:1-23 4/30/23

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Having Nailed It to the Cross" in Colossians 2:1-23.

To Online Word's sheep, *through MP3 or YouTube Channel*, on the earth, we'd like to suggest the 3 expositional Questions. ([_____](#) *Maranatha Worship Songs*. Videos are seeable upon the click on the website). *YouTube Channel is not Available in China, Iran, Germany, etc. where only MP3 is available*

Q1. In verse 3, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," what does it mean? And how can we apply it to our lives?

Q2. In verse 14, "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross," what does it mean? And what can we learn from here?

Q3. In verse 17, "which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ," what does it mean? And how can we apply it to our lives?

(Background for context of this text on Daily Bible Reading and Studying Weekly Book Basis)

In the last time, in Colossians 1:28-29, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily," you may live on to the perfection of Jesus Christ, as Paul and Timothy warn and teach, from the principles of Christ's doctrine including the gospel which Paul and Timothy preach. Until meeting Jesus of glory in heaven with exceeding joy, at either rapture or death, we are not perfect just as Jesus Christ but are toward the perfectness of Jesus Christ. And so now we can be more like the perfect Jesus Christ toward the perfectness at the time of your glorification. So, to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus, Paul works much and strongly according to the power of Christ who lives in Paul – the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Christ or the Helper lives in every Christian.

Map of Colossae and Laodicea



Source: <https://travellingpioneers.com/>

TEXT: NKJV [KJV]

Inductive Explanation in context & syntax

<p>1 For I want you to know <u>what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,</u></p> <p>2 that <u>their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,</u></p> <p>3 <u>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.</u></p> <p>4 Now this I say <u>lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.</u></p> <p>5 For though I am <u>absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.</u></p>	<p>1=...what a great conflict...for you and those in Laodicea for ...many...not seen my flesh in the flesh (Paul the arrestee in Rome wants that the believers, not only in Colossae but also in Laodicea and in other above seen cities, should know Paul's extremely physical/mental suffering or agony; the church in Laodicea, a few miles/km northwest of Colossae, was probably founded by one of Paul's converts during Paul's 2 years ministry at Ephesus, but later the church in Laodicea was rebuked as "a lukewarm church" by Jesus Acts 19:1,10; Rev 3:16¹)</p> <p>2= ...their hearts...knit together in love....attaining to all riches...full....understanding, to the knowledgemystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ (Paul wants to encourage their hearts to knit together in Agape love the fruit of the Spirit to reach the riches of full understanding the knowledge of God's mystery - things difficult to understand, both Father's mystery and Christ's mystery; Here it's observed that the understanding is the substance rather than how many times of reading/writing the bible; Build up one body of Christ with Agape love – what a glorious thing when the body of Christ is knit together in love, not speak evil of one another James 4:11-12²)</p> <p>3=Q1 in whom....all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (All precious things of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ; So, many times we have faced a situation where we did not know what was the right choice because we don't know the future. But we commit our ways unto the Lord to direct/guide us, and then we don't worry about the future because all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him; How wonderful it is)</p> <p>4= ...lest ...deceive you with persuasive words (In the contrast to all wisdom and knowledge of Christ, the persuasive words are the knowledge of the world – earthly, sensual, or devilish; e.g. <i>Gnosticism</i> in the 2nd century; <i>New age</i> in today; James 3:15³)</p> <p>5=absent in the flesh....with you in spirit ...rejoicing to see your good order ..the steadfastness of your faith in Christ (Paul said, 'I am not physically in the Colossae church but my spirit, mind, or heart is with you. I am rejoicing for your service in order, not in confusion, and for unwavering faith in Christ 1 Cor 14:33, 40⁴)</p>
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¹ Acts 19:1,10¹ And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ¹⁰ And this continued for two years, so that all who dwell in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks; Rev 3:16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

² James 4:11-12 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

³ *Gnosticism* Gnostic doctrine taught that the world was created and ruled by a lesser divinity, the demiurge, and that Christ was an emissary of the remote supreme divine being, esoteric knowledge (gnosis) of whom enabled the redemption of the human spirit. (by Google search); *New age* It is movement to seek a "Universal Truth" by rejecting any religious doctrine but to draw allegedly inspiration from Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Chinese folk religion with other philosophies (Wayne Kim, "Solus Spiritus Sanctus for the perfect reformation," (California: CCAH PRESS, 2019); James 3:15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

⁴ 1 Cor 14:33, 40 ³³ For God is not the *author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ⁴⁰ Let all things be done decently and in order.

<p>⁶ <u>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,</u></p>	<p>6= ...received Christ Jesus the Lord...walk in Him (Receiving Jesus Christ as Lord of your life by faith is the beginning of new life with Christ; and then we continually live in Christ)</p>
<p>⁷ <u>rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.</u></p>	<p>7= rooted and built up in Him...established in the faith....abounding in it ...thanksgiving (So, you are rooted and built up in Christ and established in the unwavering faith, as Paul has preached and taught, abounding in the faith or growing faith with thanksgiving to the Lord because the Spirit of Christ is working in you)</p>
<p>⁸ <u>Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.</u></p>	<p>8=...lest ...you through philosophy and empty deceit...tradition...the basic principles of the world...not according to Christ (Don't be cheated upon other human thoughts than upon the principles of the doctrine of Christ; e.g. the custom of Moses requirement for salvation; the tradition to make offerings to God may excuse the honoring parents – all authority is only to the Lord. Any human thoughts' authority equal to or greater than His authority or His Word's authority must be cast down or disregarded <i>Acts 15:1, 10-11; Mat 15:3-6; Mat 21:23; Mat 28:18; Mat 6:24; 2 Cor 10:5⁵</i>)</p>
<p>⁹ <u>For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;</u></p>	<p>9=...in Him dwells all of the fulness of the Godhead bodily (The Word was God. The Word became flesh; all of God was in Christ's human body; Christ's deity is shown –Whoever has seen Christ has seen God the Father <i>John 1:1, 14; John 14:8-9⁶</i>)</p>
<p>¹⁰ <u>and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.</u></p>	<p>10=...complete in Him....the head of all principality and power (Principlalities and powers are ranking of angelic beings – good and evil. Christ is the head over all angels. Because of Christ's deity, Christ is good. When we established the faith in Christ, we don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, our unbiblical philosophies; Christ alone is sufficient for us; So we are complete in Him. Therefore, cast down any other things equal to or over Christ. However, we may accept any other things to be helpful to understand Christ or His word <i>Heb 1:13-14; Mat 19:16-17, 21-22⁷</i>)</p>

⁵ *Acts 15:1, 10-11*¹ And certain *men* came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."¹⁰ Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."; *Mat 15:3-6* He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"⁴ For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'⁵ But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God"—⁶ then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition; *Mat 21:23* Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"; *Mat 28:18* And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth; *Mat 6:24* No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon; *2 Cor 10:5* casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

⁶ *John 1:1, 14*¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; *John 14:8-9* Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

⁷ *Heb 1:13-14* But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?; *Mat 19:16-17, 21-22*¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to

<p>11 <u>In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,</u></p> <p>12 <u>buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.</u></p> <p>13 <u>And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,</u></p> <p>14 <u>having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.</u></p>	<p>11= In Him you...circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ (In the circumcision in the Old Testament between God and Israelites, to cut off foreskin with hands signifies a heart not to live after the flesh without hands;. In the baptism in the New Testament between God and Christians, to merge you into water signifies the death of your fleshly life with Christ's death – Christ's circumcision -- on cross; Water baptism is a public declaration that I am going to be a follower of Christ, an acknowledgement, or a symbol of the follower; So every follower after Christ or every Christian should deny each life after the flesh, take up each individual calling from God, just as Jesus' cross according to God's will, and follow the perfect example of Christ <i>Luke 9:23⁸</i>)</p> <p>12=buried with Him in baptism...you also...raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead (In the baptism, to merge you into water signifies to bury you with Christ, and then to raise you up out of the water signifies Christ's resurrection by God, your new life after Christ or the Spirit of Christ; Passover feast in OT is a shadow of Christ's crucifixion in NT; the Feast of Firstfruits is a shadow of Christ's resurrection; So every Christian's new life is Christ's life in every Christian, that is, every Christian life by faith in Christ <i>Lev 23:10-11; 1 Cor 15:20; Gal 2:20⁹</i>)</p> <p>13= ...being dead in your trespass and the uncircumcision of your flesh...He ...alive together with Him...forgiven you all trespasses (When you believe in Christ, your sin not to love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind, including all the other sins whatever, such as violation of Mosaic law or unrighteousness, is wiped out and you are forgiven upon Christ's bloodshed on cross, and you are given a new life together with Christ who rose again)</p> <p>14=Q2wiped out the handwriting of requirements...against us...contrary to us....taking it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (The handwriting of self-righteousness requirements for works according to flesh rather than according to the Spirit, against us or contrary to us, has been wiped out; the handwriting has been taken away by nailing it to the cross; So, the works or life according to the Spirit gives us agape love, joy, as well as the works or life according to the Word who became flesh gives us a glorious freedom; e.g. a lot of manners, ways, means, or methods to worship God, other than to worship God in spirit and truth the substance, -- dress up service; casual service; Sunday service; Saturday service; daily service; a certain amount of offering/tithe; a particular service place; how many times of reading bible/fasting, etc. <i>John 16:7-11; Rom 8:1,4; John 15:10-11; John 8:32; John 4:24¹⁰</i>)</p>
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the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

⁸ *Luke 9:23* Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

⁹ *Lev 23:10-11* Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it; *1 Cor 15:20* But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep; *Gal 2:20* I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

¹⁰ *John 16:7-11* Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged; *Rom 8:1,4* ¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.; *John 15:10-11* If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as

<p><u>15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.</u></p> <p><u>16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,</u></p> <p><u>17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.</u></p>	<p>15=...disarmed principalities and powers....a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (Christ got the public victory over the principalities and powers the bad 'angelic beings' powers of death in the cross by earnestly obeying God, who rose Him again <i>Eph 6:12; Mat 26:39; Luke 22:44</i>¹¹⁾)</p> <p>16=...no one judge you in food...in drink...a festival or a new moon or sabbaths (Don't judge or criticize their diet or feast or new moon or sabbath or all the other of manners, ways, means, or methods the outward appearance rather than whether or not it is for God; But discern whether it is against the Scripture; if it is, simply disregard it; if it is not but uncomfortable in your consciences, tolerate it for God's glory but you may do it another way for God's glory because God's thoughts to you would be more in number than the sand <i>Rom 14:5-6; Psalm 139:17-18</i>¹²⁾)</p> <p>17=Q3...a shadow of things to come....the substance is of Christ (The Passover in OT is a shadow of Christ's crucifixion in NT; the Sabbath, the 7th day, or the rest day in OT is a shadow of the day when Christ is lording or ruling; The substance is whichever belongs to Christ, prevailing over any shadows, ways, or manners; e.g. we have freedom to worship God upon faith in Christ every day because of His finished work; we have freedom to come to God upon faith in Christ in time of need because of His finished work; no any creature mediator is needed such as the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, but Christ the creator alone is sufficient as a mediator for us <i>Lev 23:5; John 19:30; Lev 23:3; Mat 12:8; Mat 11:28; Heb 4:14-16; Rev 2:15-16; 1 Tim 2:5</i>¹³⁾)</p>
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I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full; *John 8:32* And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free; *John 4:24* God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

¹¹ *Eph 6:12* For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*; *Mat 26:39* He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."; *Luke 22:44* And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

¹² *Rom 14:5-6* One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike*. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks; *Psalm 139:17-18* How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

¹³ *Lev 23:5* On the fourteenth *day* of the first month at twilight *is* the LORD's Passover; *John 19:30* So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit; *Lev 23:3* Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work *on it*; *it is* the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings; *Mat 12:8* For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."; *Mat 11:28* Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest; *Heb 4:14-16* Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as we *are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need; *Rev 2:15-16* Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth; *1 Tim 2:5* For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus.

<p>18 <u>Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,</u></p> <p>19 <u>and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.</u></p> <p>20 <u>Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—</u></p> <p>21 <u>“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,”</u></p> <p>22 <u>which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?</u></p> <p>23 <u>These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.</u></p>	<p>18= no one cheat you of your reward....in false humility [voluntary humility]....worship of angels....intruding into those things...not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind (Do not let anyone steal your imperishable reward by the works according to the Spirit before the judgment seat of Christ, not by fleshly works caused by (1) false humility – outward his appearance of humility before God but inward heart to love self fleshly things of money, power, or glory; and by (2) worship angels, or any other creatures such as saints, founders of denominations, his household, or himself, by forcing you into those not seen/experienced things vainly puffed up by himself in fleshly mind, e.g., a false testimony)</p> <p>19= ...not holding fast to the Head, ...whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase...from God (He did not hold unwaveringly to Christ the Head of a Colossian church the body of Christ; the body is nourished and knit together tightly in Agape love from the Head. And the body grows with God's increase <i>1 Cor 3:7¹⁴</i>)</p> <p>20= ...if you died with Christ...the basic principles [rudiments] of the world, why...do you subject yourselves to regulations (If you died with Christ on cross from any requirement regulations for fleshly works, you don't need to be bound by such fleshly regulations rather than the works whichever the Spirit leads in you; e.g. asceticism; Confucianism; the 4 pillars and the 8 characters; polygamy; etc.)</p> <p>21=....not touch, ...not taste...not handle (Simply cast down or disregard them because they defile you; So, whatever higher or equal to Christ's authority or the authority of His word, simply disregard it <i>Mat 15:18; Gal 1:8-9¹⁵</i>)</p> <p>22= ...all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? (Any works according to human regulations, teachings, or human thoughts would perish unlike the works according to the Spirit for imperishable rewards)</p> <p>23=appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion [will worship], false humility,....neglect of the body...no value against the indulgence of the flesh (Outward appearance of wisdom in self-disciplines, the false humility, the neglect of body, or avoidance of all form of indulgence such as asceticism looks righteous to us, but our fleshly trials to be righteous is like filthy rags, e.g., for severe self-disciplines, he went to a mountain, by abandoning his wife and children/ his life in the world, etc. What a glorious freedom in Christ, doing/not doing decently upon whatever the Spirit leads by truth whenever and wherever <i>Isaiah 64:6¹⁶</i>)</p>
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¹⁴ *1 Cor 3:7* So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

¹⁵ *Mat 15:18* But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man; *Gal 1:8-9* But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

¹⁶ *Isaiah 64:6* But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

Note: Most Christians say the Bible is important, but rarely study every word in the Bible and commit it to the Lord. So, it's better to study it and live accordingly after the Spirit for the Lord (2 Tim 2:15). This online word for global crusade in effect develops from the expositional sermon (KJV), into spiritual transformation in daily love fellowship with the Lord throughout the Bible Study (NKJV) -- *All Scripture Expository Study from verse by verse Inductive Studies* -- of which application is the Discipleship and Spiritual Formation, closer to the image of Christ. We think that "Any human opinion is not really important rather than what God says. So, the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible per se. But the opinion to make us understand God's Word is acceptable (2 Corinthians 10:5)." Further, for the application, a life or spiritual experience might be helpful to understand how to apply an understood word in the text column, but it is temperately used like Paul, because nobody should think above that actual experience (2 Cor 12:6, Jeremiah 23:28).

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Truth matters, regardless of online, offline, indoor, or outdoor services. The truth most love of God may be expressed with a donation, regardless of direct, mail, or online ways.



Thank you everybody. Come to Jesus!

GOD's Continuing Work Through His Church Acts 29

Pray for continually "Let go, let God" because CCAH church (His sheep) is His church. "The Commentary of the Bible By Verse" is coming for this & future generation. E.g. 2020 <https://calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/letGod.pdf>
<https://www.calvarychapelanaheimhills.com/OnlineSermon2023.htm>

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Who can be against the Word (λόγος LOGOS or the written word, i.e., the Scripture)?

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, and you will be saved.

1. God's Love

- a. **Love** (John 10:10b)
"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
Jesus loves you. He wants that you may live life more abundantly, experiencing love, happiness, peace, and the fulfillment of your life purpose.
- b. **Image** (Genesis 1:27a)
"God created man in His own image."
God created you in His own image to be His friend, being communion with God.

2. Man's problem

- a. **Sin** (Romans 3:23)
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
You are sinful (contrary to God's will) and imperfect but God is holy and perfect, becoming the separation between you and God.
- b. **Death** (Romans 6:23a)
"The wages of sin is death."
The separation of sin is spiritual death.
- c. **Judgment** (Hebrews 9:27)
"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."
After you die, you will face the judgment of eternal spiritual death penalty.

3. God's remedy

- a. **Love & Death** (Romans 5:8)
"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
God loves you and lets His sole son, Christ, die for you on cross with shed blood.
- b. **Bridge** (1 Peter 3:18a)
"Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God."
Upon Christ's death, He paid the eternal spiritual death penalty for your sins. And so Jesus Christ made the bridge between you (Man) and God.

4. Man's response

Belief & Eternal Life

(John 3:16) *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

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

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4) *"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,"*

Repent you original sins and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, who died on the cross with shed blood for your sins and was buried, and rose again the third day. And you will be saved. Now you have eternal life as a gift from God. Let Christ control your life daily.

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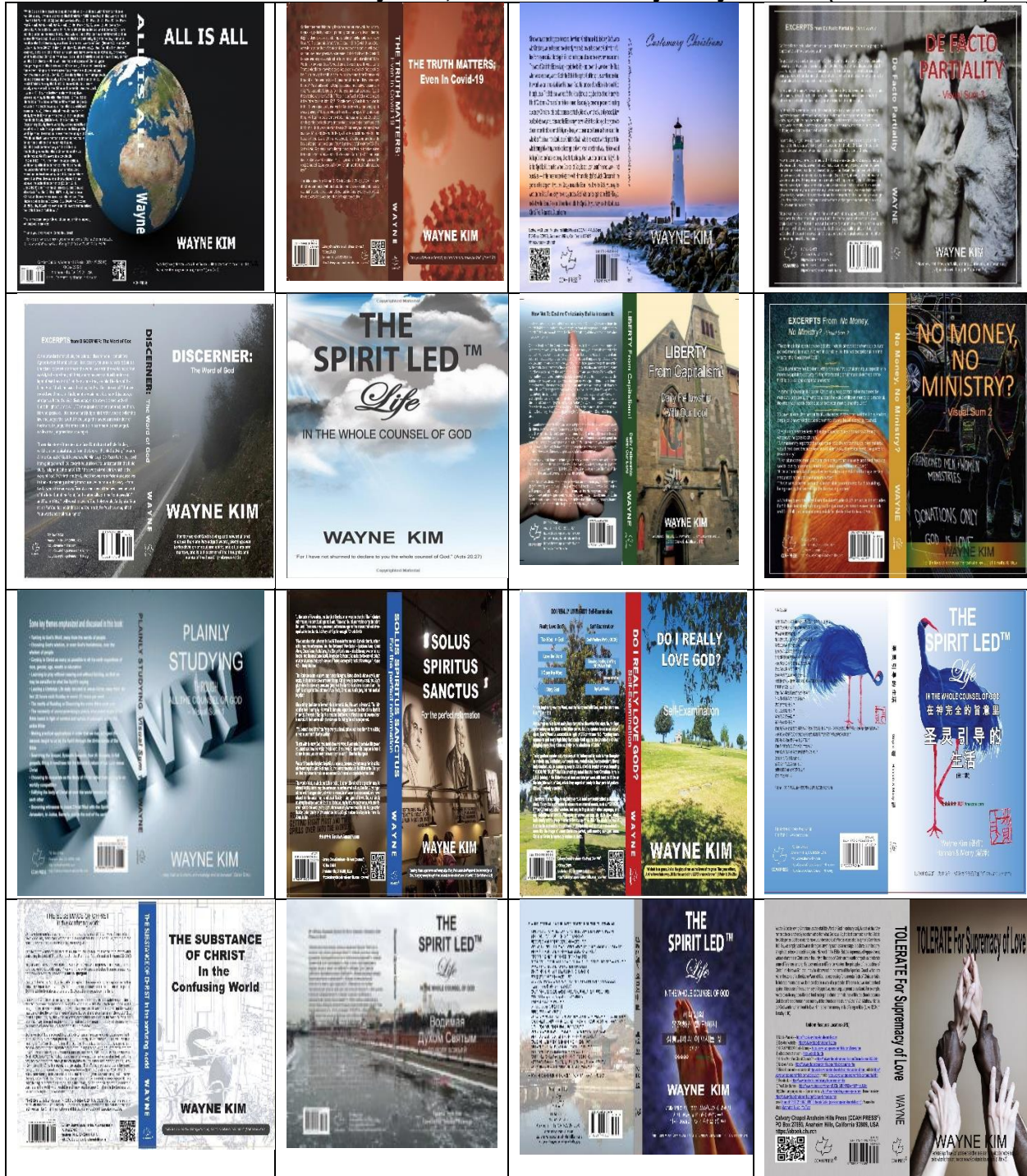
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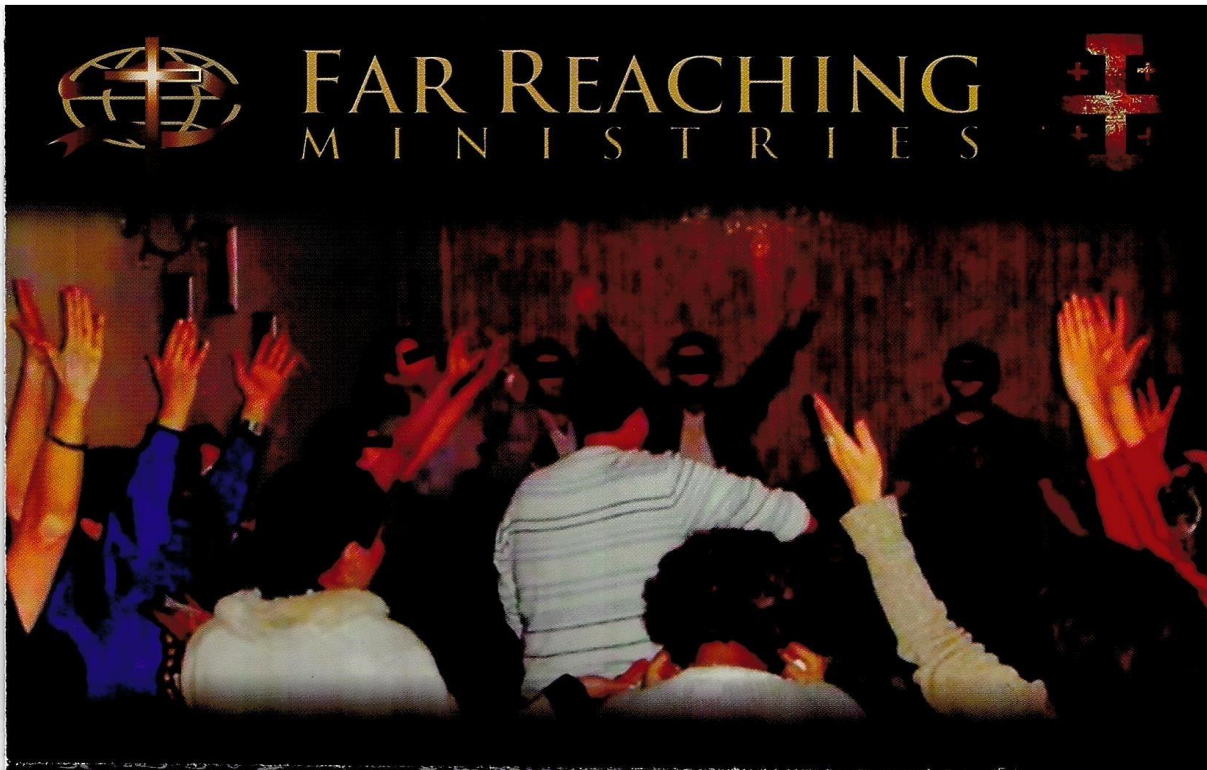
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“How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103).



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Pray for brothers, sisters, and children in Christ of the unground church in Iran to be knit together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God.



ONE THOUSAND CHILDREN

I recently sent Dave, Shawn, and Edward to a moderate Islamic country where they would meet with many Iranian believers working in the underground church in Iran. I have purposely not included their last names for security reasons. While this country is more moderate, they still had to operate in secrecy. Had they been discovered, they all would have been put in jail, then given long prison terms. Edward runs our Ghost Operations, which, in large, is to oversee and coordinate operations in very dangerous places.

Alma, an Iranian woman, and her husband met our team in an undisclosed location in this moderate Islamic country. Her physical and emotional trauma could be felt by all as she wept deeply and told her story. She said, "They burst into our home in the middle of the night when we were sleeping. They pointed guns and video cameras at us, yelling at us to get out of bed." All she said that she could think about in those moments was her young son screaming from his bedroom, and she could not do anything to protect him. Heavily armed men kept them separated, screaming constant threats

at them for the crime of being a Christian. They were handcuffed, blindfolded, removed from their home, then taken to an interrogation center where they were placed in individual cells. Alma was interrogated daily about her faith and other underground church members for two weeks. Her male interrogators threatened her constantly with rape and physical beatings. Why they did not rape her, could only be the protective hand of the Lord.

Alma knows several Christian women who were arrested and raped multiple times to humiliate and degrade them, causing them to break down and give up the names of the believers they were connected with.

While Alma was detained, she was deprived of sleep, kept hungry, thirsty, and not allowed to use the toilet or clean herself. The abductors told her that she, her husband, and her son would be executed for being Christians. She said they told her several times that all her problems would stop if she simply renounced Jesus and returned to Islam. All she had to do in that briefest of moments was to deny her faith in Jesus, and

**NEVER
RETURNED**