

**Undeniable  
Biblical  
Proof**

# **JESUS CHRIST**

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**Will  
Return  
To  
Planet  
Earth  
Exactly  
2,000  
Years  
After  
The  
Year  
Of  
His  
Death**

**What you MUST DO to be ready!!!**

**Gabriel Ansley**

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## Chapter 16

# Love of Money

*“No servant (soul) can serve two masters...  
Ye cannot serve God and mammon”  
(Luke 16:13)*

Alright, by now it is abundantly obvious that we MUST love (obey God’s 10 Love Commandments) if we plan on obtaining eternal life, for “obedience to the 10 Love Commandments” is love defined, the truth revealed, the Holy Spirit described, the good fruit we are to bear, and the works (actions) that prove our faith (belief) in Christ (love)! To “disobey the 10 Love Commandments” is the consummate definition of sin: “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for **SIN is the transgression of the law (10 Love Commandments)**” (1 John 3:4). Therefore, once again, “sin” is simply “to not love”.

Since “obeying the 10 Love Commandments” (loving God and our neighbor as ourselves) is the key to obtaining the incredible reward of eternal life with pleasures unknown for our soul, why would anyone in their right mind want to live a life of sin (to not love) and perish in a “lake of fire”? Did you ever think about that? In other words, what is the motivating force driving people to want to sin (to not love God and to not love their neighbor)? What could possibly be so tempting and attractive to someone to cause them to trade “eternal life” for it?

Oh, the Bible has the answer! But here is where things are going to get very uncomfortable for those of you who are not “*born again*” of God’s Spirit of love, because I must talk about the very heart and soul of sin—i.e. the very lifeblood or root that feeds ALL sin.

I assure you this chapter (discussion) on sin is extremely important and necessary, for one day God gave me a graphic parable describing what it is like to NOT talk about sin with people. It proceeds as follows: A certain man sustained a massive leg injury in a war, and after several days his gaping wound became infected and blood poisoning set in. It was obvious without reopening and cleaning the man’s wound, he would die! But some people—not wanting to cause the dying man any discomfort—gingerly approached the wounded man, patted him lightly on the shoulder, and laid cool rags on his forehead, all the while saying encouraging words to him like, “I hope you get to feeling better! You’re doing great!” But then along came a man who quickly and anxiously removed the injured man’s bandages, poured a bottle of peroxide in his wound, and while the man howled and screamed, writhing in pain, he scrubbed his infection clean and saved his life. God then asked me, “Gabriel, who showed the GREATEST love towards the wounded (dying) man?”

“The one who saved his life,” I replied.

Do you understand the parable? Friend, we absolutely MUST talk about sin with people if we TRULY love them (care about saving their soul) for sin is a soul killer! “Sin” is like the fatal blood poisoning coursing through the wounded man’s veins in the parable above. If the deadly poisoning (sin) is not purged from our spirit, it will cause our soul to be banished to “*outer darkness*” for all eternity. Paul wrote: “*For the wages of sin is (spiritual) death*” (*Romans 6:23*). So here is the deal; if you are living in willful sin (disobeying the 10 Love Commandments), then a discussion on “sin” is going to cause you great spiritual (in your thoughts, desires, & emotions) discomfort, but it is critical that we address it. If you cast this book aside as it gets uncomfortable to read, you will be like the injured man in the parable above pushing away the very hands of the loving man trying to clean his wound to save his life! Oh, yes, the spiritual discomfort may stop in your mind, but the end result—if you never purge your life of sin (repent)—will be eternal

spiritual death! Friend, “sin” is the disease we are ALL fighting, and it is 100% fatal if not eradicated from a spirit (soul). Therefore, let us get to scrubbing.

Alright, if “sin” was a tree, the “evil fruit” hanging off of its branches would be “disobeying 10 Love Commandment things”—e.g. idolatry, blasphemy, murder, adultery, lying, covetousness, etc. With that analogy in mind, the Bible maintains the ROOT feeding or nourishing that “tree of sin” is the “LOVE OF MONEY”! How about that? Paul wrote: “***For the LOVE OF MONEY is the ROOT of ALL EVIL (sin)***” (1 Timothy 6:10). In other words, I can say with absolute certainty the underlying cause of EVERYONE who ends up in hell will be the “*love of money*” rooted in their heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions), for IT is the spiritual source that produces ALL of sin, and we already, clearly know only those individuals who live continual, willful lives of sin (evil) go to hell. Consequently, if you care at all about your eternal destiny, this TRUTH ought to make you want to stand up, turn around, and take a triple look into your heart, accurately and honestly discerning your attitude towards money.

The Biblical phrase “*love of money*” was translated from a single Greek word “*philargyria*” in the original New Testament documents meaning: love of money, avarice, greed. So what makes a person “greedy for money”? In other words, what is it about “money” that makes people desire it? Let me even ask it another way; what can money do for you? Friend, all it can do is buy dirt (atoms)!!! “Money” is the legal means whereby we can obtain dirt. Ah, so the driving ambition behind the “*love of money*” is really the acquisition of materialistic possessions, which are made of dirt (atoms). But the atoms have all been here since Creation, and they will all be here after our spirits leave planet Earth: “***For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out***” (1 Timothy 6:7). So what is the big deal? Does “acquiring dirt” have any eternal value? NO!!! It is worthless! Thus, the very ROOT of ALL sin (love of money)—the driving spiritual force inside people’s hearts (thoughts, desires, & emotions) causing them to sin—is all one colossal lie! Jesus called it: “***the DECEITFULNESS of riches***” (Matthew 13:22). Look, how can someone with a big pile of dirt (a lot of money & materialistic possessions) maintain they are rich

when the dirt they are in “control” of during their temporary Earthly life cannot be taken with their soul into eternity? They cannot, it is a sham! Only things that are ETERNAL have true value! Thus, the “*love of money*” is a deceiving desire, and the sin (non-loving actions) it produces is foolishness. Subsequently, the Bible refers to “sin” as: “*the deceitfulness of sin*” (*Hebrews 3:13*). Get it through your head, reader; “lusting for dirt (money)” is pointless! Millions and millions of people are going to end up in hell over an illusory craving. How sad is THAT?

So what is the attraction (pull)? Why would someone allow their heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) to be consumed with “greed for dirt (money)? Because “obtaining money (dirt)” brings pleasure! In other words, the sin that evolves out of a heart full of “greed for money (dirt)” is to pleasure one’s self. But, sadly, the pleasure can only be temporary, for our lives on Earth (in this age) are but a “*vapor of smoke*”. Thus, a desire for “fleeting pleasure” is really the draw of ALL sin. As you get more money, you can obtain more dirt possessions (houses, cars, boats, electronics, etc.) and your head swells with pride. You actually start to believe you really are somebody—i.e. you think you are successful, and you think you are better than the next guy. Yet, it is all a foolish lie, because your “dirt” can only be possessed momentarily. Moses understood “dirt pleasures” on planet Earth are temporary, and the Bible says when he became a man he refused to enjoy the “*riches of Egypt*” and left off being called Pharaoh’s daughters son: “*Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season*” (*Hebrews 11:25*). See, sin’s pleasure is only a temporary thing; then, our spirits leave planet Earth and must stand in front of God to give account for what we did with our time and life He gave us on Earth!

You ask, “Gabriel, how do I know if I love money?” Oh, it is not hard to discern! Does “making money” consume your time and thoughts? Is “obtaining dirt possessions” the predominate goal on your mind? Do you only want to “do for others” if you get paid? These are key signs that your heart loves money! Then, I would instruct you to check and see if your “greed for money (dirt)” has progressed to the point where you are lying, cheating, stealing, etc. in your passion for

money. In other words, do you cheat on taxes, lie to clients to make a sale, hook cable up illegally, refuse to honor God's Holy Sabbath day because your heart feels you need to make money on that day, too! There are hundreds of specific sins I could list, but honestly search your heart and record how often you are "disobeying God's 10 Love Commandments (sinning)" because of a lust for money.

Then, I want you to realize there is NO love shown towards God or your fellow man—whom the "spirit material" inside them is God!—when you are "disobeying the 10 Love Commandments" to make money. Remember, when you lie to someone, you are lying to God. When you steal from someone, you are stealing from God. When you are devising ways to swindle and take advantage of people, you are doing it to God! When you flip the middle finger at someone in their car because your impatient heart is revving like your car's engine, rushing to your job to make money, you did it to God. When you hate someone, you hate God. Friend, as I have already said in this book...the way you treat other people is the way you are treating God. Never forget that!

Jesus accurately said, "*No servant (soul) can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon***" (Luke 16:13). "Mammon" comes from the Greek word "*mamōnas*" and it literally means: wealth, assets. Wow, is that not amazing? In other words, it is impossible to love both God and money (wealth, assets, & possessions), because the two entities are diametrically opposed to each other. And everyone living on planet Earth is serving one or the other! Listen very carefully to Jesus' words of truth, for there is only two possibly scenarios in your heart: Either you love God (spirit) while hating (despising) wealth & assets, or you love wealth & assets while hating God (spirit). Do you understand? There is no middle ground!!! Either the Creator God is the God you love and serve, or wealth & assets is the God you love and serve!

Satan's BIG lie today—even in the church!—is to convince people they can love both! Yet it is a terrible deception which will lead millions and millions of people to hell and destruction! Allow me to present you with a simple example of how loving one (God or wealth & assets) automatically makes you hate (despise) the other. I have

explained to you in this book that God is the “spirit material” living inside everyone on planet Earth, for we are all His “spirit children”. So, think about this; while you lay down to go to sleep tonight in your grossly-oversized, luxurious house with thoughts dancing in your spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) about the new draperies you want, or that new huge sectional couch you desire, or the extra property you just bought, God is the “spirit material” laying inside some African (or wherever) child, starving to death, with every rib showing through His thinly stretched skin and distended stomach, crying for a crumb of food and a drop of water! Yet, your prideful heart believes you “love God” because you attend church on Sunday, but you cannot see He is the “spirit material” breathing inside everyone on planet Earth. You are blind to the fact that while your heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) is fixated on Earthly, worthless, dirt treasure, you are simultaneously ignoring, hating, and despising God!

Remember the Golden Rule: “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is LIKE UNTO IT, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40). Listen, it is impossible to say you “love your neighbor (who is every soul on Earth) AS YOURSELF” when you live in flagrant lavishness, knowing your brothers and sisters across the world are starving to death and homeless. If you say you do, you are lying, for your lifestyle and actions are screaming out, “ALL I LOVE IS MYSELF AND MY INSIGNIFICANT, VALUELESS DIRT!” And I assure you, this type of heart will never hold water on Judgment Day!

One day, Jesus summed up the Golden Rule like this: “*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, DO ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets*” (Matthew 7:12). In other words, DO unto others, as you would have them DO unto you. Do you understand if you make the decision to follow this ONE simple rule, daily, you will (without a doubt) obtain eternal life? THAT is ALL you have to DO!!! So think about this; if the tables were reversed and God had birthed your spirit inside a physical body somewhere on planet Earth where there was no food or water and no opportunity for work,

you would be the one lying there begging and wishing someone would help you! So why do you not help them? Paul wrote: “**Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:4, 5). Do you want the “*mind of Christ (love)*” to be inside you? He was our example of how to live our lives on Earth. And how did he live his life? Did he use his daily, spiritual (mental) energy running around Earth seeing how much dirt he could pile up for himself? No, my friend! He went around helping, giving, serving, healing, and teaching every person he could, trying to turn their hearts to the WAY of truth (love), in hope that their soul would follow the “*narrow path*” leading to eternal life. THAT should be our goal and purpose in life, also!

Now, on the other hand, someone who truly DOES love God (every human soul in the world) can hardly rest knowing God is starving, thirsty, imprisoned, naked, etc. Consequently, they DO everything within their power to help Him, for their heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) is full of the love of God! They sacrifice themselves, take up their cross of suffering, and live a simple, humble life, while using their time, energy, and resources (money, food, clothing, etc.) to DO everything they possibly can to help those who are in need. Their “loving deeds” confirm they hate money, because if they loved money they would keep it and use it for themselves. THAT is what “serving (loving) God” is truly all about! That is why Jesus uttered the Judgment Day parable, which got straight to the heart of truth about how to obtain eternal life: “*Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom... For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*” (Matthew 25:34-40). Make no mistake about it friend, you cannot have it both ways: You cannot love God (spirit) AND your wealth (money) & assets (possessions) at the same time, for while you are holding on to the one, you are automatically despising the other!!!

Today, people incorrectly think “loving God” is expressed by going to church, singing songs, and (if they are not embarrassed) raising

their hands to Him. But friend, that is NOT how you serve (love) God! Truthfully, God could care less if you frequent a church building or not. God wants to see a soul “sold out”—meaning at the expense of your money!—to daily helping others, which is Him! He wants to see your love shown continually by “obeying the 10 Love Commandments”—DO the things on the “do side” and DO NOT DO the things on the “do not side”. THAT is how you love, know, and worship God...by your loving thoughts & deeds! Listen to God’s righteous anger boiling through the prophet Amos: “**I HATE your show and pretense—your hypocrisy of “honoring” me with your religious feasts and solemn assemblies (church functions) ...Away with your hymns of praise—they are mere noise to my ears. I will NOT listen to your music, no matter how lovely it is. I want to see a mighty flood of justice—a torrent of DOING good (obeying the 10 Love Commandments)**” (Amos 5:21-24, Living Bible). Wow, can you feel God’s heart?

Listen to God continue: “You push away all thoughts of punishment awaiting you, BUT BY YOUR DEEDS you bring the Day of Judgment near. You lie on ivory beds surrounded with luxury, eating the meat of the tenderest lambs and the choicest calves... You drink wine by the bucketful and perfume yourselves... caring nothing at all that your bothers need your help...I despise the pride and false glory... and HATE your beautiful homes...And just as stupid is your rejoicing in how great you are, when you are less than nothing! And priding yourselves on your own tiny power!” (Amos 6:3-13, Living Bible). Friend, this same disgusting hypocrisy is prevalent everywhere today! But I promise you Jesus will soon be here to “weed out the (evil) tares from the (good) harvest wheat”.

Listen to the Apostle James frightening, prophetic words about materialistically rich people who do not care about others: “**Look here, you RICH men, now is the time to cry and groan with anguished grief because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is even now rotting away, and your fine clothes are becoming mere moth-eaten rags. The value of your gold and silver is dropping fast, yet IT WILL STAND AS EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU, and eat your flesh like fire. THAT is what you have stored up for yourselves, to receive on that coming day of judgment...You have spent your years**

here on earth having fun, satisfying your every whim, and NOW YOUR FAT HEARTS ARE READY FOR THE SLAUGHTER. You have condemned and killed good men who had no power to defend themselves against you” (James 5:1-6, Living Bible). Do you understand that when it is within your power (meaning you have the money and resources) to help hurting and dying people and you do not do it...YOU CONDEMNED THEM TO DEATH!!! Do you comprehend that? You are like a judge who held the power of life or death over them, and you chose to sentence them to death! And for what? So you could get those new granite kitchen counter tops? Or maybe buy another piece of property? Are you kidding me? Good luck explaining your heart to God on Judgment Day!

Listen to me friend, read James’ words again in the above Scripture; do you see a person’s “wealth & assets” will literally be the EVIDENCE God will use to convict them on Judgment Day? Wow!!! In other words, a person’s “money & possessions” will stand as ABSOLUTE PROOF they loved dirt more than God (their own hurting brothers and sisters in the world)! Yet, the stone-cold truth is most materialistically rich people are proud as peacocks over their extravagant homes and possessions, when they ought to be embarrassed and terrified by them! Someone living in excessive opulence ought to walk out of their home in the morning with their hands covering their reddened, shameful face! But no, instead you hear them crowing on the street corners to anyone and everyone they meet about their money & possessions. Meanwhile, they attend churches where devil-inspired “ministers” stand behind pulpits (tickling their greedy ears) encouraging them to desire all the more wealth & assets. SHAME ON THEM!!! Hell will be full of these satanic preachers!!! If they knew truth (love), they would preach the words of Christ, encouraging their flock “be content with what you have” and “help the poor”—which is a Godly mindset and lifestyle which builds up spiritual treasure in heaven against the coming Day of Judgment.

The Apostle John understood perfectly well the unbreakable separation that exists between “loving God (spirit)” and “loving wealth & assets (dirt)” as he wrote: “Love NOT the world, neither the THINGS (wealth & assets) that are in the world. If any man love the world, the

*love of the Father is NOT in him*” (I John 2:15). Do you see again how opposed the two “loves” are? Read it again; John is literally saying those people (souls) who love wealth & assets (dirt) ARE NOT “*born again*” of God’s Spirit of love! See, this Scripture is absolute proof the Holy Spirit of God (“*love of the Father*”) is NOT inside the heart of someone who loves Earthly “wealth & assets”. Listen sensibly; a person who truly loves God only loves “spirit material” inside of every person and animal on planet Earth. Thus, a person whose spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) is focused on worldly things (wealth & assets) proves they do NOT love God.

John continues (in the above passage of Scripture) by clarifying exactly what “*loving the world*” consists of: “*For ALL that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is NOT of the father, but is of the world*” (I John 2:16). Here, John breaks down the three desires involved in “*loving the world*”. Note keenly that each desire involves “loving dirt”—i.e. flesh is dirt, eyes only see dirt, and the pride of life has to do with the smugness that comes from acquiring dirt! The word “lust” was translated from the Greek word “*epithymia*” meaning: to desire, long for, covet, and crave. Let us now analyze each “worldly desire” in detail—keeping in mind that these spirit cravings are NOT of God but are “*of the world*”, and THEY are the root desire (lust) in a person’s heart causing ALL sin (disobedience to the 10 Love Commandments)!

In the phrase “*lust of the FLESH*”, the word “flesh” was translated from the Greek word “*sarx*” meaning: flesh, physical body. Thus, the “*lust of the flesh*” has to do with all sexual sin. In other words, it describes a spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) that desires, craves, and covets flesh. Yet, physical bodies are just made of dirt (atoms)! Consequently, the “*lust of the flesh* is just worthless dirt worship. Yes, those people (souls) caught up in “sexual sins” actually worship flesh—i.e. they have made “flesh” their god. And, in these last days, Satan has gripped the entire world with the sick, perverted sins of the “*lust of the flesh*”...and I assure you they are soul killers!!!

Listen to God: “*My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my (10 Love) commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye...That they may keep thee*

*from the strange woman...For at the window of my house...I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding...And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot...So she caught him, and kissed him, and...said...I have perfumed my bed... Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning... With her much fair speech she caused him to yield...**He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter...Till a dart strike through his liver...Hearken unto me now... Let not thine heart decline to her ways...For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. **HER HOUSE IS THE WAY TO HELL, going down to the chambers of DEATH***** (Proverbs 7:1-27). Today, this deadly, lustful scene is occurring in people's minds as they stare licentiously at pornographic magazines and videos! Yet, the result is the same...willful, worldly "lust of the flesh" deeds will kill your soul for all eternity.

In the phrase "*lust of the eyes*", the word "eyes" was translated from the Greek word "*ophthalmos*" meaning: eye, organ of sight. Since our eyes can only see dirt, this is also just dirt worship. In reality, the "*lust of the FLESH*" is part of the "*lust of the eyes*", but the phrase "*lust of the eyes*" branches out past "flesh" to include all types of dirt worship, for everything we SEE is made of dirt—e.g. houses, vehicles, televisions, computers, or whatever. So "*lust of the eyes*" is the lust for ANY type dirt possession! "Eyeful lust" is such a massive soul killer that Jesus made a point to say: "*And if thine eye offend thee (cause thee to sin), pluck it out: **it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire***" (Mark 9:47). Friend, it is essential that you quit lusting for dirt with your eyes! See, it takes eyeballs to fester a love of possessions. Do you see? If you had no eyes, you would hardly be interested in materialistic possessions! In other words, people's EYES is the main instrument (organ) causing them to love dirt—which causes them to sin (disobey the 10 Love Commandments)—ultimately sending them to hell itself. Wow!

Think about it; would you desire a plush, splendid, colossal house if you were blind? Nope! You would care less about it. But because of their EYES people think a big, beautiful house or brand new vehicle or whatever is necessary. But they are wrong. It is just the

prideful, worthless desire of the “*lust of the eyes*”. And IT is NOT of GOD!!! It is “*of the world*”. Jesus’ harsh sounding words of instruction above were full of love! For it honestly would be better for most people if they would gauge both their eyes out and live in darkness on Earth. Lost in ONLY their thoughts, maybe then they could learn how to truly love God (the spirit in people) and not worthless, dirt possessions.

In the phrase “*pride of life*”, the word “pride” was translated from the Greek word “*alazoneia*” meaning: boasting, pretension, arrogance; and the word “life is from the Greek word “*bios*” meaning: (everyday) life; what one lives on, property, possessions. So, the phrase “*pride of life*” literally refers to people who are all puffed up about their “wealth & assets”!!! These are people who live to make money and gain possessions. When you talk to them all you hear rolling and frothing out of their heart is “money talk” or “possession talk”—e.g. how much money they are making or what they just bought or are going to buy. But read my Biblical lips, friend, this type heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) is NOT of God (love); it is of the world!

Jesus wisely said, “*Lay NOT up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal*” (Matthew 6:19-20). Do you know how to “lay up treasure in heaven”? Friend, by DOING the “things” on the “do side” of the 10 Love Commandment list—e.g. feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, clothe the naked, etc. Look, whenever you “show love towards another person” it is like placing a deposit inside of a heavenly bank account for yourself! And THAT is a wise place to “lay up treasure” for it will last forever. No one can steal away from you the “love you show” God and other people. Do you understand? Remember: “*He that hath pity upon the poor LENDETH UNTO THE LORD; and that which he hath given will he (God) pay him again*” (Proverbs 19:17). If only people would DO Christ’s words!

Listen, we are ALL going to be judged according to the deeds we DO: “*And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS...and they were judged EVERY man (woman) according to their works*” (Revelation

20:12, 13). Friend, God is keeping an accurate record of everything you DO, and if you plan on standing in front of God having done nothing for others or God...it is NOT going to be a good Judgment Day for you! Jesus prophesied, “*And, behold, I come quickly; and my REWARD is with me, to give EVERY man (woman) according as his work shall be*” (Revelation 22:12). I am urging, pleading, imploring, and begging you today to start “loving God and your neighbor as yourself”!

After advising people to “*lay up treasure in heaven and NOT on Earth*”, Jesus declared: “***For where your treasure is, there will your HEART be also***” (Matthew 6:21). What did Christ mean by this? Is Christ warning here that there is something wrong with having a heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) that loves (continually thinks about) Earthly (dirt) “wealth & assets”? Yes!!! Remember, that which defiles a man comes out of his heart. Friend, what your heart thinks about is what you love, and a heart fixated on “acquiring money & possessions” is a heart full of idolatry (disobeying the 2<sup>nd</sup> Love Commandment). Remember, Paul wrote: “*You can be sure of this: The Kingdom of Christ and of God will NEVER belong to anyone who is impure or greedy, for a greedy person is really an idol worshipper—he loves and worships the good things of this life more than God. DON’T BE FOOLED BY THOSE WHO TRY TO EXCUSE THESE SINS, for the terrible wrath of God is upon all those who DO them. Don’t even associate with such people*” (Ephesians 5:5-7, Living Bible). I am warning you to search your spirit, friend, because if you love “wealth & assets” you will NOT enter the Kingdom of God. And I counsel you to **RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN** from any “preacher” who is encouraging the “love of money & possessions”. Do not be fooled by these satanic preachers, who try and downplay the “root of all sin”...the “love of wealth & assets”.

Another word the Bible uses to describe the phrase “*love of money*” is “covetousness”, and it was translated from the Greek word “*pleonexia*” meaning: greediness, avarice. Thus, the 10<sup>th</sup> Love Commandment “*Thou shall not covet*” is actually the “root of all evil” when disobeyed! Do you see what God did in the way he numbered (ordered) the sin list (10 Love Commandments)? He sandwiched ALL OF SIN between the 1<sup>st</sup> Love Commandment “*Thou shall have NO other gods before me*” and the 10<sup>th</sup> Love Commandment “*Thou shalt*

*NOT covet*” knowing they both deal with loving God (spirit) if obeyed, or loving dirt (wealth & assets) if disobeyed. Do you understand? In other words, ALL mankind serves one of two Gods: the Creator God (Spirit of Love) or the God of money (dirt), and God encompassed this fundamental truth in the first and last Love Commandments. Thus, if a soul obeys these 2 “outside” Love Commandments it leads to obedience to ALL the Commandments in the middle, or if a soul disobeys these 2 “outside” Love Commandments it leads to disobedience to ALL the Commandments in the middle. Pretty clever, huh? So I want you to realize anyone disobeying the 10<sup>th</sup> Love Commandment is automatically disobeying the 1<sup>st</sup> Love Commandment (for their God is dirt) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Love Commandment (for their dirt worship is idolatry). Do you see? To say it bluntly; a covetous person’s God is dirt, and they worship that God in their spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) as they continually think about making money to obtain dirt possessions.

Friend, Jesus did not joke around with people about the nasty sin of covetousness. One day a naïve man asked Jesus to talk to his brother about dividing up an inheritance (wealth & assets) with him. Can you imagine? Jesus barked (and I am paraphrasing), “Are you kidding me, man. I don’t care about that stuff!” But then—knowing what ruled the man’s heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions)—Jesus gave him a solemn warning about something far more important than money, for it dealt with the eternal destiny of the man’s soul: “***Take heed, and BEWARE of covetousness: for a man’s LIFE consisteth NOT in the abundance of the things which he possesseth***” (Luke 12:15). Why do you think Jesus sternly cautioned, “*Beware of covetousness*”? Friend, because he knew THAT sin is the ROOT of all sin (evil), which leads to eternal destruction in hell! I am telling you the truth, reader; unrepentant covetousness (love of money & possessions) will kill your soul for all eternity!

So how is the soul scrubbing going so far? Is your spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) twisting and writhing in emotional agony while reading these Bible verses? If you are NOT a money-loving, dirt (possession) lusting, covetous idolater, then your spirit should be quiet and unruffled. In fact, a person’s heart full of the love of God will actually enjoy hearing these words about forsaking “wealth &

assets”, because they already automatically hate them! Yes, a person’s heart “*born again*” of God’s Holy Spirit of Love will actually rejoice over these words of love. But if your spirit is in emotional distress, then you need to wake up and take a long look into your heart; for if you love “wealth & assets” your soul is infected with a deadly poison which will ultimately lead to your soul’s demise. Friend, greed (“*the love of money*”) is the deepest, nastiest, fetid part of sin’s wound. But if you can endure the emotional torment (letting the Bible’s loving words of wisdom penetrate your soul) and become willing to change, you will purge your spirit of sin and save your soul for all eternity! So please, please, do not stop reading now!

Do you remember the man (I wrote about in chapter 10) who asked Jesus, “*Good Master, what shall I DO that I may inherit eternal life?*” (Mark 10:17)? And Jesus answered with: “*Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery (# 7), Do not kill (# 6), Do not steal (# 8), Do not bear false witness (# 9), Defraud not (# 9), Honour thy father and mother (# 5)*” (Mark 10:19). Notice, Jesus did not initially list ANY of the first 4 Love Commandments—those DIRECTLY related to loving God, which includes the 1<sup>st</sup> (Have no other gods) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Worship no idols) Love Commandments—nor did he list the 10<sup>th</sup> (Do not covet) Love Commandment. Does this mean these 5 Love Commandments do not need to be obeyed to obtain eternal life? Are you kidding me? OF COURSE they need to be obeyed! But Jesus knew the sin ruling this man’s heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) so he was simply setting him up! Friend, God knows our sins because He knows our heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) and the sins of covetousness and idolatry take place in the heart.

See, on the outside, this man would have appeared to be a good man because he answered Jesus: “*Master, ALL these have I observed from my youth*” (Mark 10:20). This leads me to believe he was probably even a church (synagogue) going fellow! But then Jesus hit him with the truth about love! Jesus said, “*One thing thou lackest: go thy way, SELL whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me*” (Mark 10:21). Ah, this was just too much for the man to DO, and he lowered his head and walked away depressed: “*And he was sad at*

*that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, **How hardly shall they that have riches (money, wealth, & possessions) enter into the kingdom of God** (Mark 10:22, 23)! Can you imagine? Here was a man who apparently got his money & possessions honestly and did not commit sexual immorality—he did not steal, lie, cheat, murder, commit adultery, etc.—but it was still not good enough to enter the Kingdom of God!!! He was on his way to hell because his heart (thoughts, desires, & emotions) was wrapped up in his Earthly, materialistic wealth & assets, which meant he was sinning by disobeying the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Love Commandments. Friend, you CANNOT go to heaven willfully sinning like that!*

The Disciples were shocked at Christ's words, as you may be too! I am sure they thought, "How can this man's love of his 'wealth & assets' keep him from obtaining eternal life? But Jesus confirmed his verdict: "***How hardly shall they that have (materialistic) riches enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.***" (Mark 10:23). Astonished, the Disciples asked, "***WHO then can be saved?***" (Mark 10:26). Jesus answered, "***With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible***" (Mark 10:27). Friend, here now is the plain hard truth; a heart that "does NOT love money & possessions" HAS TO COME FROM GOD!!! Do you understand? God has to put His heart inside of you! THAT is what being "*born again*" means. When this happens, God literally changes your thoughts, desires, & emotions. And I promise you, God's heart of love beats for the poor! That is why you should avidly seek after and ask God for His Holy Spirit of Love.

One day, God gave me a stunning comparable picture further illustrating the infeasibility of a rich man obtaining eternal life—meaning it is virtually impossible to possess riches (money & possessions) and not be sinning by being a coveting idolater. God said, "Gabriel, it is literally as impossible as lining the inside walls, floor, and ceiling of a man's house with triple X-rated pornographic DVD's, and then telling him to NOT commit the sin of adultery." My jaw dropped!!! How could a man NOT lust sexually in his mind when surrounded by graphic sex

scenes? It is virtually impossible!!! So, too, it is nearly impossible to be surrounded by luxury, riches, and materialistic possessions and not be a prideful, coveting idolater. THAT is why Christ said DO NOT seek to lay up materialistic wealth for yourself on Earth, for if you DO, YOUR HEART WILL BE FIXATED ON THOSE THINGS. And covetousness will send a person to hell faster than adultery! Please reread the “Wilderness” chapter and internalize the Apostle Paul’s words—**NO** adulterer, coveter, nor idolater will ever enter the Kingdom of God and obtain eternal life!

See, from the analogy God gave me above, you would most certainly tell the man with the pornographic DVD’s that **HE HAS TO GET RID OF THEM** if he wants to conquer the sin of adultery. There really is no other way! But what is sad is people cannot see the same goes for money & possessions. If someone truly wants to get victory over the sins of covetousness and idolatry, **THEY MUST GET RID OF their money & possessions!!!** Do you see? NOW you know why Jesus continually instructed people to “*sell their possessions, give the money to the poor, and take up their cross of suffering*”. Christ was not being mean, nor was he giving out absurd advice: His wise words were/are the key to obtaining eternal life, for (if obeyed) they will KILL the root of ALL sin in a person’s life! Peter recognized the wisdom in Jesus’ words and said: “*Lord, to whom shall we go? **Thou hast the WORDS of eternal life***” (John 6:68). But just hearing Jesus’ words will not gain you eternal life, **YOU MUST DO WHAT HE SAID!!!**

Look, the encounter with the rich man above was NOT the only time Jesus told people to sell their possessions! He said it over and over again to all people: “**SELL that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth**” (Luke 12:33). Friend, do you not see you are playing with fire by being (and wanting to be) materialistically rich? Your odds of going to heaven are almost zero. The wicked sins of covetousness and idolatry are some of the most overlooked sins, yet they are soul killers. That is why Paul wrote: “**Don’t be FOOLED by those who TRY TO EXCUSE these sins, for the terrible wrath of God is upon ALL those who DO them. Don’t even associate with such people**” (Ephesians 5:5, 6, Living Bible). See, if

you hang out with greedy people—continuing to listen to their incessant, money-loving, moneymaking, and possession acquiring talk—soon that same “spirit of greed” will worm its way into your heart! And the next thing you know, your spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) will be spinning wildly with lusts, ideas, and plans to try and get rich to obtain dirt possessions. It is a wicked, nefarious poison, (which spreads by the “*pride of life*”) compelling a soul to jealously compete with their neighbor, seeing how they can out do them or “one-up” them. Yet, the end result of that kind of loveless mentality will be eternal spiritual death! So Paul was wise to say: “*do NOT even associate with those kinds of people.*” In other words, STAY CLEAR OF THEM!!!

Are you starting to recognize (from stories like the rich man above) we can ONLY obtain eternal life by making a willful decision to repent of sin—i.e. stop disobeying and start obeying the 10 Love Commandments! That is why the stone tables containing the 10 Love Commandments were placed INSIDE the Ark of the Covenant, representing the place of rest in the Kingdom of God! Yes, the rich man’s disobedience to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Love Commandments had him on the path to hell! I mean really, could the truth be any more obvious? To obtain eternal life we must CHANGE our heart: We must choose the WAY of love (good) over the WAY of sin (evil)—which means to begin obeying the 10 Love Commandments.

But in today’s diabolically-twisted church world, the rich man who met Jesus in the story above would be nauseatingly fawned over, ushered into a padded pew, fed a steady diet of false preaching that stroked his materialistic ego (have his ears tickled with sugary, prosperity words about how God wanted him to be Earthly rich) and then told he would be on his way to heaven if he simply paid lip service to some prayer of “accepting Jesus into his heart”. I can almost hear the Devil laughing at this insanity! Do you recognize the deceit? The church has put blinders on towards sin!!! They no longer want to talk about sin (hmmm...I wonder who is behind that ideology?). They cannot or will not recognize the sin in people’s lives that has them on the path to destruction. Therefore, the church is going to be responsible for sending millions of people to hell! We MUST get back to straight-talk, warning people of sin. Friend, we must willfully STOP sinning,

there is NO other way to obtain eternal life!

By the way, have you noticed “prosperity-gospel” churches grow huge! You can spot them a mile away. All someone has to do to achieve a massive church congregation is STOP talking about sin and START telling people God wants them to be materialistically rich. It is really quite pathetically easy! Then complement your act by writing and selling books containing stories like “if you see an enormous, beautiful house on a hill somewhere, you should desire (lust after) that house: You should think big of God and not limit Him!” Are you kidding me? What a twisted pile of deceptive devil’s dung! Can you NOT see this is just Satan preaching greed (covetousness) or the “love of mammon”? Yes, friend, Satan is advocating “*the love of money*” from pulpits all over the world today! He is inside the spirits (thoughts, desires, & emotions) of “ministers” and he is out to deceive the entire world. He has been peddling the same old crap from the beginning of time—the love of dirt! But Jesus forewarned: “**WOE unto you that are rich! FOR YE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR CONSOLATION.** *Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets*” (Luke 6:24-26). Amen and amen.

Let us juxtaposition the current fake church scene with a REAL story of salvation in the Bible. It is the story of another materialistically rich man named Zacchaeus: “*there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich*” (Luke 19:2). Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus and was extremely excited to meet him, so one day he climbed up a sycamore tree to get a look at him as he passed by. Jesus noticed Zacchaeus and said, “*Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house*” (Luke 19:5). And the Bible records: “*he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully*” (Luke 19:6). Friend, this is how we should ALL receive the “Word of God (Christ)—with joy!

But while dining at Zacchaeus’ house, all of a sudden Zacchaeus jumped up and declared, “*Behold, Lord, the **HALF of my goods I (will) give to the poor;** and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold*” (Luke 19:8). Wow, are you kidding?

What on Earth do you think Jesus was talking about that prompted that kind of a response out of Zacchaeus? I think you can correctly guess...Christ was talking about “the root of all sin”—the Love of Money (dirt). And what was Christ’s reply to Zacchaeus’ amazing (repentant) declaration? He said, “*This day is SALVATION come to this house* forso much as he also is a son of Abraham. For *the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*” (Luke 19:9, 10). Wow, Zacchaeus was SAVED right there on the spot! (And Christ had not even gone to the cross yet, nor did Zacchaeus understand that he would have to do that!!!) Zacchaeus was SAVED because he had done mankind’s part in the “salvation equation”. His words (and deeds) of repentance (love) proved he was instantly “*born again*”. What made the difference? Zacchaeus’ complete change of heart about greed was the KEY to obtaining eternal life (salvation)! His new heart was saying (and I am paraphrasing), “Ok, Lord, I will no longer love my money (dirt), and I’ll prove it by giving half of mine away. I will right every wrong I have ever done, and in the future I will treat people fairly (obey the 10 Love Commandments)!”

Friend, THAT is the absolute Biblical truth about how to obtain eternal life! Do you understand? A total change took place in Zacchaeus’ spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions). It was his thought process that entirely changed with respect to right living: HE REPENTED! Remember, Christ said; “*except ye repent, ye shall ALL likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3). Thus, the very moment Zacchaeus “changed his mind” about his “*love of money*”—the root of all evil—he was saved. Then, all he had to DO was continue living that WAY till the day he died, and he would receive eternal life in God’s Kingdom.

Did you notice (in the story) there was no need to recite some “accepting Jesus into your heart” prayer to obtain eternal life? And there was no “church attendance” needed? But what WAS necessary was a heart transplant; a brand new way of thinking that conquers sin by saying, “I will no longer live for money. I will chop down, mutilate, and uproot the ‘love of wealth & assets’ out of my spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions). I will choose to walk in love towards God and my fellow man—obey all of the 10 Love Commandments—for the rest of my Earthly life.” THAT is what SALVATION is about, my friend!

Salvation will happen for you, too, the moment you decide to quit loving money and choose to follow the “*narrow path*” of righteousness.

Let me ask you a question; do you know of a church around today where people jump up under conviction of sin during the sermon and proclaim from a repentant heart, “Ok, preacher, I will sell half of my possessions (land, houses, etc.) and give the money to the poor, and I will make right four times over everyone I have cheated in the past!” Are you kidding me? There is NO chance to hear that REQUIRED “change-of-heart salvation response” out of congregants today, because “God’s message” has somehow changed (that is me being sarcastic)! Today, it seems God wants everyone to be materialistically rich, just listen to “His preachers” inundating people’s ears with how He wants to bless them more financially (materialistically). Hogwash!!! And today’s pompous church-goers are swallowing that devilish message hook-line-&-sinker. They are already on there way to hell (living in greed) and are getting their money-loving, self-indulgent spirits pumped up with hopes that God will give them more money & possessions. It is really a sickening situation! Who would possibly jump up today and say what Zacchaeus said, when Christ’s message in the Bible is NO longer the message in the church?

Yet, after Christ’s ascension, what were the first TRUE believer’s spirits like that were turning to the Apostle’s message? Listen to what the new converts were DOING: “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...and fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And ALL THAT BELIEVED were together, and had ALL things common; **And SOLD their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need...** And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be **SAVED**” (Acts 2:42-47). Are you kidding me? Did you hear what the TRUE SAVED BELIEVERS—meaning on their WAY to obtaining eternal life!—were DOING? They were **DOING** the very words Christ had preached his entire 3½ year ministry—namely, selling their possessions and giving the money to the poor—which obviously means the Apostles were preaching Christ’s SAME message! To my knowledge this is unheard of in today’s church world. What has happened? Friend, God’s message of truth (love) is gone!!!

Listen to another early-church passage: “*And the multitude of them that BELIEVED were of one heart and of one soul: **neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common...*** Neither was there any among them that lacked: for **AS MANY AS WERE POSSESSORS OF LANDS OR HOUSES SOLD THEM**, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: *and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need*” (Acts 4:32-35). Friend, I am extremely disheartened at what Satan has done: He has had almost 2,000 years to distort the truth of Christ’s words, and he has done a stunning job! And most church goers today are Biblically illiterate. But I thank God for recording these early-church passages of Scripture for a permanent record of what TRUE BELIEVERS DO, and what God’s TRUE church (people) are like.

Friend, the original believers were rightly “selling out” to God! Undoubtedly, they were hearing the undiluted truth from the disciples about God (love), how to obtain eternal life, and what living in this Earthly life is all about. My friend, they KNEW truth (love)! They were actually obeying Jesus’ words: *Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh **NOT ALL** he hath, **he CANNOT be my disciple***” (Luke 14:33). Friend, they WERE forsaking ALL!!! They were giving up their materialistic (dirt) life—land, houses, & possessions—and their worthless, selfish Earthly dreams to follow Christ and his WAY of selfless love towards others. They TRULY loved their neighbor as much as themselves, because their deeds proved it! How about you, today? (By the way, notice the Apostles—the preachers—did not suck up the money for themselves so they could live high-on-the-hog. No, the money went to help the poor and the needy!)

Amazingly, though, the Holy Spirit speaking through Peter knew the time of today’s prosperity church age would come: “*But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. **They will CLEVERLY tell their lies about God...** Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way (of love) will be scoffed at. **These teachers in their GREED will tell you ANYTHING to get hold of your money.** But God condemned them long ago and*

*their destruction is on the way*” (II Peter 2:1-3, Living Bible). Wow!!! The King James Version says it like this: “And **through covetousness shall they with FEIGNED (lying) words make merchandise of you**” (II Peter 2:3). Friend, this is happening right before our eyes! If you do not believe me, turn on your TV and listen to the greedy minded “prosperity gospel preachers”, then send your money in for their evil products. But this should be no surprise to you, because Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is right around the corner!

If we would all just sit down and think rationally about the Scriptures, we would easily KNOW that God does NOT want people to be materialistically rich, for what kind of a God would want us to be Earthly rich when he said, forthrightly, “*Rich people have almost NO CHANCE of obtaining eternal life*”? Think about that, seriously: That would make God a monster! If God wants us all to be materialistically wealthy, then I guess He wants us ALL to have the best chance possible of winding up in hell! Does that make any sense at all? No, my friend!!! God does not wish ANYONE to perish: “*The Lord is...NOT willing that any should perish, but that all should come to REPENTANCE*” (II Peter 3:9). Do you see? God does not want to lose any of His children. Therefore, logical deduction leads us to the correct conclusion that God could not possibly want people to be Earthly rich, because He does not want them to perish!

Rather, the Bible says: “**LABOUR NOT TO BE RICH: cease from thine OWN wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven**” (Proverbs 23:4, 5). See, from an Earthly (worldly) viewpoint it appears to be sagacious to spend your days striving and struggling for “wealth & assets”—get all you can and prepare for your retirement. All these thoughts and ideas seem so right, but they are not!!! THAT is why God said, “Cease from your OWN wisdom and do NOT labor to be rich”. Are you laboring to be monetarily and materialistically rich? Is that what drives your spirit on a daily basis? The Bible says: “There is a WAY that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25). See, it seems right to a man, but it is not. It is actually foolishness!

You ask, “Gabriel, but how could that be? I thought I was smart

by preparing for my future?” Ah, you think you are preparing for your FUTURE, but you are not! You are preparing for an Earthly future by hoarding up money to buy food, clothing, and shelter; **YET, you do NOT know if you will even be living on Earth TOMORROW!** Do you see? A wise person gives his money away, daily—e.g. feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, etc—storing up treasure in heaven against the coming Day of Judgment, which prepares their soul for their TRUE future—THEIR ETERNAL DESTINY!!! See, people think they are smart and intelligent to stockpile money, but they are really dumb and stupid.

Paul wrote: *“Tell those who are (materialistically) rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God...**Tell them to USE their money to DO GOOD.** They should be rich in GOOD WORKS and should GIVE HAPPILY to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. **By DOING THIS they will be STORING UP real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the ONLY safe investment for eternity!** And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well”* (I Timothy 6:17-19, Living Bible). The King James Bible says: *“**Laying up in store for themselves a good FOUNDATION against the time to come, THAT they MAY lay hold on eternal life**”* (I Timothy 6:19). Friend, as I said earlier; God is watching what you DO, and only your “good works” deeds prove your love, worship, and belief in God (love), and THAT is what God will assess in deciding your eternal fate!

If your spirit (mentality) is only concerned about “*saving your life*” down here on planet Earth, you will surely lose your soul’s eternal destiny. This is what Jesus meant when he said, *“**Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it**”* (Luke 17:33). See, God’s wisdom is all backwards with respect to conventional, fleshly wisdom. Here is the trap; if your spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) is greatly concerned about your future here and now on Earth, you will DO almost nothing in cheerful, selfless service (love) towards others. You just cannot because you are too worried about “*saving your own life*”! But who are you? Do you have ANY control over your life? No! God can have you dead tonight,

and you will stand in front of the Creator of the universe having lived a worthless, selfish, fruitless life, only concerned about yourself. And if that is the case...I guarantee your spiritual knees will be knocking uncontrollably at that time!

Friend, God wants you to live fearlessly. He wants you live one day at a time, doing everything possible to help your fellow man. THAT is being a wise person! Jesus instructed “Take NO thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment” (Luke 12:22, 23). Do you see? God does not even want you to be anxious about food and clothing! So why are you worried about your retirement? You SHOULD be worried that your spiritual bank account is broke because you are not loving God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself—i.e. obeying the 10 Love Commandments.

Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him DENY himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall GAIN the whole world, and LOSE his own soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26). Do you see? “Losing your life for Christ’s (loves) sake” has to DO with “giving up your wealth & assets”. And likewise “denying yourself” has to DO with “denying yourself money & possessions”. That is why (immediately after those two statements) Jesus said, “For WHAT is a man profited, if he shall GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, and lose his own soul?” See, it is obvious Jesus had one train-of-thought in his words above—namely, for people to not worry about dirt (making money to obtain possessions) or they would be traveling the path towards eternal destruction! So, how about you? Are you DENYING yourself Earthly riches and taking up your cross of suffering, or are you seeking to save (love) your immediate Earthly life by storing up wealth & assets?

Friend, our life here on Earth is just a tiny blip on the radar screen of eternity. James wrote: “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a VAPOUR, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye OUGHT to say,

*If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. **But now ye rejoice in your boastings: ALL such rejoicing is EVIL***” (James 4:13-16). Are you getting it? Live for God daily (put Him first in EVERYTHING) and forget worrying about your Earthly life now. Jesus instructed: “*So don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. **LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME***” (Matthew 6:34, Living Bible).

One day Jesus told a sobering parable about a rich man who was ONLY concerned about himself and his future here and now on Earth: “*The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I DO, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I DO: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, **Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.** But God said unto him, **THOU FOOL, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure (dirt) for himself, and is not rich toward God***” (Luke 12:16-21). Do you recognize the selfishness of this man’s thoughts? He only cared about himself! He could have cared less that his brothers and sisters in the world were starving and that he had the resources to help them. Do you know how many people think like this today? Do you know how many people have the Earthly goal to get monetarily rich so they can then take it easy in life? This is the mindset of a FOOL!!! This attitude GREATLY displeases the Lord God Almighty! Friend, we do NOT know what day God is going to require our soul to stand before Him, so we better be continuously helping (loving) people—i.e. getting rich towards God (spirit)—everyday of our lives.

Remember Jesus’ parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar? THAT parable again confirms the hellish fate awaiting monetarily rich people who will not help monetarily poor people during their time on Earth. If you remember, the rich man lived in luxury while Lazarus did not: “*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the*

*rich man's table*" (Luke 16:19-21). Sure enough, the rich man wound up in anguish in hell and the poor man went to paradise! In hell, the rich man now begged for Lazarus to HELP him by cooling his tongue with a drop of water, but Abraham rebuked the rich man by saying: "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but **now he is comforted, and thou art tormented**" (Luke 16:25). Can you perceive truth? Do you recognize the rich man's wicked sin of "covetousness" and refusal to DO the "do side" of the 8<sup>th</sup> Love Commandment (Thou shall not steal, but give) sent him to hell? Without a doubt, we will ALL reap exactly what we have sown during our Earthly life!

Some of Jesus' parables are explained (interpreted) in the Bible, but his parable of the "*talents*" was not. Allow me to divulge to you its true meaning. Jesus began: "*For the kingdom of heaven is as a MAN traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey*" (Matthew 25:14, 15). When Jesus starts a parable with "*the kingdom of heaven is (like)...*"—which he often did—it means he is either going to reveal the Kingdom of God's characteristics or he is about to reveal to mankind what it takes to ENTER the Kingdom of God and obtain eternal life. This parable is for the latter cause, for IT was told to reveal (or give) a PROFOUND explanation of the TRUE PURPOSE for mankind's souls being placed down here on planet Earth. In other words, IT is a "big-picture" look at the real reason why we are all here and what God is looking for out of each of our lives in order to obtain eternal life.

In the parable, God refers to mankind (His spirit children) as His servants, and the "*Man traveling into a far country*" is God. So take note, GOD delivered to each one of us "*a certain amount of HIS goods*" and then "*took HIS journey*". This represents the fact that we live on Earth and God is in heaven watching us from afar: "*The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men*" (Psalms 115:16). God is intently examining what we DO with what He gave us so He can later reward us (negatively or positively) at the Judgment. But **WHAT** did **GOD** give each of

us? In other words, **WHAT** do the “*talents*” in the parable represent? (Remember, in a parable a physical thing always represents a spiritual thing). Friend, the “*talents*” represent our spirit (soul or heart)—i.e. that invisible, invaluable part of us that houses our thoughts, desires, & emotions!!! **THAT** is why the parable states “*God gave us HIS goods*”. Do you understand? God is spirit; thus, He gave us a part of Himself for we are ALL His “*spirit children*”.

The word “talent” is from the Greek “*talanton*” meaning: talent (weight and MONETARY unit; about **57** to **80 lbs.**); a talent of silver was about 6,000 day’s wages (denarii) of a common laborer and a talent of gold was about 180,000 day’s wages, **often implying a vast, unattainable amount!** Do you recognize the gargantuan value of a talent? No doubt, the Disciples and people living in Jesus’ day would have known how much a talent of metal was worth. At 250 working days a year, 1 talent of silver represents the wages of 24 years of work; and 1 talent of gold represents the wages of 720 years! Friend, this is MORE than a lifetime’s worth of money—and that is only **1** talent!!! Do you see then in Jesus’ parable of the talents, a “talent” accurately represented the priceless value (or worth) of a human soul?

Now notice in the parable God gave some people 1 talent, some 2 talents, and some 5 talents. The difference in “value” is related to the disparity God gave each of our spirits with respect to our creativity, intelligence, and talent (no pun intended). Do you understand? For example, we each have varying degrees of mental abilities—i.e. some of us were born retarded, while some of us were born geniuses (some have IQ’s of 60, while others have an IQ of 200). Do you see? But either way, God loves us ALL the same, and our spirit (soul) is still priceless! Remember Jesus fumed, “WHAT shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (*Mark 8:37*). Friend, there is nothing you can give in exchange for your soul!!! One spirit (soul) is worth more than all the dirt on planet Earth! It is **BY FAR** the most valuable thing YOU possess, and yet most people treat it as if it is worthless.

Adding to the dissimilarity in “value” (or potential) God bestowed upon each of our spirits is the place and time period we were born into. For instance, some countries have jobs in every town, while others have few! To take it even further, there are even differences in

the specific family we were each born into—i.e. some of us were born into Royalty, while others of us were born in the slums. All of these factors combined give credence to the “*different amount of goods*” God initially bestowed upon each of our spirits. But I want to say it again, in NO WAY is one soul any more important or valuable to God than another, because we are ALL His dearly beloved “*spirit children*”!

The parable proceeds by disclosing the man (God) returned at a later time to inquire (or add up) the “usefulness” of each servant with respect to the “*goods*” they were given and then to reward them equivalently. In other words, they each gave an account of what they had done with their “*goods*”: “*After a long time the Lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them*” (*Matthew 25:19*). I think you know what this represents...Judgment Day! It may feel like a long time off, but it is inevitable for each and every one of us. We will ALL stand there someday and give account as those burning, all-knowing eyes of the Father pierce our soul. And friend, a one-time “salvation prayer” at some point in your life is NOT what God will be looking for! That is not what is going to decide your eternal fate (unless God allowed you to die in such a way that you had time to truly repent of your sins while dying, like the man on the cross beside Jesus). PLEASE DO NOT COUNT ON THAT OPPORTUNITY, for it is probably an extremely rare occurrence! Rather, this parable more accurately reveals the truth about the Judgment Day scene and our eternal future. And at the Judgment God will be looking to see how we did in increasing (or gaining) spirits (souls) for Him!!!

You ask, “Gabriel, what are you talking about? How can I gain spirits (souls) for God?” Friend, it is accomplished by using your life as a beacon of light (love) to turn other people’s spirits to the “*WAY of righteousness*”—i.e. persuading others to walk in love towards God and their neighbor (obey the 10 Love Commandments) which will save their soul for all eternity. In other words, your continual, daily light (life of love) has the power to turn other people’s hearts to God (love), which will in turn save their souls and yield them eternal life. Consequently, YOU just increased spirit (souls) for God!!! Do you understand? Yes, you can literally use your spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions)—the “*goods God gave you*”—to love God and your neighbor as yourself (DO

the Golden Rule) to help other people's spirits learn to love God and others. I could write an in depth 200 page dissertation on all the ways we can use our spirits to help encourage and increase other people's spirits everyday of our lives (from simply smiling at someone to dying for them!) but it will always boil down to DOING acts of love, which means to obey the 10 Love Commandments.

The Bible states: "*The **FRUIT of the righteous is a tree of life; and **he that winneth souls is wise*****" (Proverbs 11:30). Do you see? Look, in this book I am not trying to get you to mouth some "sinner's prayer": I am trying to get you to LIVE RIGHT (obey the 10 Love Commandments). I want you to live a life of love towards God and others. THAT is what is important! THAT is how you use your spirit (life) to shine like a lighthouse (leading others to safety in a dark, evil world) influencing them to live a life of love, which will save their soul. Listen to the prophet Daniel reveal truth about the Judgment Day scene: "*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be WISE shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and **THEY THAT TURN MANY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS** as the stars for ever and ever*" (Daniel 12:2, 3). And you know the verse: "*My tongue shall speak of thy WORD: for ALL thy (10 Love) commandments ARE righteousness*" (Psalms 119:172). So who are the wise? Those that "turn others to obeying the 10 Love Commandments" or to follow the WAY of love! How does that make one wise? Because it will SAVE other people's souls! It is precisely what Jesus meant when he told Peter and Andrew: "*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (souls)*" (Matthew 4:19).

Listen to Paul explain what we are to DO and BE in our few short years here on Earth: "*Dearest friends, when I was there with you, you were always so careful to follow my instructions. And now that I am away you must be even more careful to DO the GOOD THINGS that result from being saved, **OBEYING GOD with deep reverence, shrinking back from ALL that might displease him.** For God is at work within you, helping you WANT TO OBEY HIM, and then helping you DO what he wants. In everything you DO, stay away from complaining and arguing, so that no one can speak a word of blame against you.*"

*You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. **SHINE OUT AMONG THEM LIKE BEACON LIGHTS, holding out to them the Word of Life (love)***” (Philippians 2:12-16). Friend, get it through your head; you are a “beacon of light of God’s love” ONLY when you “obey the 10 Love Commandments”. THAT is the light of God’s love. So speak them and DO them, continually.

If you are skeptical, allow me to give you just one example of how “obeying the 10 Love Commandments” at ALL times during your life can help others obtain eternal life; thus, increasing spirits (souls) in God’s Kingdom! Friend, you must realize people are watching and listening to you continually, and your deeds and words are continually influencing them—whether good or bad! Even when you did not know it, someone saw you pick up a \$20 dollar bill and hand it back to a person who unknowingly just dropped it. The individual who noticed you DO that was touched in their spirit (thoughts, desires, & emotions) by your act of love—i.e. obeying the 8<sup>th</sup> Love Commandment “*thou shall not steal*”. Later that night, as they lay in bed, they remembered your “good deed” and decided to get out their Bible and read it! They were hooked. And as the months passed they kept on reading the Bible’s words of love until their spirit became “*born again*” and now they too follow the WAY of love (righteousness). And to think...the whole ball got rolling all because of your willingness to walk in love (obey God’s 10 Love Commandments! See, your “good deeds and words” are preaching all the time, leading others towards repentance and salvation. THAT is why it is most important to live a life of love, continually! That is how you increase spirits for God. In fact, YOU just might be the only person God had planned for someone else to get to know Him (love).

Now on the other hand, disobeying the 10 Love Commandments (sinning) leads to the exact opposite result! It is a vicious cycle that kills people’s spirits (souls). It can range from simply not keeping God’s Sabbath day Holy (which tells others you do not have time for God so why should they) all the way to having an adulterous affair with someone (which leads them to kill their spouse in order to be with you!) See, “disobeying the 10 Love Commandments (sinning)” always influences others toward death and destruction for their soul. If this is

how you live your life—e.g. loving money (dirt), cursing God, stealing, lying, etc.—then you are Satan’s preacher of “non-loving deeds and words”! You are helping people to NOT know God (love). You are literally using your spirit (the “goods” God gave you) to help kill souls! And THAT will be a colossal mistake come Judgment Day.

Returning to the “*talent*” parable, we find the man returned to settle up with each of his servants. The servant given 5 talents earned 5 more talents, and the man said, “**Well done, thou good and faithful servant... ENTER thou into the joy of the Lord**” (Matthew 25:21). From the man’s language we recognize this as God’s rewarding Judgment Day talk. Thus, the man given 5 talents must have repented of sin and lived a good life (obeyed the 10 Love Commandments), having influenced other spirits to follow the Way of love too, which won their spirits (souls) into God’s Kingdom! Likewise, the servant given 2 talents gained 2 more talents, and God was just as pleased with him as the first servant, “**Well done, GOOD and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of the lord**” (Matthew 25:23).

But WHAT did the servant given 1 talent do with his spirit? The Bible says: “**But he that had received one went and DIGGED IN THE EARTH, and hid his lord’s money**” (Matthew 25:18). Wow!!! Do you get it? Do you understand what Christ is saying he did? Friend, this servant HID his spirit in dirt!!! Say what? Look, he used his spirit (intelligence, creativity, & talent) only to acquire “money & possession” **WHICH ARE ALL JUST DIRT!** Do you understand? In other words, he buried his priceless soul in dirt, which is the ROOT of all evil! He even told God why he did it: “**I WAS AFRAID, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine**” (Matthew 25:25). Friend, do you understand this truth? Listen, people who are anxious they will not have food, clothing, and lodging during their lifetime on Earth live in FEAR!!! And this fear stifles their ability to love God and others. This fretful, worried mentality drives people to hoard up wealth & assets (dirt) ONLY for themselves. But one day they will show up at the Judgment Day scene spiritually bankrupt, with no treasure in heaven awaiting them in the form of acts of love shown towards God and their neighbor. Truly, they will have buried their spirit in dirt, living

a useless and pointless life on Earth!

And what was God's response to this man's life? He despised it!!! God shouted, "*Cast ye the UNPROFITABLE servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matthew 25:30). Friend, I am warning you to stop worrying about your puny life down here on Earth! Make your life useful and profitable to God by loving Him and others (which is Him, too) as yourself! Stop "*loving your life*" and trying to "*save your life*" by ambitiously, greedily striving to obtain "*mammon*". Remember Christ's words: "*He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that HATETH HIS LIFE in this world shall keep it UNTO LIFE ETERNAL*" (John 12:25). "*Hating your life in this world*" means living a fearless, self-less life in service and love towards God and others. It means being concerned about other's future as much as your own! Live courageously, giving what you have to those who need everyday of your life. You are not promised tomorrow, friend, so stop worrying about it!

One day the Lord gave me a striking image of how He views people who are all wrapped up in their pursuit of obtaining Earthly (dirt) riches (money & possessions). He said when He looks at them He sees a diaper-clad baby—devoid of any wisdom—sitting in a field, clumsily flopping dirt around with a plastic shovel. I was stunned at the visual, for it is a purposeless life! Yet, what is heartbreaking is these greedy, worldly people usually feel they are the top of the heap (the cream of the crop). As they acquire more money and more dirt possessions, they get more and more bigheaded, thinking they are extremely successful. But God views them as a baby without any understanding at all! They are actually among the least successful (poorest) people on planet Earth! It is the classic case of the "*deception of riches*".

On a Sunday morning May 20, 2007—only 9 days before I was to start my 40 day fast—I was jarred out of a deep sleep by a resounding voice! With my eyes suddenly opened, I struggled to adapt to the fact that I was now wide awake and conscious. Slowly, my senses righted me, and I marveled over the words still rattling in my head, for I clearly remembered the simple sentence the voice had just proclaimed, "*Esau TRADED his birthright for a 'right-now' gratification!*" That was it!!! I was baffled. I had NEVER heard anything like that in my life: The

statement was way out of left field to me. But I had a hunch it was from God, so I asked, “God, what does that mean?” Then, like magic (as I lay in bed now wide awake and fully conscious) Scripture verses began to pass before me in my mind. It was like an angel of the Lord began communicating Scriptures to me till I knew EXACTLY what was meant by the amazing, divine sentence that had orally woke me up. Within about 30 minutes the experience was over, but I was so astounded at the message that I got up, grabbed my Bible, and read the story of Jacob & Esau in Genesis.

If you remember, it was about two brothers Jacob & Esau: “*Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents*” (Genesis 25:27). One day, Esau came in tired from a long day of hunting and was very hungry. He saw Jacob cooking pottage (stew) and asked him for some: “*Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint*” (Genesis 25:30). Jacob replied, “I will give you some food (dirt) if you sell (trade) me your birthright for it!” (See, in those days the firstborn son received the father’s blessing, and Esau was Isaac & Rebekah’s firstborn son.) Esau said, “*Behold, I am at the point to die: and **what profit shall this birthright do to me?***” (Genesis 25:32). Jacob insisted: “*Swear to me this day; and **he (Esau) sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob***” (Genesis 25:33). After this: “*Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: **thus Esau DESPISED his birthright***” (Genesis 25:34).

Now here was/is what the story (parable) is REALLY all about as the angel of the Lord revealed it to me that Sunday morning. The “*birthright*” or “*spiritual blessing*” in the story represents “eternal life in the Kingdom of God”! Look, we are ALL spiritually separated from God the Father because of sin, but God reconciled us to Himself through Christ’s blood, giving us ALL a CHANCE at being reunited with Him! In other words, it is EVERY single human beings “birth-RIGHT” to be reunited with God someday in His Kingdom. Do you understand? THAT is the legal “spiritual blessing” we ALL have a RIGHT TO as God’s “*spirit children*”. It is our BIRTH-RIGHT! But Esau traded his wonderful, priceless birthright blessing for a measly “right-now gratification” of a bowl of food (dirt).

Do you comprehend now the amazing spiritual truth behind the incredibly revealing sentence spoken in my ear? The angel said, “Gabriel, there is only ONE underlying reason why people (souls) will NOT receive their birthright (eternal life): It will be because they traded it to be “gratified (satisfied) right-now” by dirt on planet Earth! Remember sin is pleasurable; subsequently, “sin” stems from a need for “self-gratification” which is the EXACT opposite of love. And again, what is the ROOT SOURCE for ALL sin (self-gratification)? It is the “love of money” which is the “love of dirt”!!! See, obtaining “wealth & assets” can gratify (delight) your soul “right now” on Earth, giving rise to the ugly “*pride of life*” oozing out of your spirit, but it will only be temporary (the length of your lifespan on Earth). Do you understand? Consequently, people who are enjoying the “pleasures of sin” on Earth are trading their “birthright of eternal life” for a worthless, short-lived, self-gratification! It is a horribly sad situation.

See, people who live to acquire “wealth & assets” are actually living life like the “here and now” is all there is? Do you see that? Most people do not realize it but their “greed-for-dirt” spirit and lifestyle is the quintessential NON-believer attitude. In other words, their self-centered, dirt-worshiping lifestyle PROVES their unbelief in God (Love) and the afterlife! Oh, they may go to church and swear up and down they know, love, and worship God, but their “get-all-you-can-get-because-you-only-live-once” attitude proves they do not! Their selfish mentality screams, “I do NOT believe in God or heaven...I believe only in the here and now, and therefore I am going to self-gratify myself NOW all I possibly can!” This outlook on life is a surefire way to kill your soul for all eternity because you will live your Earthly life to save it, which is exactly what Jesus said NOT to DO!

I am warning you...do not trade your “birthright of eternal life” for some fleeting “right-now” gratification, or it will be the biggest blunder you ever make! Friend, life is about sacrifice: It is about dying to ourselves and our own selfish, evil, fleshly-gratifying desires. Once you die to your own fleshly needs, desires, and wants for money & possessions, you will then have all the time in the world to help, love, and care for others. And if you die to yourself, you will live eternally!!! This is what Paul meant when he wrote: “*Set your affection on things*”

above, NOT on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God...Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry. For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of DISOBEDIENCE" (Colossians 3:2-6). See, we are to MORTIFY (kill) all sinful pleasures and "right-now gratifications" on Earth, setting our love on obtaining entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Listen to the above passage in the Living Bible: "Set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven...Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. YOU SHOULD HAVE AS LITTLE DESIRE FOR THIS WORLD AS A DEAD PERSON DOES...Away then with sinful, earthly things; deaden the evil desire lurking within you; have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust and shameful desires; don't worship the good things of life, for that is idolatry. **God's terrible anger is upon those who DO such things**" (Colossians 3:1-6, Living Bible). Wow! Did you hear that? Our desire for "things" in this world should be on par to a dead person!!! Is that how you live? Or are you running helter-skelter, striving and struggling to "get all you can get" in this world? See, it is a funny thing; everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die! They want to have their cake and eat it too. But it does not work that way. You MUST die to this world if you plan on receiving eternal life.

Then on July 11, 2007, I ran across a New Testament verse absolutely confirming the Old Testament story of Jacob & Esau was TRULY all about how NOT to miss out on eternal life. It read: "Follow peace with all men, and HOLINESS, without which no man shall see the Lord; Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, HE WAS REJECTED: for he found NO PLACE of REPENTANCE, though he sought it carefully with tears" (Hebrews 12:14-17). Wow, do you see? Afterward, Esau sought the birthright blessing with copious tears, but it was to no avail! It fell on deaf ears!!! THIS is exactly what Jesus

said will take place with those people who end up in hell: “**There shall be WEEPING and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out**” (Luke 13:28). Oh, my! In other words, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century BC, God gave mankind a dramatic, visual display—through the story (parable) of Jacob & Esau—of the desperate reaction of those souls who wind up in hell through Esau’s tearful reaction to losing his birthright!

Yes, on Judgment Day the tears are going to flow like a river just like they did for Esau. They will be impossible to stop as the gut-wrenching realization sets in to those in hell that they traded eternal life (with eternal pleasures!) for a silly, worthless, “right-now Earthly gratification”. Never forget the pleasures of sin are only temporary, but their consequence is eternal!!! The prophet Ezekiel wrote: “**The soul that sinneth, it shall DIE**” (Ezekiel 18:20). You can laugh at me if you want to, but I love you enough to tell you, “You must stop sinning (repent) now! You must turn from wickedness now!” It is all so very real my friend. You only get one chance: “**it is appointed unto men ONCE to die, but after this the judgment**” (Hebrews 9:27). So it is your choice! This is your ONE big shot at eternal life, and I pray you make the right decision and choose righteousness.

By the way, did you notice in the story (parable) of Jacob & Esau, Esau lamented to Jacob that his hunger was so great he was about to die, so what use was the birthright? Friend, even at the point of physical death God demands your faithfulness! John the Revelator wrote: “**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life (eternal life)**” (Revelation 2:10). Do you understand? Nothing is more precious than your eternal birthright!!! **DO NOT DESPISE IT LIKE ESAU!!!** Be prepared to suffer in this life, and do not sin even at the point of death.

“Suffering” is almost a lost message in today’s church age, yet the Bible **CLEARLY** states that a **TRUE** follower of Christ (love) will suffer here and now on Earth! Why is that you ask? Well, think about it logically; since sin has pleasure, then to **STOP SINNING** means to “deny oneself the temporary, Earthly pleasures that come from sinning”. “Denying yourself of pleasure” **IS** “SUFFERING” my friend!!! Do you

understand? Peter got it: “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, ARM YOURSELVES LIKEWISE WITH THE SAME MIND: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin” (I Peter 4:1). Wow, do you see? Anyone who “ceases from sin” automatically suffers in the flesh!

This is precisely what Jesus meant when he told people over and over again to “take up their cross of suffering and follow him”. He simply meant for people to cease from sinning! The way of love is a self-sacrificing life...It is a life of suffering! It means you love others so much that you are willing to “deny yourself” the temporary pleasures that come from “loving money & possessions” so you can fully love others. Listen again to Jesus’ words: “If any man will come after me, let him DENY himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it” (Luke 9:23, 24). Do you see it now? “Saving your life” means enjoying all the pleasures of sin that come from loving money. But “losing your life” means denying yourself the pleasures of sin that come from loving money. Those that “lose their life” will suffer now on planet Earth, but one day they will obtain eternal life with pleasures galore. Peter understood the end result of our suffering: “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory (eternal life) by Christ Jesus, after that ye have SUFFERED a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” (I Peter 5:10). Yes, quitting sin means you will suffer now, but the end result of your suffering will be sweet eternal life with pleasures unknown: “For I reckon that the SUFFERINGS of this present time are NOT worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18). I pray you are willing to SUFFER (quit sinning) to obtain eternal life!

Christ uttered another phrase accurately describing what our “decision to quit sinning to obtain eternal life” is like. He called it “counting the cost”. How about that? Is that not a perfect way to express it, since the root source of all sin is the “love of money”? Look, when we think “cost” we usually think in terms of “money”. And Jesus knew a true follower of Christ (love) will have to “deny themselves the pleasure that comes from loving money; thus, there is a COST to

obtaining eternal life! Listen to Jesus: “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost**, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man begun to build, and was not able to finish... So likewise, **whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not ALL he hath, he CANNOT be my disciple**” (Luke 14:28-33). Do you see? Friend, you must “count the cost” of the journey to the Promise Land. It is a self-sacrificing journey of love taken only by obeying the 10 Love Commandments. So count the cost, forsake all of sin, and take up your cross of suffering to lay hold on eternal life! (By the way, Christ’s analogy here again confirms that it is quite possible to be traveling down the path towards eternal life, and then quit. Do you see it?)

God’s story (parable) of the Israelites in the wilderness again (even with respect to loving money) perfectly exposed the correct way to view our situation on Earth as we try to obtain entrance into the Promise Land (Kingdom of God). Look, when the Israelites were in bondage in Egypt they had access to all the riches of Egypt but they had to live as a slave to receive that temporary Earthly pleasure. But now free and in the wilderness the Israelites lived in tents, relying totally on God to feed and clothe them. Likewise, our complete trust should be in God to take care of us, not the false comfort that comes from living as a slave to sin when trusting in money! See, the truth is our attitude towards “money” is THE MAJOR WAY God is testing us on Earth, for we will either “love money” and put our trust and hope in it, proving we are an “unbeliever” who only believes in the here and now, or we will “love God” and put our trust and hope in Him, proving we are a “believer” who cares about eternal life!

Listen to Moses sum up what God was looking for out of the Israelites during their 40 year journey: “Thou shalt remember all the WAY which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to **PROVE thee, to KNOW WHAT WAS IN THINE HEART, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments (10 Love Commandments), or no.** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna... that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every WORD that proceedeth

*out of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him" (Deuteronomy 8:1-6).* Friend, this is what our life on planet Earth is all about. God is testing each and every one of us. We are His spirit children and He is proving who fears Him by observing who obeys His 10 Love Commandments in order to obtain eternal life, or who could care less about Him (love) by observing who disobeys the 10 Love Commandments to obtain eternal damnation!

Yes, believe it or not, your eternal destiny is actually going to be decided by your attitude towards money, because "loving it" is the ROOT of all sin (evil)—disobedience to the 10 Love Commandments! So I am urging you to "NOT love money" and to be content with what you have, ceasing from striving to be materialistically rich. Instead, put the same fervor and energy into living righteously (obeying God's 10 Love Commandments) for they are God's words you can live by in order to obtain eternal life. Paul wrote: "***And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition**" (I Timothy 6:8, 9). The living Bible sums up beautifully Paul's words about the correct attitude we should hold of money: "***Do you want to be TRULY rich? You already are if you are happy and GOOD. After all, we didn't bring any money with us when we came into the world, and we can't carry away a single penny when we die. So we should be well satisfied WITHOUT money if we have enough food and clothing. But people who long to be rich soon begin to do all kinds of wrong things to get money, things that hurt them and make them evil-minded and finally send them to HELL itself. For the love of money is the first step towards ALL kinds of sin**" (I Timothy 6:6-10, Living Bible). I cannot say it any better or clearer...the "love of money" is the WAY to hell!!!**

Lastly, allow me to say a few candid words about the tempting money-trap Satan has set up in these last days, for it is a deceptive, soul-killing snare!!! I am referring to the ease in which someone can

purchase things (dirt) on credit. In today's world, people can entertain their greed (love of money & possessions) by legally obtaining new houses, cars, furniture, property, etc. on a good-faith nod that they will pay for it later. Then their soul becomes a slave to that greed. They say, "I cannot help the poor for I have bills to pay!" Yet, it never once crosses their mind that they could and should have bought a much smaller house, used car, cheaper furniture, and fewer possessions! See, their greed—desire to be filled with the "pride of life"—ensnares them, and they jump on the hamster wheel and spin like crazy, struggling to support their greed for worthless dirt!

Eventually, their naïve, mammon-loving spirits (thoughts, desires, & emotions) become fixated on their dirt possessions. They worry about how their going to pay for them; they worry about thieves breaking in and stealing them; they worry about maintaining them from rust and decay. And it is all a useless, vicious cycle that sucks up their spirit's time here on Earth, leading to a worthless, fruitless, "buried-in-the-dirt" life. Then, in the end they will stand in front of God on Judgment Day having to answer for using their soul's precious time on Earth to only obtain and maintain dirt. They will be the epitome of the wicked servant who buried his talent (spirit) in the ground in Jesus' parable of the talents. I am pleading with you to NOT make that mistake!

When it comes to purchasing things on credit, Paul wrote wonderful, simple words of advice: "**Owe no man anything, but to love one another**" (*Romans 13:8*). See, we should live humble and content lives—not lusting for worthless, materialistic, dirt possessions—so we can then use our spirit's time on Earth to love others (help those in need). THAT is how someone lives and what someone **DOES** who truly has God's heart of love beating inside their chest. THAT is the evidence of someone "born-again" of God's Holy Spirit of love. Paul wrote: "**Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is GOOD, that he may have to give to him that needeth**" (*Ephesians 4:28*). See, there is why you should work for money, so you can give to others! Again, Paul wisely penned: "**Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth**" (*I Corinthians 10:24*). Can you imagine living in a world where everyone had this

mindset towards others and lived accordingly? Wow, it would be heaven on Earth. God help mankind today, for God's message of love is almost dead. Friend, do not seek your own dirt, but seek to serve your neighbor!!!

In conclusion, here is the Biblical truth about the END of the “*lust of the flesh*”, the “*lust of the eyes*”, and the “*pride of life*”—which are all worldly, dirt worship: “*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is NOT of the Father, but is of the world. And **THE WORLD PASSETH AWAY, AND THE LUST THEREOF: but he that DOETH the WILL OF GOD abideth for ever***” (1 John 2:16, 17). Friend, ALL evil (sinful) lusts that stem from the “love of money (dirt)”, and the fleeting pleasure they bring, are ALL going to pass away one day very soon. I promise you from the bottom of my heart, they will NOT be a part of God's Kingdom of Love. So I ask you, “Why would you want to enjoy them now?”