



Please Read Me!

Hello! This set of Bible verses starts with the divine love our Creator shows to the sheep who choose to follow their Shepherd, and ends with how to avoid the destiny of the goats who choose to reject Him. It is risky to focus on the pleasant milk-of-the-Word ideas in the Bible and ignore the meatier parts of God's plan for ALL people, which includes our need to humbly defer to His authority.

The panels in the first half of the selection are comforting for all believers while reminding us that we have a part to follow in our relationship with God. They are also useful to share with people that are friendly to but still uncommitted to Christianity. The second half is important for any believers that are trying to keep a casual attitude about their Creator's authority as Lord over them. The last panel reminds us all that EVERY person will eventually be placed by the Messiah into eternity. It is critical to use our free will to make the right choice for Him in life now *while we still can.*

The colorful gems surrounding the amber Cross and in the Easter and Christmas pictures are meant to show God's Spirit in all the different types of people who are part of Christ. Compare them to the lumps of coal in the last image that suffer the same fate as the serpent, an eternity in the pit without God. Also notice in the last image the dove (God's Holy Spirit) is not carrying an olive branch peace symbol like in the second panel; it's all about condemnation with no peace after the Judgment. Unfortunately this is the fate for all who try to ignore the destiny that the loving God of the Bible tries to save us from.

Please review these ideas for yourself now and consider sharing with others you think could benefit from them!

So... sheep or goat?

send comments to: kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com



Love

1

*God loves us as children and sent the Son
so we could have life through Christ!*

*We can learn to cherish dearly only
because of His divine love for us.*

1Jn 3:1,4:9,19

gifts from God to His devoted followers

Key- The original Bible language has multiple words for 'love' but none were created specifically to describe Christianity. The highest form is 'agape' (sacrificial love), used to describe a rarer level of devotion to people than the more common 'phileo' (brotherly love). Neither comes close to describing the divine love that God feels towards those He sacrificed His Son for! After His resurrection Jesus asked Peter if he felt this sacrificial agape for Him (John 21:15–17, refer to a version with literal definitions or footnotes), but Peter could only understand his lower phileo level of love. From Christ's example we can learn how to love and live as closely to agape for Him and others as possible.



peace

2

Justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:1

The LORD will keep in perfect peace the one whose mind is fixed on Him.

Isa 26:3

gifts from God to His devoted followers

Kev- In the first verse having peace with someone means there is no strife or anxiety with them. So if we are made just by our faith in Jesus (faith is an action word meaning our behavior is led by our beliefs), we have no fear of condemnation from God. The second verse stresses the need to stay focused on our Creator to enjoy His spirit of peace. The original Bible language words for 'peace' that come close to describing this are Greek 'eiro' (joined in wholeness) and Hebrew 'shalom' (in a complete relationship with God). Consider Peter in Matt 14:27-31 who could actually walk on water while he focused on Jesus, but sank when he was distracted by the wind and waves (the world's agitations).



grace

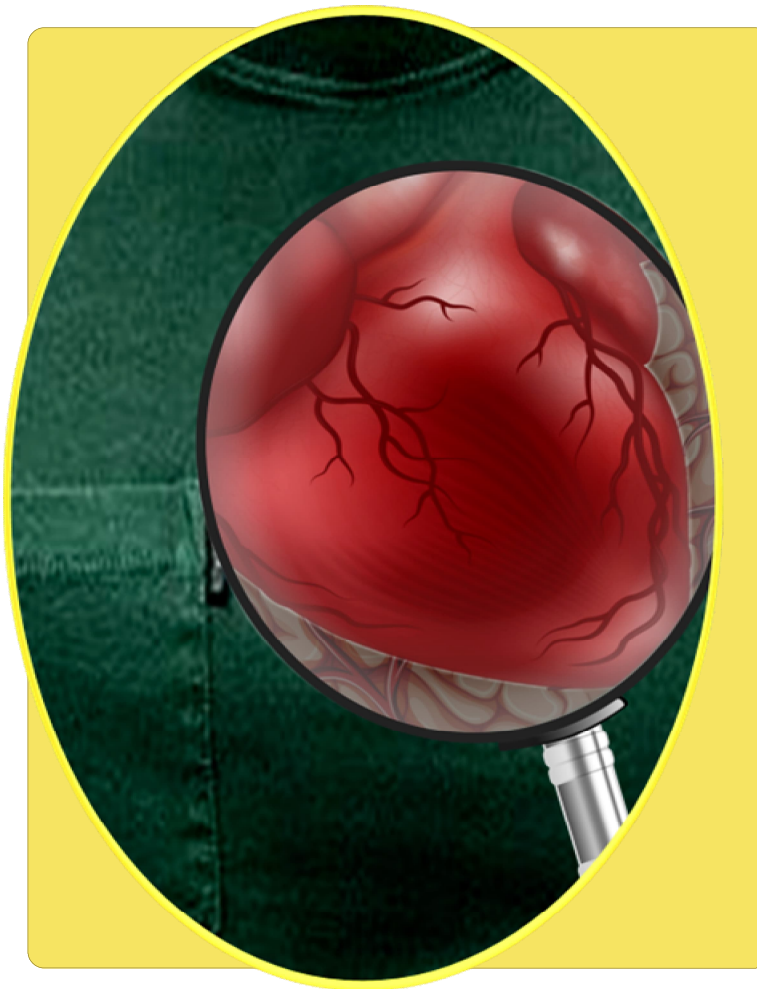
3

*The grace of God has appeared,
offering the gift of salvation to all;
teaching us to reject worldly desires
and live devoutly in this age.*

Titus 2:11-12

gifts from God to His devoted followers

Kev- This salvation is a free gift from God (meaning it cannot be earned), but people must qualify for it by putting their active faith in what they have learned about Christianity so far. In Hebrews 11:4 Abel's faith affected his attitude and behavior towards God, which made his offering approved and him righteous. Compare that to the merely believing in God level of faith Cain had. He was still focused on his own desires, so God rejected his gift and warned him about the danger of his choices. Faith is more than just believing, it must lead to true repentance (an action item meaning change direction permanently) to receive eternal salvation from God, which will also change how we live now.



your depth of belief 4

I, the LORD, search the heart, to give to each according to their ways.

Jer 17:10 so:

Examine yourself to see if you are in the faith; to prove if Jesus Christ is in you. 2Cor 13:5

reminders about God's absolute authority

Kev- When people refer to the heart this way they mean whatever they have decided is the truth, all the way to the depth of their understanding (Rom 10:10a). Since God can look past the superficial thoughts we try to guide our daily lives with, we should be as sure as possible that we know ourselves that well too. The apostle Peter really believed he would follow Jesus anywhere until he denied even knowing Him three times after He predicted it to him (Luke chapter 22). Peter wept bitterly as he realized how little he actually knew about his own character (heart). We are accountable for learning from the Bible how to actively develop our faith relationship with God (2Pt 1:5-11).



IT'S ALL
GOD†

I AM: the All-Knowing/Present/Powerful LORD

God said to Moses,
"I Am Who I Am. So
say... I AM has sent
me to you." Ex 3:14

Jesus said to them,
"I assure you:
Before Abraham
was, I AM." Jn 8:58

your Creator

5

Know that the LORD is God. He made us; we belong to him. Ps 100:3

We are like clay, and He is the potter. Isa 64:8

So be humble under His mighty hand.
1Pt 5:6

reminders about God's absolute authority

Key- The gift of free will that God gives all people means we can choose what to believe and then find others to align with. But our Lord and Savior will not change to reward people the way they want (Mal 3:6-7). God has sole authority to decide what is good for all of His creation. Our job is to understand the deception of our sin nature (sense of "self" that interprets things in the most appealing way) so we can see the truth about how we don't live the way our Creator designed us to be (Gal 6:3-8). Then we will become willing to learn from prayer and Bible study how to allow Him to save and lead us. God wants this for all of us (2Pt 3:9b, 1Tim 2:4, Ezek 18:32), BUT...



you will be judged 6

The Messiah will divide the people as a shepherd with sheep and goats.

Mt 25:31-46

Anyone not in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 20:11-15

reminders about God's absolute authority

Key- EVERY person will eventually face judgment and recognize their Creator as Lord (Isa 45:23, Phil 2:10-11, Rom 14:11, Rev 5:13). Use your free will to choose and live for Christianity now while you still can! John the Baptist's baptism was for people who wanted to repent, but being baptized into Christ is much more than just adding Jesus' name to a water baptism (Acts 8:14-17). Study what it means to know our Savior as your Lord so you can declare "Jesus is Lord" to others and know what it means (Rom 10:9-10). Pray often and allow the God of the Bible to reshape your thinking (Rom 12:2). Take up your cross daily (Matt 16:24-27) and follow Him as the child He loves!

Thank You for reading this booklet!

You can download a free PDF copy of it from:

PeaceAndGodWill.com

Or send me a comment: Kevin@PeaceAndGodWill.com

Here are a few excerpts from other letters at the website:

Reconcile Your Account!

A common use of the word 'reconcile' is when a person receives their monthly statement and corrects the mistakes they have made so they can defer to the bank's authority. ...In Christianity the word 'reconciled' is used to describe the relationship a person can have with their Creator. BUT people that insist on an 'equal partnership' with God can never be reconciled with Him, just like people who insist that their checkbook balance is the correct one will have conflict with their bank until their account is eventually closed.

Freedom of Choice vs. Free Will to Choose

Free will is an attribute God gives to all people starting with Adam and Eve (even before the Fall). It includes mental tools like

curiosity and imagination... and a conscience to help us determine proper and bad choices.

...If Jesus says "take my yoke and learn from me and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:29), He is

saying something akin to IF you eat your broccoli THEN you can have some pie. FOC people ...assume that Jesus wants to give them pie, they don't even try to understand the broccoli part. FWTC people study the whole statement and realize that they are responsible for part of how to get the pie.

Indulge Your Contentment!

...so for the world contentment is like identifying an appetite so that indulging the appetite will cause a feeling of contentment.

But indulging an appetite means that the satisfied feeling is only temporary, and more getting will be required soon, so there is no real or lasting contentment. True and lasting contentment is a type of peace. It comes from believing in a Provider (of manna?) that will always arrange for sufficiency, so having a

relationship with Him is required to be a complete person that can enjoy contentment. Developing our relationship with God gives us the discipline of a disciple, making the carnal appeal of appetites weaker and dimmer in our mind as we hear God's Spirit in us guiding our conscience getting louder.

What Is The Bible?

The Bible is a collection of lessons including the historical record of persons and people of God, and others apart from God. It is a gift from our Creator that teaches us His ways of how to have a relationship with our own mind and body, with other Godly or ungodly people, and with God Himself. So the Bible is an owner's manual for how to be a person.

Consider the idea of a parent who knows they are going to die but has time to prepare a journal to give to their young child. At first the child sees it as just a souvenir to remember their lost parent. As they read it over time they learn that their parent is

teaching them how to live a successful life.

The child is bonding to the book as a representation of the parent they cannot see face to face, so they love the book and want to spend time with it. They don't try to find excuses to only see it but not read it. The value and love it represents isn't in the cover, it is in the contents. This is how followers of Christ should think of the Bible.

However a person cannot understand the Bible without God's help interpreting it. Every person has a natural bias from their sin nature that causes them to want to see the meaning that appeals to them instead of God's intention, and no person can always overcome that bias. Also the original revelations from God to the authors of the books (the "God Breathed" version) were recorded in their native language with all of it's word and phrase definitions and the cultural understanding of the times. All translations from the original, whether...

Pursue peace with everyone,
and holiness, for without it no
one will see the **LORD**

Hab 12:24



Let the peace of Christ rule
in your hearts, as members
of one body you were called

Col 3:15

I, the LORD, search the heart,
to give to each man according
to his ways. Jer 17:10 SO...

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Ps 119:165

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